



Northeastern University
**Khoury College of
Computer Sciences**

Practical Issues and Feature Normalization

DS 4400 | Machine Learning and Data Mining I

Zohair Shafi
Spring 2026

Wednesday | January 14, 2026

Today's Outline

1. Recap
2. Practical Issues in Linear Regression
3. Feature Pre-processing and Normalization

Today's Outline

1. **Recap**
2. Practical Issues in Linear Regression
3. Feature Pre-processing and Normalization

Recap

Derivative of the Sigmoid Function

• Sigmoid: $\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}}$

Let $f(x) = 1 + e^{-x}$ and $g(x) = \frac{1}{x} = x^{-1}$

$$\sigma(x) = g(f(x))$$

$$\sigma(x) = (1 + e^{-x})^{-1}$$

$$\sigma'(x) = -1 \cdot (1 + e^{-x})^{-2} \cdot -e^{-x}$$

$$\sigma'(x) = \frac{e^{-x}}{(1 + e^{-x})^2}$$

$$\sigma'(x) = \sigma(x) \cdot \frac{e^{-x}}{1 + e^{-x}}$$

$$\sigma'(x) = \sigma(x) \cdot (1 - \sigma(x))$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \boxed{1 + e^{-x}} \cdot \boxed{-1} \\ & -1(1 + e^{-x})^{-2} \cdot (0 + -e^{-x}) \\ & = -1(1 + e^{-x})^{-2} \cdot -e^{-x} \end{aligned}$$

Recap

Linear Regression Derivation

$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{n} \sum (0_0 + \theta_1 x_i - y_i)^2$$
$$2 \cdot \frac{1}{n} \sum (\theta_0 + \theta_1 x_i - y_i) \cdot (0 + x_i + 0)$$

$$f = x^3 y^2$$
$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 3x^2 y^2$$
$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = x^3 \cdot 2y$$

$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m [f_{\theta}(x_i) - y_i]^2$$

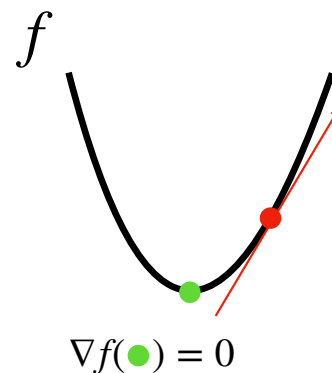
$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m [\theta_0 + \theta_1 \cdot x_i - y_i]^2$$

Find the point where $\nabla L(\theta) = 0$

$$\frac{\partial L(\theta)}{\partial \theta_0} = \frac{2}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m (\theta_0 + \theta_1 x_i - y_i) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial L(\theta)}{\partial \theta_1} = \frac{2}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m x_i \cdot (\theta_0 + \theta_1 x_i - y_i) = 0$$

$\nabla f(\bullet)$ points in direction of steepest ascent



Recap

Linear Regression Derivation

Find the point where $\nabla L(\theta) = 0$

$$\frac{\partial L(\theta)}{\partial \theta_0} = \frac{2}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m (\theta_0 + \theta_1 x_i - y_i) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial L(\theta)}{\partial \theta_1} = \frac{2}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m x_i \cdot (\theta_0 + \theta_1 x_i - y_i) = 0$$

$$\theta_0 = \bar{y} - \theta_1 \bar{x}$$

$$\theta_1 = \frac{\text{Cov}(x, y)}{\text{Var}(x)}$$

Recap

Linear Regression Derivation - Matrix Form

$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{m} \sum (Y - X\theta)^2$$

$$Y \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times 1}$$

$$X \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$$

$$\theta \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$$

m = # rows of data
 n = # columns

$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \end{bmatrix} \quad X = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \end{bmatrix} \quad \theta = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$

Recap

Linear Regression Derivation - Matrix Form

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$
$$\theta \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$$

$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{m} \sum (\hat{y} - \widehat{X\theta})^2$$

$$Y \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times 1}$$

$$X \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$$

$$\theta \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$$

$$X\theta \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \cdot \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1} = \mathbb{R}^{m \times 1}$$

Recap

Linear Regression Derivation - Matrix Form

$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{m} \sum (Y - X\theta)^2$$

$$Y \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times 1}$$

$$X \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$$

$$\theta \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$$

$$X\theta \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \cdot \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1} = \mathbb{R}^{m \times 1}$$

$\sum u^2$

$$\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} \quad \vec{u}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 25 \\ 49 \\ 81 \end{bmatrix} = 155$$

Recap

Linear Regression Derivation - Matrix Form

$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{m} \sum (Y - X\theta)^2$$

$$\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} \quad \vec{u}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 25 \\ 49 \\ 81 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$u^T u = [5 \ 7 \ 9] \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} = [5 \cdot 5 + 7 \cdot 7 + 9 \cdot 9] = [155]$$

Recap

Linear Regression Derivation - Matrix Form

$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{m} \sum (Y - X\theta)^2$$

$$\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} \quad \vec{u}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 25 \\ 49 \\ 81 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$u^T u = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 7 & 9 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} = [5 \cdot 5 + 7 \cdot 7 + 9 \cdot 9] = [155]$$

$$u^T u = [u_1^2 + u_2^2 + u_3^2 + \cdots u_n^2] = \sum_i^n u_i^2$$

Recap

Linear Regression Derivation - Matrix Form

$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{m} \sum (Y - X\theta)^2$$

Each of these is a vector

$$\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} \quad \vec{u}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 25 \\ 49 \\ 81 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$u^T u = [5 \ 7 \ 9] \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} = [5 \cdot 5 + 7 \cdot 7 + 9 \cdot 9] = [155]$$

$$u^T u = [u_1^2 + u_2^2 + u_3^2 + \cdots u_n^2] = \sum_i^n u_i^2$$

Recap

Linear Regression Derivation - Matrix Form

$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{m} \sum (Y - X\theta)^2$$

This whole thing is then also a vector

$$\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} \quad \vec{u}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 25 \\ 49 \\ 81 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$u^T u = [5 \ 7 \ 9] \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} = [5 \cdot 5 + 7 \cdot 7 + 9 \cdot 9] = [155]$$

$$u^T u = [u_1^2 + u_2^2 + u_3^2 + \cdots u_n^2] = \sum_i^n u_i^2$$

Recap

Linear Regression Derivation - Matrix Form

$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{m} \sum (Y - X\theta)^2$$

m x 1

These two representations are now similar

$$\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} \quad \vec{u}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 25 \\ 49 \\ 81 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$u^T u = [5 \ 7 \ 9] \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} = [5 \cdot 5 + 7 \cdot 7 + 9 \cdot 9] = [155]$$

