



# CS 540 Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

## **Linear Models & Linear Regression**

Josiah Hanna  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

**October 12, 2021**  
Slides created by Fred Sala [modified by Josiah Hanna]

# Announcements

- **Homeworks:**
  - HW 5 due next Tuesday
- **Midterm** coming up on October 28
  - Via Canvas, 24 hours to start.

Tuesday, Oct 12	Machine Learning: Linear Regression	<a href="#">Slides</a>	HW 4 Due, HW 5 Released
Thursday, Oct 14	Machine Learning: K-Nearest Neighbors & Naive Bayes		
Tuesday, Oct 19	Machine Learning: Neural Network I (Perceptron)		HW 5 Due, HW 6 Released
Thursday, Oct 21	Machine Learning: Neural Network II		
Tuesday, Oct 26	Machine Learning: Neural Network III		
<b>MIDTERM EXAM October 28</b>			
<b>Everything below here is tentative and subject to change.</b>			
Tuesday, Nov 2	Machine Learning: Deep Learning I		

# Outline

- Supervised Learning & Linear Models
  - Parameterized model, model classes, linear models, train vs. test
- Linear Regression
  - Least squares, normal equations, residuals, logistic regression
  - Gradient descent

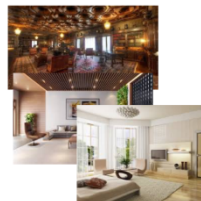
# Back to Supervised Learning

## Supervised learning:

- Make predictions, classify data, perform regression
- Dataset:  $(\mathbf{x}_1, y_1), (\mathbf{x}_2, y_2), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_n, y_n)$



- Goal: find function  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  to predict label on **new** data



indoor



outdoor


# Back to Supervised Learning

How do we know a function  $f$  is good?

- Intuitively: “matches” the dataset  $f(x_i) \approx y_i$
- More concrete: pick a **loss function** to measure this:  $\ell(f(x), y)$
- Training loss/empirical loss/empirical risk

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(f(x_i), y_i)$$

Loss / Cost / Objective  
Function



- Find a  $f$  that minimizes the loss on the training data
  - Empirical Risk Minimization (ERM)

# Loss Functions

What should the loss look like?

- If  $f(x_i) \approx y_i$ , should be small (0 if equal!)
- For classification: 0/1 loss  $\ell(f(x), y) = 1\{f(x_i) \neq y_i\}$
- For regression, square loss  $\ell(f(x), y) = (f(x_i) - y_i)^2$

Others too! We'll see more.

# Functions/Models

The function  $f$  is usually called a model

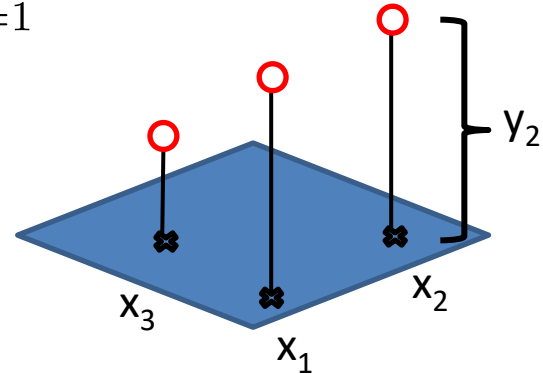
- Which possible functions should we consider?
- One option: **all functions**

– Not a good choice. Consider

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n 1\{x = x_i\} y_i$$

– Training loss: **zero**. Can't do better!

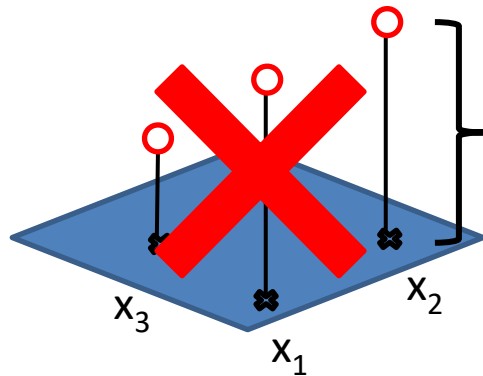
– How will it do on  $x$  not in the training set?



