Overfitting



Bishop, Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning



Regularization

Idea: *penalize* large coefficients. (Occam's razor!)

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}\|^2 + \lambda R(\boldsymbol{\beta})$$

Here $\lambda R(\beta)$ is a *penalty* term and λ is called *regularization parameter*. Some common choices are (all convex):

$$R(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = \|\boldsymbol{\beta}\|^2 = \sum_i \beta_i^2 \qquad \text{ridge}$$
$$R(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = \|\boldsymbol{\beta}\|_1 = \sum_i |\beta_i| \qquad \text{lasso}$$
$$R(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = \lambda_1 \|\boldsymbol{\beta}\|_1 + \lambda_2 \|\boldsymbol{\beta}\|_2^2 \qquad \text{elastic net}$$



Bias-variance tradeoff

Loss function: $\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}\|^2 + \lambda R(\boldsymbol{\beta}).$





Ridge regression

Ridge regression

Loss function:

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}\|^2 + \lambda \|\boldsymbol{\beta}\|^2.$$

Gradient:

$$\nabla \mathcal{L} = -\frac{2}{n} \mathbf{X}^{\top} (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}) + 2\lambda \boldsymbol{\beta}.$$

Gradient descent:

$$\boldsymbol{\beta} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{\beta} - \eta \nabla \mathcal{L} = \boldsymbol{\beta} + \eta \frac{2}{n} \mathbf{X}^{\top} (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}) - 2\eta \lambda \boldsymbol{\beta} =$$
$$= \underbrace{(1 - 2\eta \lambda)}_{\text{"weight decay"}} \boldsymbol{\beta} + \eta \frac{2}{n} \mathbf{X}^{\top} (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}).$$



Analytic solution for ridge regression

Gradient is equal to zero at the minimum:

$$-\frac{2}{n}\mathbf{X}^{\top}(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}) + 2\lambda\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = 0$$
$$\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{X}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} + n\lambda\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = \mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{y}$$
$$(\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{X} + n\lambda\mathbf{I})\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = \mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{y}$$
$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = (\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{X} + n\lambda\mathbf{I})^{-1}\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{y}$$

This is an example of a *shrinkage* estimator.

One can prove that if $\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{X}$ has full rank, then $\lambda_{opt} > 0$ (Hoerl and Kennard, 1970).



Shrinkage in action

Ridge estimator: $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\lambda} = (\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{X} + n\lambda\mathbf{I})^{-1}\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{y}.$





A note on not penalizing the intercept

Loss function:

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}\|^2 + \lambda \|\boldsymbol{\beta}\|^2$$

What happens with \hat{y} when $\lambda \to \infty$? It is convenient if $\hat{y}_i \to \bar{y}$ and not to 0. This will be the case if both **X** and **y** have been centered (and **X** does not contain \mathbf{x}_0). Otherwise we need to write explicitly

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(y_i - \beta_0 - \sum_{j=1}^{p} \beta_j X_{ij} \right)^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^{p} \beta_j^2.$$

Another note: there may be no $\frac{1}{n}$ factor in some implementations.





SVD perspective

Consider singular value decomposition $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{S}\mathbf{V}^{\top}$.

We previously showed that in OLS regression

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}^{\top}\mathbf{y}.$$

In ridge regression,

$$\begin{split} \hat{\mathbf{y}} &= \mathbf{X} \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = \underbrace{\mathbf{X} (\mathbf{X}^{\top} \mathbf{X} + n\lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{X}}_{\text{hat matrix}}^{\top} \mathbf{y} \\ &= \mathbf{U} \mathbf{S} \mathbf{V}^{\top} (\mathbf{V} \mathbf{S}^{2} \mathbf{V}^{\top} + n\lambda \mathbf{V} \mathbf{V}^{\top})^{-1} \mathbf{V} \mathbf{S} \mathbf{U}^{\top} \mathbf{y} \\ &= \mathbf{U} \operatorname{diag} \left\{ \frac{s_{i}^{2}}{s_{i}^{2} + n\lambda} \right\} \mathbf{U}^{\top} \mathbf{y}. \end{split}$$

I.e. ridge regression stronger affects small singular values.



Bayesian perspective

Previously we showed that $\hat{oldsymbol{eta}}_{\mathrm{OLS}}$ is the maximum likelihood solution of

$$y = \boldsymbol{\beta}^{\top} \mathbf{x} + \boldsymbol{\epsilon},$$

$$\boldsymbol{\epsilon} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2).$$

This treats β as fixed. What if we treat it as random and assume a *prior* distribution $\beta \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \tau^2 \mathbf{I})$?..

It turns out that $\hat{\beta}_{\lambda}$ with $\lambda = \sigma^2/(n\tau^2)$ is the mean of the *posterior* distribution, i.e. it is a *maximum a posteriori* (MAP) estimator.