$$u^T u = [u_1^2 + u_2^2 + u_3^2 + \cdots u_n^2] = \sum_i^n u_i^2$$

Recap

Linear Regression Derivation - Matrix Form

$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{m} \sum (Y - X\theta)^2$$

So we can replace this with $(Y - X\theta)^T(Y - X\theta)$

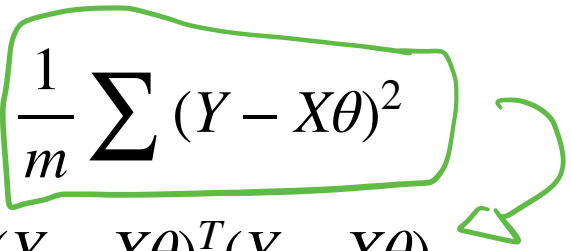
$$\vec{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} \quad \vec{u}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 25 \\ 49 \\ 81 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$u^T u = [5 \ 7 \ 9] \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} = [5 \cdot 5 + 7 \cdot 7 + 9 \cdot 9] = [155]$$

$$u^T u = [u_1^2 + u_2^2 + u_3^2 + \cdots u_n^2] = \sum_i^n u_i^2$$

Recap

Linear Regression Derivation - Matrix Form


$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{m} \sum (Y - X\theta)^2$$


$$L(\theta) = (Y - X\theta)^T (Y - X\theta)$$

(why is this true?)

$$L(\theta) = (Y^T - \theta^T X^T)(Y - X\theta)$$

(Take the transpose inside. And then, because $(AB)^T = B^T A^T$)

$$L(\theta) = Y^T Y - Y^T X \theta - \theta^T X^T Y + \theta^T X^T X \theta$$


(the two terms in the centre are equivalent, why?)

$$L(\theta) = Y^T Y - 2\theta^T X^T Y + \theta^T X^T X \theta$$

Recap

Linear Regression Derivation - Matrix Form

$$A - B + C = 0$$

$$A - B^T + C = 0$$

$$B = B^T$$

$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{m} \sum (Y - X\theta)^2$$

$$L(\theta) = (Y - X\theta)^T (Y - X\theta)$$

(why is this true?)

$$L(\theta) = (Y^T - \theta^T X^T)(Y - X\theta)$$

(Take the transpose inside. And then, because $(AB)^T = B^T A^T$)

$$L(\theta) = Y^T Y - Y^T X \theta - \theta^T X^T Y + \theta^T X^T X \theta$$

(the two terms in the centre are equivalent, why?)

$$L(\theta) = Y^T Y - 2\theta^T X^T Y + \theta^T X^T X \theta$$

Recap

Linear Regression Derivation - Matrix Form

$$\downarrow$$
$$Y^T X \theta \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times m} \cdot \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \cdot \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$$

Which means

$$Y^T X \theta \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times 1}$$

Which means

$Y^T X \theta$ is symmetric

Which is why

$$Y^T X \theta = (Y^T X \theta)^T = \theta^T X^T Y$$

Recap

Linear Regression Derivation - Matrix Form

$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{m} \sum (Y - X\theta)^2$$

$$L(\theta) = (Y - X\theta)^T (Y - X\theta)$$

(why is this true?)

$$L(\theta) = (Y^T - \theta^T X^T)(Y - X\theta)$$

(because $(AB)^T = B^T A^T$)

$$L(\theta) = Y^T Y - Y^T X\theta - \theta^T X^T Y + \theta^T X^T X\theta$$

(the two terms in the centre are equivalent, why?)

$$L(\theta) = Y^T Y - 2\theta^T X^T Y + \theta^T X^T X\theta$$

Recap

Matrix Form - Derivative

$$B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$$

$$A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times 1}$$

$$B \cdot A$$

$$B^T \cdot A$$

$$L(\theta) = Y^T Y - 2\theta^T \overset{B}{\boxed{X^T Y}} + \theta^T \boxed{X^T X} \theta$$

For any vector A
 $\nabla_A (B^T A) = B$

For any symmetric matrix B
 $\nabla_A (A^T B A) = 2BA$

So we have

$$\nabla L(\theta) = -2X^T Y + 2X^T X \theta$$

Recap

Matrix Form - Derivative

$$L(\theta) = Y^T Y - 2\theta^T X^T Y + \theta^T X^T X \theta$$

For any vector A

$$\nabla_A (B^T A) = B$$

Recap

Matrix Form - Derivative

$$L(\theta) = Y^T Y - 2\theta^T X^T Y + \theta^T X^T X \theta$$

Lets look at $\theta^T X^T Y$

Recap

Matrix Form - Derivative

$$L(\theta) = Y^T Y - 2\theta^T X^T Y + \theta^T X^T X \theta$$

Lets look at $\theta^T \mathbf{X^T Y}$

$X^T Y \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$ - This is a vector.

$$\begin{aligned} X &\in m \times n \\ X^T &\in n \times m \\ Y &\in m \times 1 \\ n \times m \cdot m \times 1 \\ (n \times 1) \end{aligned}$$

Recap

Matrix Form - Derivative

$$L(\theta) = Y^T Y - 2\theta^T X^T Y + \theta^T X^T X \theta$$

Lets look at $\theta^T \boxed{X^T Y} = \mathcal{B}$

$$\theta^T \underline{B} \text{ where } B = X^T Y \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$$

Recap

Matrix Form - Derivative

$$L(\theta) = Y^T Y - 2\theta^T X^T Y + \theta^T X^T X \theta$$

Lets look at $\theta^T X^T Y$

$\theta^T B$ where $B = X^T Y \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$

We know this is symmetric because the result is $\in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times 1}$

$\theta - n \times 1$
 $1 \times n - n \times 1$
 (1×1)

Recap

Matrix Form - Derivative

$$L(\theta) = Y^T Y - 2\theta^T X^T Y + \theta^T X^T X \theta$$

Lets look at $\theta^T X^T Y$

$n \times 1$ $[1 \times 1]$ $\theta^T B$ where $B = X^T Y \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$