# Functions/Models

Don't want all functions

- Instead, pick a specific class
- Parametrize it by weights/parameters
- **Example:** linear models




$$f(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x_1 + \theta_2 x_2 + \dots + \theta_d x_d = \theta_0 + x^T \theta$$

Weights/ Parameters




# Training The Model


- Parametrize it by weights/parameters
- Minimize the loss

Best parameters = best function  $f$  

$$\min_{\theta} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(f(x_i), y_i)$$

Linear model class  $f$  

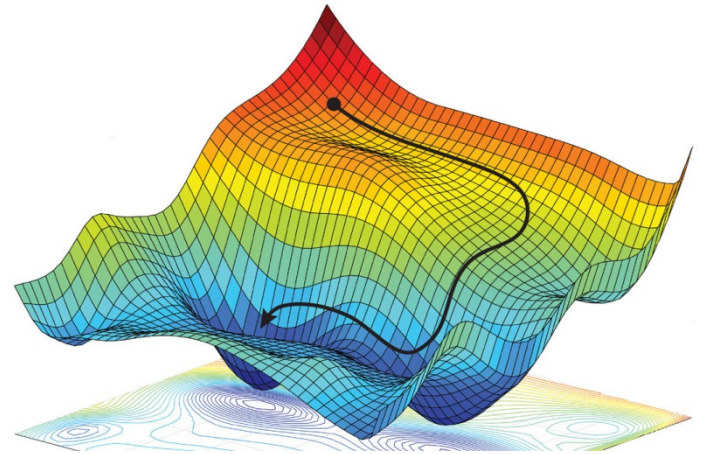
$$= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(\theta_0 + x_i^T \theta, y_i)$$

Square loss 

$$= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (\theta_0 + x_i^T \theta - y_i)^2$$

# How Do We Minimize?

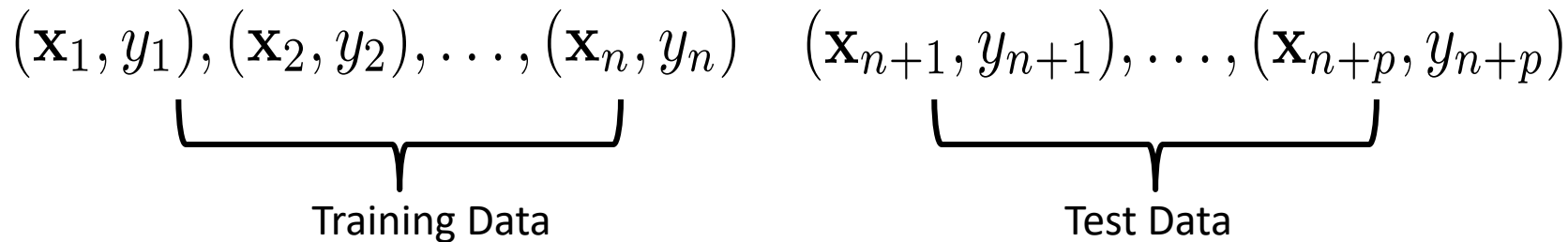
- Need to solve something that looks like  $\min_{\theta} g(\theta)$
- Generic optimization problem; many algorithms
  - A popular choice: **stochastic gradient descent (SGD)**
- Most algorithms iterative:  
find some sequence of  
points heading towards the  
optimum



# Train vs Test

Now we've trained, have some  $f$  parametrized by  $\theta$

- Train loss is small  $\rightarrow f$  predicts most  $x_i$  correctly
- How does  $f$  do on points not in training set? **“Generalizes!”**
- To evaluate this, create a **test** set. Do **not** train on it!