Bayes theorem, prior, and posterior

Joint and conditional probabilities:

$$P(A,B) = P(A \mid B)P(B) = P(B \mid A)P(A).$$

 \Rightarrow Bayes theorem:

$$P(A \mid B) = \frac{P(B \mid A)P(A)}{P(B)}.$$

Example:

$$\begin{split} P(\text{pandemic} \mid \text{mask}) &= \frac{P(\text{mask} \mid \text{pandemic})P(\text{pandemic})}{P(\text{mask})} = \\ &= \frac{P(\text{mask} \mid \text{pandemic})P(\text{pandemic})}{P(\text{mask} \mid \text{pand}.)P(\text{pand}.) + P(\text{mask} \mid \neg \text{pand}.)P(\neg \text{pand}.)} \end{split}$$



Bayes theorem, prior, and posterior

$$P(\text{pandemic} \mid \text{mask}) = \frac{P(\text{mask} \mid \text{pandemic})P(\text{pandemic})}{P(\text{mask})}$$

$$P(\text{Halloween} \mid \text{mask}) = \frac{P(\text{mask} \mid \text{Halloween})P(\text{Halloween})}{P(\text{mask})}$$

$$P(\text{diving} \mid \text{mask}) = \frac{P(\text{mask} \mid \text{diving})P(\text{diving})}{P(\text{mask})}$$

So when there are many options, it is often enough to write

$$P(A \mid B) \sim P(B \mid A)P(A).$$



Prior, posterior, and likelihood

For continuous random variables:

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p(x \mid y) \sim p(y \mid x)p(x).
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In our case of a generative model:





Bayesian linear regression

Probabilistic model and prior:

$$y = \boldsymbol{\beta}^{\top} \mathbf{x} + \boldsymbol{\epsilon},$$

$$\boldsymbol{\epsilon} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2),$$

$$\boldsymbol{\beta} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \tau^2 \mathbf{I}).$$

Log-likelihood (last lecture):

$$-\frac{n}{2}\log(2\pi\sigma^2) - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}\|^2.$$

Log-prior:

$$-\frac{p}{2}\log(2\pi\tau^2) - \frac{1}{2\tau^2} \|\boldsymbol{\beta}\|^2.$$





Bayesian linear regression

Hence negative log-posterior:



Exercise: product of two Gaussians is a Gaussian.



Lasso regression

Lasso regression

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}\|^2 + \lambda \|\boldsymbol{\beta}\|_1.$$

No analytic solution. But one can show that solutions are *sparse*.





Lagrange multipliers

Theorem: minimizing a loss $\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{w})$ subject to constraints $C(\mathbf{w}) = 0$ is equivalent to minimizing $\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{w}) + \lambda C(\mathbf{w})$ over \mathbf{w} and λ . Here λ is called *Lagrange multiplier*.

The same is true for inequality constraints $C(\mathbf{w}) \leq 0$ (with some extra conditions that I omit here for simplicity).

This means that the following two formulations are equivalent:

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}\|^2 + \lambda \|\boldsymbol{\beta}\|_1,$$
$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}\|^2 \text{ s.t. } \|\boldsymbol{\beta}\|_1 \le t.$$

And the same is true for ridge regression with $\lambda \|\boldsymbol{\beta}\|_2^2$.



Ridge vs. lasso

Ridge:
$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}\|^2$$
 s.t. $\|\boldsymbol{\beta}\|_2^2 \le t$.
Lasso: $\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}\|^2$ s.t. $\|\boldsymbol{\beta}\|_1 \le t$.





Model selection

Bias-variance tradeoff





Training, test, and validation sets

Split the dataset into:

- Training set: used for model fitting;
- Test set: used for model evaluation.

Note: there is a tradeoff between training and test set sizes. Rule of thumb: \sim 90% training, \sim 10% test.

If we need to tune some hyper-parameters, e.g. λ , it is more appropriate to use three sets:

- Training set: used for model fitting;
- Validation set: used for hyper-parameter tuning;
- Test set: used for final model evaluation.



Cross-validation

Often the dataset is not large enough for a reliable training/test split. Then one could use *cross-validation* (CV):



K-fold cross-validation. n-fold CV is called *leave-one-out* CV (LOOCV). Rule of thumb: K = 10.

Note that cross-validation measures the performance not of a given model, but of a model building procedure.

If you need a final model (for production or for inspection), then afterwards fit the model using the chosen λ on all of the available data.



Nested cross-validation

What if we need training, validation, and test? Nested cross-validation!

- Outer loop: puts aside a test set.
- Inner loop: puts aside a validation test.
- After each inner loop: fit the model with chosen λ on all 'inner' data.







Nested cross-validation



If you need a final model (for production or for inspection), then fit the model using the "inner loop" on the entire dataset.

Exercise: if you use K = 10 for the outer loop, K = 5 for the inner loop, and 100 values of λ as your grid search, how many models will be built?



Beyond the interpolation threshold

Back to polynomial regression



If p > n, the regression problem is *undertermined*: there are infinitely many β values yielding zero loss $\mathcal{L}(\beta) = 0$.



Minimum-norm solution

Using $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{S}\mathbf{V}^{\top}$, we previously obtained $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{OLS} = \mathbf{V}\mathbf{S}^{-1}\mathbf{U}^{\top}\mathbf{y}$.

This formula still makes sense if p > n (now **S** is $n \times n$, not $p \times p$) and yields the minimum-norm $\hat{\beta}$ among all possible ones satisfying $\mathcal{L}(\beta) = 0$.



Implicit regularization

Here is what can happen if we use the minimum-norm solution beyond the *interpolation threshold*:



Implicit regularization.