$(1 \times n) (n \times 1)$

$$\theta^T B = (\theta^T B)^T = B^T \theta$$

The derivative rule we had:

$$\nabla_A (B^T A) = B$$

Recap

Matrix Form - Derivative

$$L(\theta) = Y^T Y - 2\theta^T X^T Y + \theta^T X^T X \theta$$

Lets look at $\theta^T X^T Y$

$$\theta^T B \text{ where } B = \boxed{X^T Y} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$$

$$\theta^T B = (\theta^T B)^T = B^T \theta$$

The derivative rule we had:

$$\underline{\nabla}_{\underline{\theta}}(\underline{B^T \theta}) = \underline{B}$$

Recap

Matrix Form - Derivative

$$(AB)^T = B^T A^T$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} (\cancel{x^T x})^T \\ = \underline{x^T \cdot (x^T)^T} \\ \underline{x^T \cdot x} \end{array} \right]$$

$$(B^T A)^T \\ A^T \cdot (B^T)^T$$

$$L(\theta) = Y^T Y - 2\theta^T X^T Y + \theta^T \boxed{X^T X} \theta$$

For any vector A
 $\nabla_A (B^T A) = B$

$\hookrightarrow B$

For any symmetric matrix B
 $\nabla_A (A^T \boxed{B} A) = 2BA$

So we have

$$\nabla L(\theta) = -2X^T Y + 2\boxed{X^T X} \theta$$

$$^T \\ A A$$

Recap

Matrix Form - Derivative

$$L(\theta) = Y^T Y - 2\theta^T X^T Y + \theta^T X^T X \theta$$

For any vector A

$$\nabla_A (B^T A) = B$$

For any symmetric matrix B

$$\nabla_A (A^T B A) = 2BA$$

So we have

$$\nabla L(\theta) = -2X^T Y + 2X^T X \theta$$

Recap

Matrix Form - Derivative



Is $X^T X$ symmetric?

$$(X^T X)^T = X^T \cdot (X^T)^T = X^T X$$

$X^T X$ is **always** symmetric

$$L(\theta) = Y^T Y - 2\theta^T X^T Y + \theta^T X^T X \theta$$

For any vector A

$$\nabla_A (B^T A) = B$$

For any **symmetric** matrix B

$$\nabla_A (A^T B A) = 2BA$$

So we have

$$\nabla L(\theta) = -2X^T Y + 2X^T X \theta$$

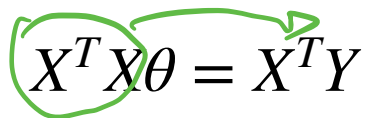
Recap

Solution


We want to find the minimum so set gradient to zero

$$\nabla L(\theta) = -2X^T Y + 2X^T X \theta = 0$$

$$2X^T X \theta = 2X^T Y$$


$$X^T X \theta = X^T Y$$

If $X^T X$ is invertible, then


$$\theta = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T Y$$

Practical Example

https://zohairshafi.github.io/pages/lectures/Lecture_2_Notebook.ipynb

Today's Outline

1. Recap
- 2. Practical Issues in Linear Regression**
3. Feature Pre-processing and Normalization

Train / Test Splits

- Generally data is split into a training dataset and a testing data
- Rough rule of thumb is that this is an 80-20 split

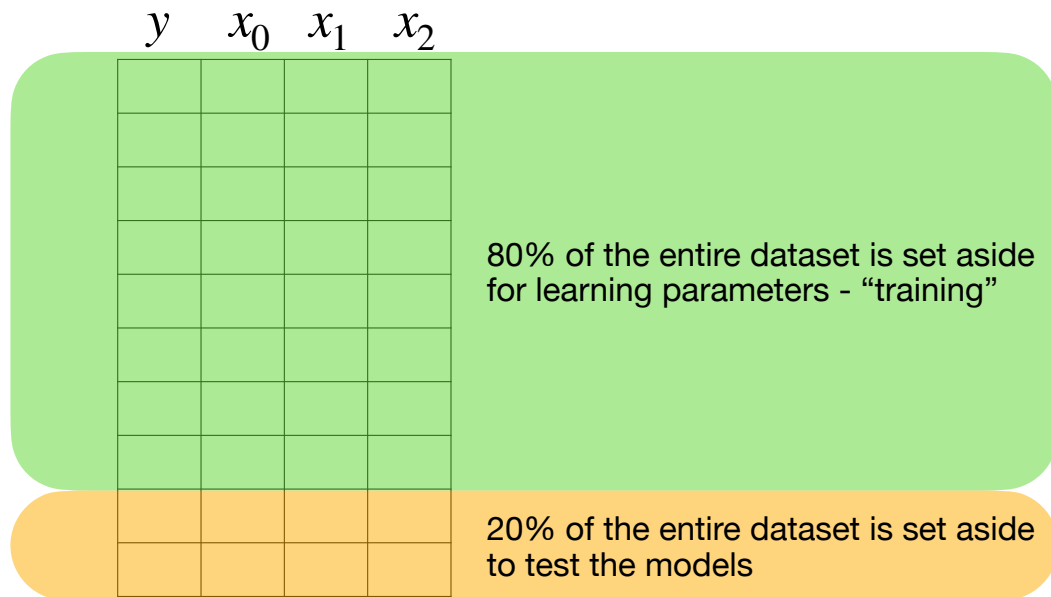
Train / Test Splits

- Generally data is split into a training dataset and a testing data
- Rough rule of thumb is that this is an 80-20 split

[illegible]

Train / Test Splits

- Generally data is split into a training dataset and a testing data
- Rough rule of thumb is that this is an 80-20 split



This is **unseen** data and tells you if the model can generalize well

Train / Test Splits

- However, in practice, if you are given only one train and test set, its easy to accidentally pick model architectures that work well on the test set, even though test set data is unseen
- To counter this, we use two unseen datasets - “validation” set and “test” set
- The split is generally of the form 80-10-10 where 80% is training data, 10% is validation data and 10% is test data

Practical Issues in Linear Regression

Multicollinearity

- When two features are highly correlated or are linearly dependent on each other

Practical Issues in Linear Regression

Multicollinearity

1 kg = 2.2 lbs

- When two features are highly correlated or are linearly dependent on each other

- Why it's a problem:

$$\theta = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T Y$$

- $X^T X$ becomes nearly singular (ill-conditioned)
- Small changes in data cause huge changes in coefficients
- Coefficients become unreliable and hard to interpret
- Standard errors blow up

$X = \text{BMI}$	$X_0 = \text{height}$	$X_1 = \text{weight (kg)}$	$X_2 = \text{weight (lbs)}$
19	5' 5"	132	60
21	5'	220	110