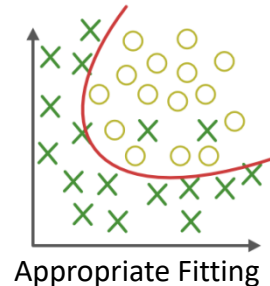
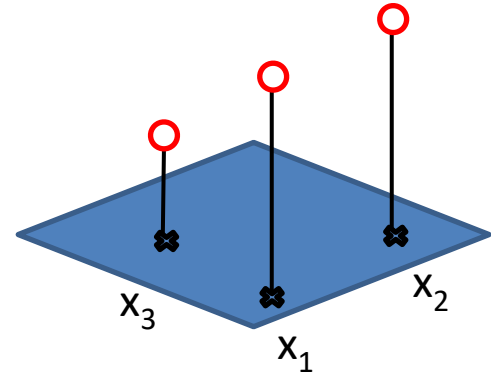


Do NOT train on  
your test set!!!

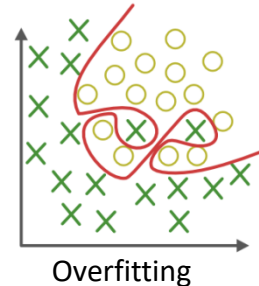
# Train vs Test

Use the test set to evaluate  $f$

- Why? Back to our “perfect” train function
  - Training loss: 0. Every point matched perfectly
  - How does it do on test set? **Fails completely!**
- Test set helps detect **overfitting**
    - Overfitting: too focused on train points
    - “Bigger” class: more prone to overfit
      - Need to consider **model capacity**



GFG



# Break & Quiz

**Q 1.1:** When we train a model, we are

- A. Optimizing the parameters and keeping the features fixed.
- B. Optimizing the features and keeping the parameters fixed.
- C. Optimizing the parameters and the features.
- D. Keeping parameters and features fixed and changing the predictions.

# Break & Quiz

**Q 1.1:** When we train a model, we are

- **A. Optimizing the parameters and keeping the features fixed.**
- B. Optimizing the features and keeping the parameters fixed.
- C. Optimizing the parameters and the features.
- D. Keeping parameters and features fixed and changing the predictions.

# Break & Quiz

Q 1.1: When we train a model, we are

- **A. Optimizing the parameters and keeping the features fixed.**
- B. Optimizing the features and keeping the parameters fixed) (Feature vectors  $x_i$  don't change during training).
- C. Optimizing the parameters and the features. (Same as B)
- D. Keeping parameters and features fixed and changing the predictions. (We can't train if we don't change the parameters)



# Break & Quiz

- **Q 1.2:** You have trained a classifier, and you find there is significantly **higher** loss on the test set than the training set. What is likely the case?
- A. You have accidentally trained your classifier on the test set.
- B. Your classifier is generalizing well.
- C. Your classifier is generalizing poorly.
- D. Your classifier is ready for use.

# Break & Quiz

- **Q 1.2:** You have trained a classifier, and you find there is significantly **higher** loss on the test set than the training set. What is likely the case?
- A. You have accidentally trained your classifier on the test set.
- B. Your classifier is generalizing well.
- **C. Your classifier is generalizing poorly.**
- D. Your classifier is ready for use.

# Break & Quiz

- **Q 1.2:** You have trained a classifier, and you find there is significantly **higher** loss on the test set than the training set. What is likely the case?
- A. You have accidentally trained your classifier on the test set. **(No, this would make test loss lower)**
- B. Your classifier is generalizing well. **(No, test loss is high means poor generalization)**
- **C. Your classifier is generalizing poorly.**
- D. Your classifier is ready for use. **(No, will perform poorly on new data)**

# Break & Quiz

- **Q 1.3:** You have trained a classifier, and you find there is significantly **lower** loss on the test set than the training set. What is likely the case?
- A. You have accidentally trained your classifier on the test set.
- B. Your classifier is generalizing well.
- C. Your classifier is generalizing poorly.
- D. Your classifier needs further training.