Practical Issues in Linear Regression

Multicollinearity



- When two features are highly correlated or are linearly dependent on each other

- Why it's a problem:

$$\theta = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T Y$$

Simple Detection:
If correlation between features ≥ 0.8

- $X^T X$ becomes nearly singular (ill-conditioned)
- Small changes in data cause huge changes in coefficients
- Coefficients become unreliable and hard to interpret
- Standard errors blow up

Practical Issues in Linear Regression

Quick Aside

$$\theta = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T Y$$

When else is this not going to be invertible?

$$X \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$$

m : Number of training examples

n : Number of parameters in the model

Practical Issues in Linear Regression

Quick Aside

$$y = \theta_0 x_0 + \theta_1 x_1 + \theta_2 x_2 + \theta_3 x_3 + \theta_4 x_4$$

$$x = \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \right] \} \text{ 2 rows of data}$$

$$\begin{matrix} \downarrow & \swarrow \\ [2 \times 5] \end{matrix}$$

$$\theta = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T Y$$

When else is this not going to be invertible?

If $m < n$, then $\text{rank}(X) \leq m$, so need **more** data points than number of parameters to get a unique set of parameters

$$X \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$$

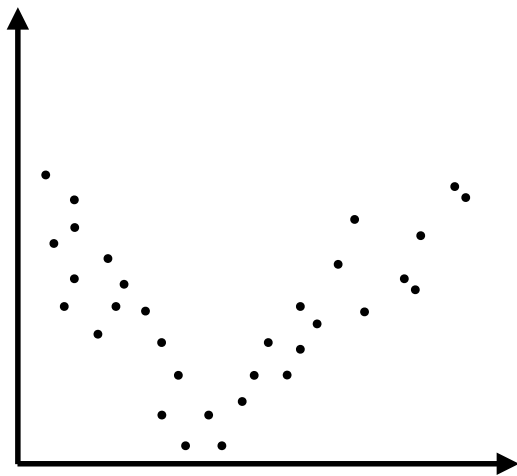
m : Number of training examples

n : Number of parameters in the model

$$\text{rank}(X) = \min(m, n)$$

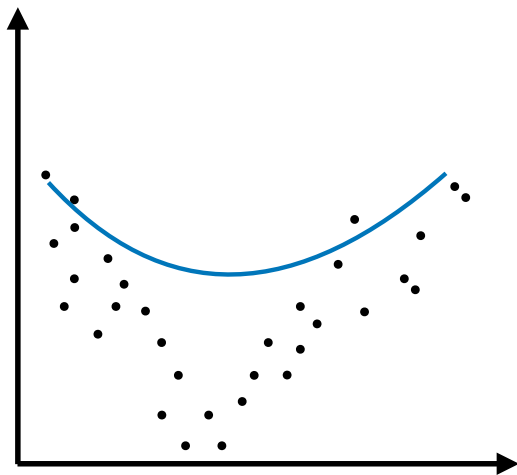
Practical Issues in Linear Regression

Overfitting vs Underfitting



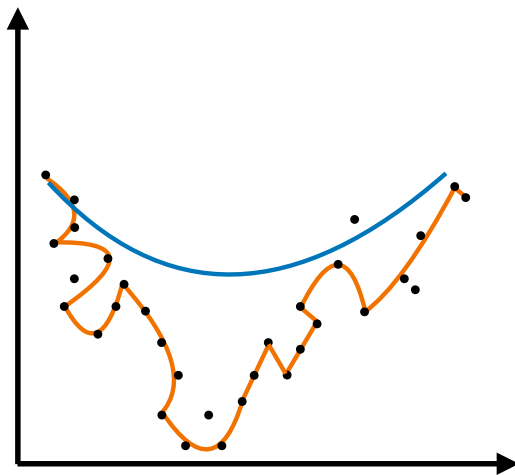
Practical Issues in Linear Regression

Overfitting vs Underfitting



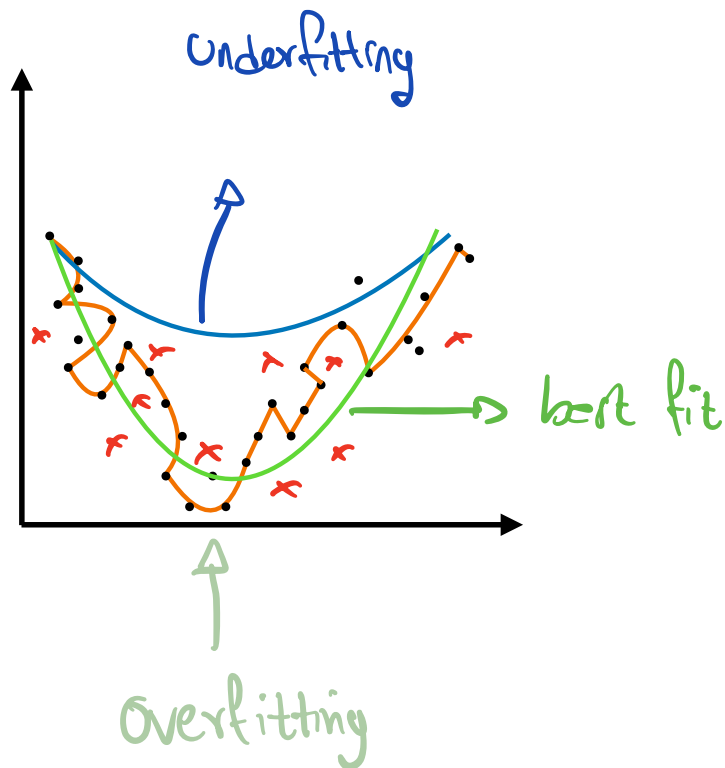
Practical Issues in Linear Regression

Overfitting vs Underfitting



Practical Issues in Linear Regression

Overfitting vs Underfitting



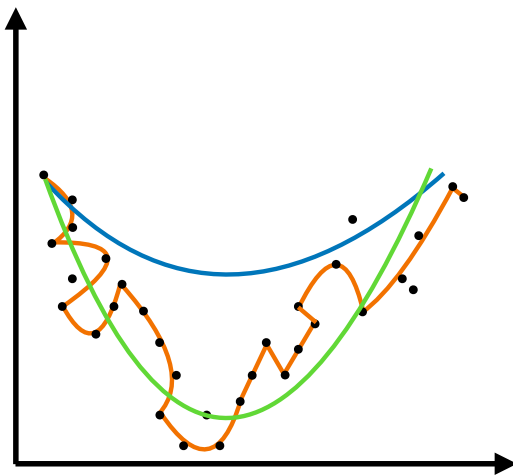
Practical Issues in Linear Regression

Overfitting vs Underfitting

The blue model is **underfitting** the data

The orange model is **overfitting** the data

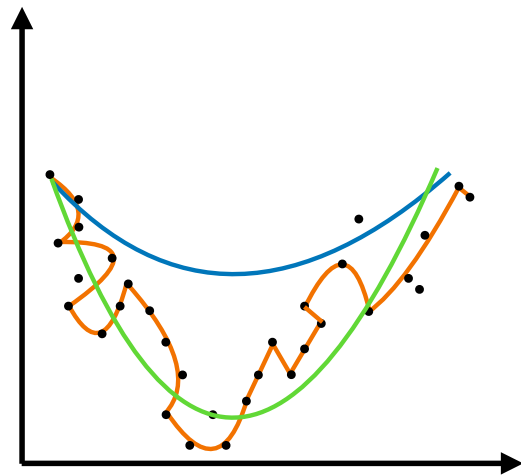
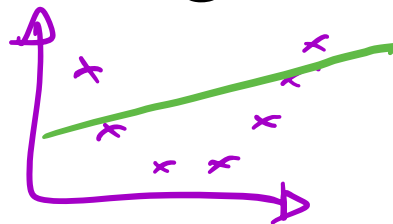
The green model is a good fit of the data



Practical Issues in Linear Regression

Underfitting

- What is happening?
 - The model is too simple to be able to capture the data
- How do you identify it?
 - Training loss is **high**
 - Test loss is **high**
- Solutions
 - Add more features
 - Add polynomial features ($x_1^2, x_2^2, x_1x_2, \dots$)
 - Use a more complex model



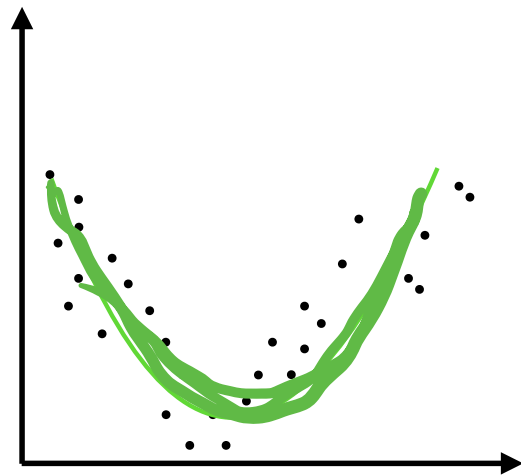
Practical Issues in Linear Regression

Quick Aside

- Add polynomial features ($x_1^2, x_2^2, x_1x_2, \dots$)

$$f_{\theta}(x) = \underbrace{\theta_0}_1 + \underbrace{\theta_1}_{\downarrow} x_1 + \underbrace{\theta_2}_{\downarrow} x_1^2 \quad \swarrow \quad \searrow$$

Question: If the output looks like the curve in green, is this still **linear** regression?



Practical Issues in Linear Regression

Quick Aside

- Add polynomial features ($x_1^2, x_2^2, x_1x_2, \dots$)

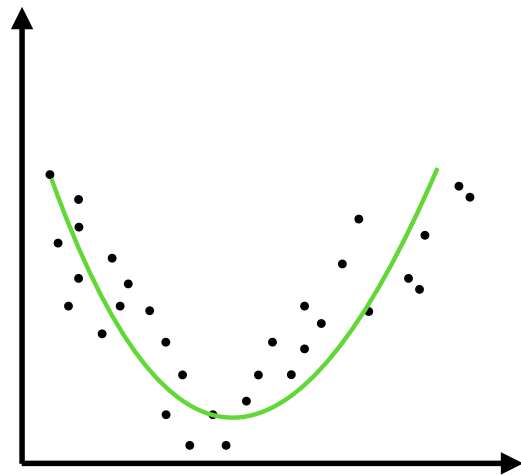
$$f_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1x_1 + \theta_2x_1^2$$

Question: If the output looks like the curve in green, is this still **linear** regression?

Yes, the model $f_{\theta}(x)$ is still **linear** in its parameters, but just not in its inputs.

A model like $f_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + x_1^{\theta_1}$ would however **not** classify as linear regression

$$\theta_0 + x_1^{\theta_1}$$



Practical Issues in Linear Regression

Quick Aside

- Add polynomial features ($x_1^2, x_2^2, x_1x_2, \dots$)

$$f_{\theta}(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x_1 + \boxed{\theta_2 x_1^2} + \boxed{\theta_3 x_1^2}$$

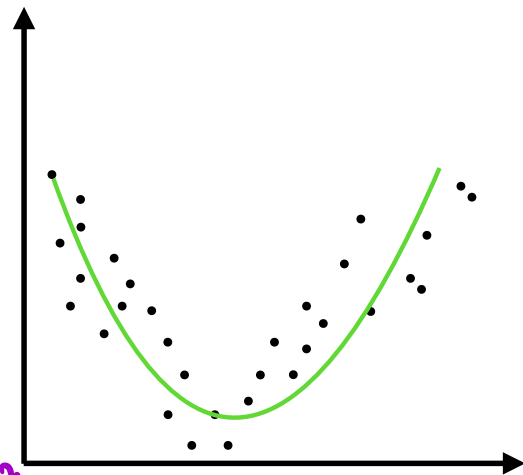
$x_3 = x_1^2$

input

What about these models?

$$f_{\theta}(x) = \boxed{\theta_1} e^{x_1} + \boxed{\theta_2 \sin(x_2)}$$

$$\rightarrow f_{\theta}(x) = \sin(\boxed{\theta_1} x_1 + \boxed{\theta_2} x_1^2) + \theta_2$$



$$x_5 = e^{x_1}$$

$$x_4 = \sin(x_2)$$

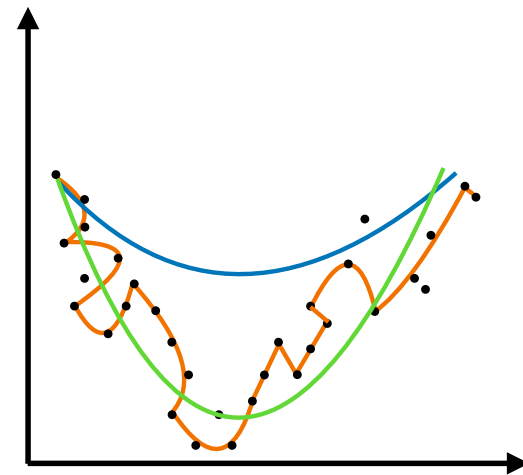
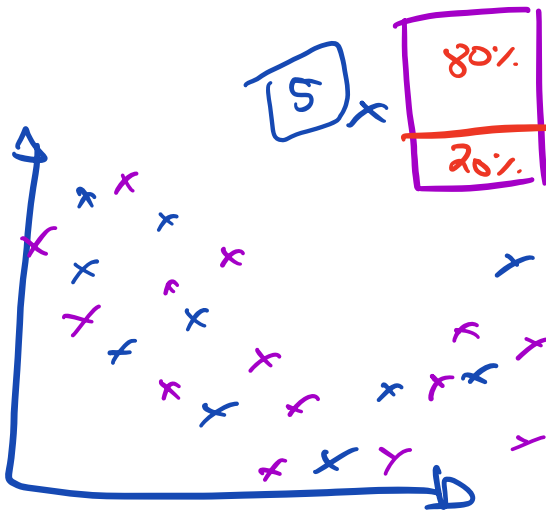
$$\boxed{\theta_1} x_5 + \boxed{\theta_2} x_4$$

Practical Issues in Linear Regression

Overfitting

- What is happening?
 - The model is too complex, so it learns the noise distribution and outliers and hence does not generalize well to new data points
- How do you identify it?
 - Training loss is low
 - Test loss is high
 - Coefficients have large magnitudes
- Solutions
 - Regularization (L_1, L_2)
 - Cross-validation for model selection
 - Reduce number of features
 - Get more training data

$\theta_0 \leftarrow 2.0$ $\theta_1 \leftarrow 2.8$
 $\| \theta \|_1 / 50$ $\| \theta \|_1 / 100$



Practical Issues in Linear Regression

A more mathematical look - Bias / Variance Tradeoff

Every model's prediction error/loss can be decomposed into three parts:

$$\text{Expected Loss} = \text{Bias}^2 + \text{Variance} + \text{Irreducible Noise}$$

Practical Issues in Linear Regression

A more mathematical look - Bias / Variance Tradeoff

Every model's prediction error/loss can be decomposed into three parts:

$$\text{Expected Loss} = \text{Bias}^2 + \text{Variance} + \text{Irreducible Noise}$$

Error from wrong assumptions due to the model being too simple

Practical Issues in Linear Regression

A more mathematical look - Bias / Variance Tradeoff

Every model's prediction error/loss can be decomposed into three parts:

$$\text{Expected Loss} = \text{Bias}^2 + \text{Variance} + \text{Irreducible Noise}$$

Error from high sensitivity to each data point and noise due to the model being too complex

Practical Issues in Linear Regression

A more mathematical look - Bias / Variance Tradeoff

Every model's prediction error/loss can be decomposed into three parts:

$$\text{Expected Loss} = \text{Bias}^2 + \text{Variance} + \text{Irreducible Noise}$$

Inherent randomness in data. Cannot be removed.

Practical Issues in Linear Regression

A more mathematical look - Bias / Variance Tradeoff

Every model's prediction error/loss can be decomposed into three parts:

Expected Loss = Bias² + Variance + Irreducible Noise

$$\mathbb{E}[(Y - \hat{Y})^2] = (\mathbb{E}[\hat{Y}] - Y)^2 + \mathbb{E}[(\hat{Y} - \mathbb{E}[\hat{Y}])^2] + \sigma^2$$

Practical Issues in Linear Regression

A more mathematical look - Bias / Variance Tradeoff

Every model's prediction error/loss can be decomposed into three parts:

Expected Loss = Bias² + Variance + Irreducible Noise

$$\mathbb{E}[(Y - \hat{Y})^2] = (\mathbb{E}[\hat{Y}] - Y)^2 + \mathbb{E}[(\hat{Y} - \mathbb{E}[\hat{Y}])^2] + \sigma^2$$

How far is the average prediction from the true labels?


Practical Issues in Linear Regression

A more mathematical look - Bias / Variance Tradeoff

Every model's prediction error/loss can be decomposed into three parts:

Expected Loss = Bias² + Variance + Irreducible Noise

$$\mathbb{E}[(Y - \hat{Y})^2] = (\mathbb{E}[\hat{Y}] - Y)^2 + \mathbb{E}[(\hat{Y} - \mathbb{E}[\hat{Y}])^2] + \sigma^2$$



If we use different training datasets, how much does \hat{Y} vary?

Practical Issues in Linear Regression

A more mathematical look - Bias / Variance Tradeoff

Every model's prediction error/loss can be decomposed into three parts:

Expected Loss = Bias² + Variance + Irreducible Noise

$$\mathbb{E}[(Y - \hat{Y})^2] = (\mathbb{E}[\hat{Y}] - Y)^2 + \mathbb{E}[(\hat{Y} - \mathbb{E}[\hat{Y}])^2] + \sigma^2$$

This is not the Sigmoid function. This is just irreducible noise in the true data Y

Practical Issues in Linear Regression

Bias / Variance Tradeoff

Why is it called a **tradeoff**?

Practical Issues in Linear Regression

Bias / Variance Tradeoff

Why is it called a **tradeoff**?

Model Complexity	Bias	Variance	Train Error	Test Error
Too Simple	High	Low	High	High

Practical Issues in Linear Regression

Bias / Variance Tradeoff

Why is it called a **tradeoff**?

Model Complexity	Bias	Variance	Train Error	Test Error
Too Simple	High	Low	High	High
Too Complex	Low	High	Low	High

Practical Issues in Linear Regression

Bias / Variance Tradeoff

Why is it called a **tradeoff**?

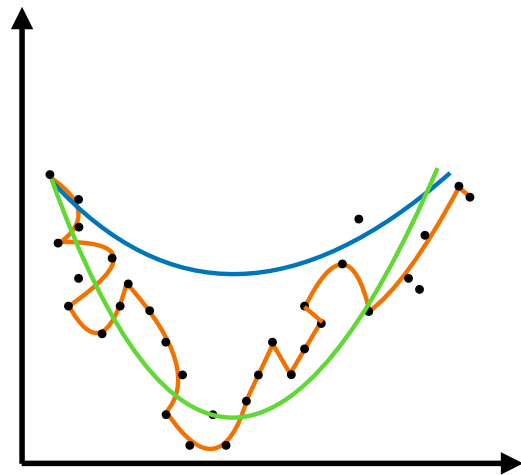
Model Complexity	Bias	Variance	Train Error	Test Error
Too Simple	High	Low	High	High
Sweet Spot	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
Too Complex	Low	High	Low	High

Practical Issues in Linear Regression

Regularization

- Regularization explicitly trades bias for variance.

$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{m} \sum (Y - X\theta)^2$$



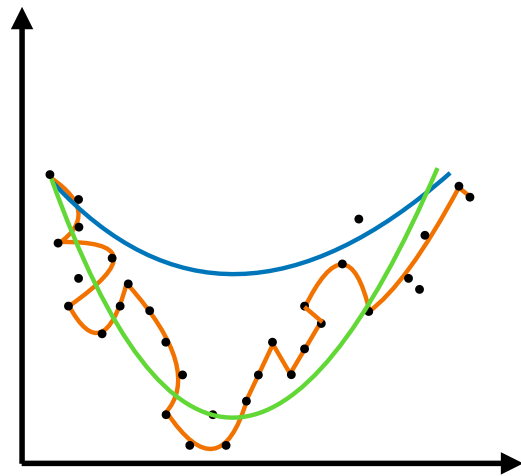
Practical Issues in Linear Regression

Regularization

- Regularization explicitly trades bias for variance.

$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{m} \sum (Y - X\theta)^2$$

$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{m} \sum (Y - X\theta)^2 + \lambda \|\theta\|^2$$



$$v = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\|v\|_2 = 5^2 + 7^2 + 9^2$$

$$\|v\|_1 = 5 + 7 + 9$$

$$\|v\|_\infty = \max(5, 7, 9)$$

Practical Issues in Linear Regression

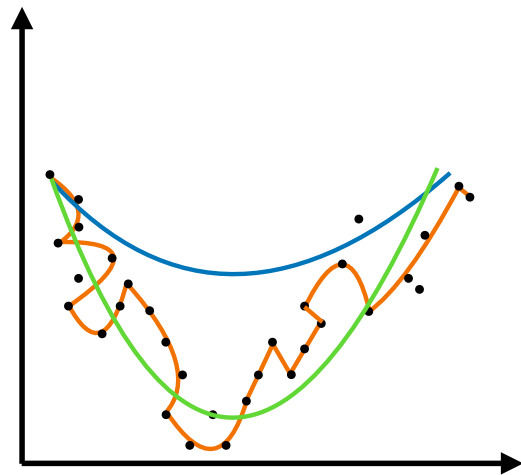
Regularization

- Regularization explicitly trades bias for variance.

$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{m} \sum (Y - X\theta)^2$$

$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{m} \sum (Y - X\theta)^2 + \lambda \|\theta\|^2$$

$$\theta = (X^T X + \lambda I)^{-1} X^T Y$$



Practical Issues in Linear Regression

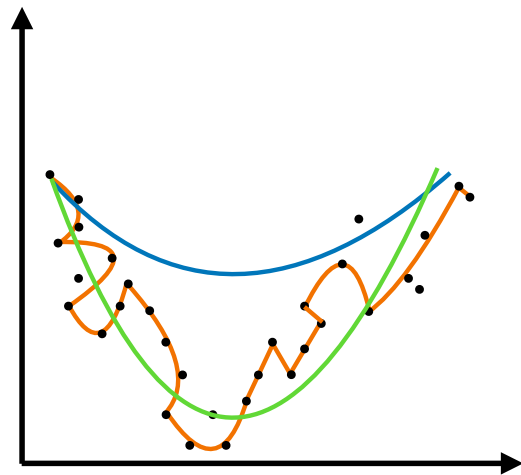
Regularization

- Regularization explicitly trades bias for variance.

$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{m} \sum (Y - X\theta)^2 + \lambda \|\theta\|^2$$

$$\theta = (X^T X + \lambda I)^{-1} X^T Y$$

- As λ increases:
 - Coefficients shrink toward zero
 - Bias increases (we're constraining the model)
 - Variance decreases (less sensitive to data)
 - At some λ^* , test error is minimized



Practical Issues in Linear Regression

Regularization

- Regularization explicitly trades bias for variance.

$$L(\theta) = \frac{1}{m} \sum (Y - X\theta)^2 + \lambda \|\theta\|^2$$

$$\rightarrow \theta = (X^T X + \lambda I)^{-1} X^T Y$$

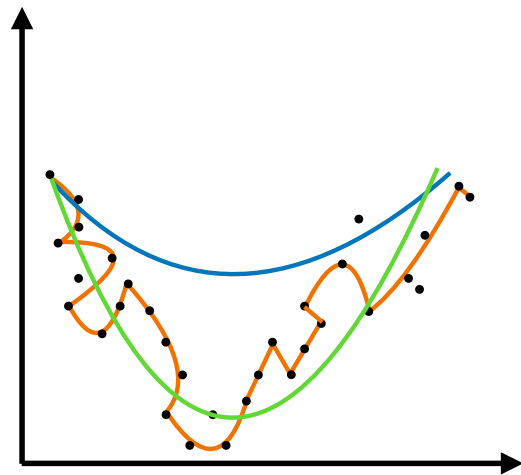
$$\theta = (x^T x)^{-1} x^T y$$

These sort of parameters are usually called **hyper-parameters**

They are **not learnable** but are human defined

- As λ increases:

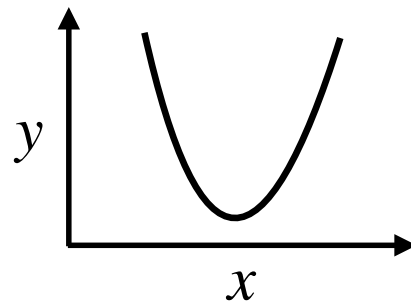
- Coefficients shrink toward zero
- Bias increases (we're constraining the model)
- Variance decreases (less sensitive to data)
- At some λ^* , test error is minimized



Practical Issues in Linear Regression

Non-Linearity

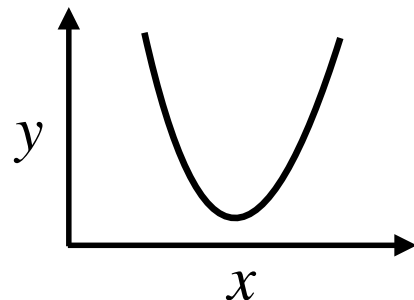
- True relationship between x and y is not linear



Practical Issues in Linear Regression

Non-Linearity

- True relationship between x and y is not linear
- Solutions:
 - Add polynomial terms like x^2, x^3 , etc..
 - Add interaction terms like $x_1 \cdot x_2$
 - Transform input features like $\log(x), \sqrt{x}$ $\sin(x), \cos(x)$
 - Use a non-linear model



Today's Outline

1. Recap
2. Practical Issues in Linear Regression
3. Feature Pre-processing and Normalization

Today's Outline

1. Recap
2. Practical Issues in Linear Regression
- 3. Feature Pre-processing and Normalization**

Feature Normalization

Why Normalize?

- If feature x_1 ranges from 0 to 1 and feature x_2 ranges from 0 to 1,000,000, this could lead to numerical instability in the solving process
 - This is particular relevant to gradient descent

Feature Normalization

Why Normalize?

- If feature x_1 ranges from 0 to 1 and feature x_2 ranges from 0 to 1,000,000, this could lead to numerical instability in the solving process
 - This is particular relevant to gradient descent
- Regularization unfairness
 - If x_2 is much larger, θ_2 must be much smaller to produce similar predictions.
 - The regularization penalty then affects features unequally based on arbitrary scale choices.

θ_0 · # bedrooms

θ_1 · sq-ft.



$\lambda \cdot ||\theta||$

Feature Normalization

Why Normalize?

- If feature x_1 ranges from 0 to 1 and feature x_2 ranges from 0 to 1,000,000, this could lead to numerical instability in the solving process
 - This is particular relevant to gradient descent
- Regularization unfairness
 - If x_2 is much larger, θ_2 must be much smaller to produce similar predictions.
 - The regularization penalty then affects features unequally based on arbitrary scale choices.
- Distance-based algorithms

Feature Normalization

Categorical vs Continuous Features

- Predict credit card balance

- Age
- Income
- Number of cards
- Credit limit
- Credit rating

Numerical

- Categorical variables

- Student (Yes/No)
- State (50 different states)

Feature Normalization

Indicator Variables and One-Hot Encoding

- For a variable like “Student” that takes True/False values:
 - We can simply replace with 0/1

Feature Normalization

Indicator Variables and One-Hot Encoding

- For a variable like “Student” that takes True/False values:
 - We can simply replace with 0/1 $[x_{MA}=1, x_{WA}=0, x_{RI}=0, \dots]$
- For a variable like “State” which in the US can take 50 values, we use something called One-Hot encoding
 - $state = [x_{NY}, x_{MA}, x_{NJ}, x_{WA}, x_{CA}, \dots, x_{RI}]$
 - If the particular data point is from MA, that element of the vector is set to 1 and everything else 0
 - $state = [0, 1, 0, 0, 0, \dots, 0]$

Feature Normalization

Indicator Variables and One-Hot Encoding

- For a variable like “Student” that takes True/False values:
 - We can simply replace with 0/1
- For a variable like “State” which in the US can take 50 values, we use something called One-Hot encoding
 - $state = [x_{NY}, x_{MA}, x_{NJ}, x_{WA}, x_{CA}, \dots x_{RI}]$
 - If the particular data point is from MA, that element of the vector is set to 1 and everything else 0
 - $state = [0, 1, 0, 0, 0, \dots 0]$

Feature Normalization

Indicator Variables and One-Hot Encoding

- For a variable like “Student” that takes True/False values:
 - We can simply replace with 0/1
- For a variable like “State” which in the US can take 50 values, we use something called One-Hot encoding
 - $state = [x_{NY}, x_{MA}, x_{NJ}, x_{WA}, x_{CA}, \dots x_{RI}]$
 - If the particular data point is from MA, that element of the vector is set to 1 and everything else 0
 - $state = [0, 1, 0, 0, 0, \dots 0]$

A key disadvantage of one-hot encoding is that the feature space grows extremely large

Feature Normalization

Normalization Methods

1. Min-Max Normalization
2. Mean-Variance Normalization
3. Max-Absolute Normalization
4. Robust Normalization

Feature Normalization

Min-Max Normalization

- For every column in the input data, i.e., for each x_0, x_1, x_2, x_4 etc., this normalization method will scale each column to 0 and 1

$$x \in (1, 1000)$$
$$x \in 10,000$$

$$x' = \frac{x - \min(x)}{\boxed{\max(x)} - \min(x)}$$

- This method preserves zero entries in sparse data
- But is very sensitive to **outliers**

Feature Normalization

Mean-Variance Normalization

- For every column in the input data, i.e., for each x_0, x_1, x_2, x_4 etc., this normalization method will scale to have mean 0 and standard deviation 1

$$x' = \frac{x - \mu(x)}{\sigma(x)}$$

- Most common in practice
- Less sensitive to outliers than min-max
- Does not bound the range to 0 and 1

Handwritten diagram illustrating the normalization process for a feature x_0 . A vertical purple rectangle represents the range of values for x_0 . To its left, a red bracket indicates the range of values for x . To its right, a red bracket indicates the range of values for x_1 and x_2 . Below the rectangle, the formula $x_0 - \mu(x_0) / \sigma(x_0)$ is written in purple.

Feature Normalization

Max-Absolute Normalization

- For every column in the input data, i.e., for each x_0, x_1, x_2, x_4 etc., this normalization method will scale each column to -1 and 1

$$x' = \frac{x}{| \max(x) |}$$

- Good for sparse data since it preserves sparsity (zeros stay zero)

Feature Normalization

Robust Normalization

- For every column in the input data, i.e., for each x_0, x_1, x_2, x_4 etc., this normalization method will scale each column as

$$x' = \frac{x - \text{median}(x)}{IQR(x)}$$



inter quartile range

- Robust to outliers
- Use when data has many outliers

Feature Normalization

Robust Normalization

- For every column in the input data, i.e., for each x_0, x_1, x_2, x_4 etc., this normalization method will scale each column as

$$x' = \frac{x - \text{median}(x)}{\text{IQR}(x)}$$

This is just the second quartile Q_2

- Robust to outliers
- Use when data has many outliers

Inter-quartile range $Q_3 - Q_1$

Conclusion

- We saw practical issues and considerations in linear regression like
 - Train/test splits
 - Multicollinearity
 - Overfitting and Underfitting
 - Bias-Variance tradeoffs
 - Regularization
- Feature pre-processing
 - One-hot encoding
- Normalization methods