# Break & Quiz

- **Q 1.3:** You have trained a classifier, and you find there is significantly **lower** loss on the test set than the training set. What is likely the case?
- **A. You have accidentally trained your classifier on the test set. (This is very likely, loss will usually be the lowest on the data set on which a model has been trained)**
- B. Your classifier is generalizing well.
- C. Your classifier is generalizing poorly.
- D. Your classifier needs further training.

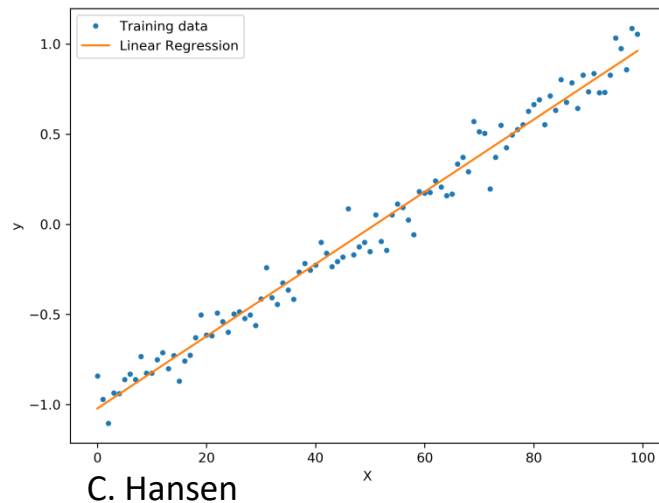
# Linear Regression

Simplest type of regression problem.

- **Inputs:**  $(\mathbf{x}_1, y_1), (\mathbf{x}_2, y_2), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_n, y_n)$ 
  - $x$ 's are vectors,  $y$ 's are scalars.
  - “**Linear**”: predict a linear combination of  $x$  components + intercept

$$f(x) = \theta_0 + \theta_1 x_1 + \theta_2 x_2 + \dots + \theta_d x_d = \theta_0 + x^T \theta$$

- **Want:** parameters  $\theta$



C. Hansen

# Linear Regression Setup

## Problem Setup

- Goal: figure out how to minimize square loss
- Let's organize it. Train set  $(\mathbf{x}_1, y_1), (\mathbf{x}_2, y_2), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_n, y_n)$ 
  - Since  $f(x) = \theta_0 + x^T \theta$ , wrap intercept:  $f(x) = x^T \theta$
  - Take train data and make it a matrix/vector:
  - Then, square loss is


$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i^T \theta - y_i)^2 = \frac{1}{n} \|X^T \theta - y\|^2$$

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \dots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}$$

# Finding The Optimal Parameters

Have our loss:  $\frac{1}{n} \|X^T \theta - y\|^2$

- Could optimize it with SGD, etc...
- No need: minimum has a solution (easy with vector calculus)

Hat: indicates an estimate   $\hat{\theta} = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T y$

  
Not always  
invertible...

**“Normal  
Equations”**



# How Good are the Optimal Parameters?

Now we have parameters  $\hat{\theta} = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T y$

- How good are they?
- Predictions are  $f(x_i) = \hat{\theta}^T x_i = ((X^T X)^{-1} X^T y)^T x_i$
- Errors (“**residuals**”)

$$|y_i - f(x_i)| = |y_i - \hat{\theta}^T x_i| = |y_i - ((X^T X)^{-1} X^T y)^T x_i|$$

- If data is linear, residuals are 0. Almost never the case!

# Train/Test for Linear Regression?

So far, residuals measure error on **train** set

- Sometimes that's all we care about (**Fixed Design LR**)
  - Data is deterministic.
  - Goal: find best linear relationship on dataset
- Or, create a test set and check (**Random Design LR**)
  - Common: assume data is  $y = \theta^T x + \varepsilon$
  - The more noise, the less linear



0-mean

Gaussian noise

# Solving With Gradient Descent

What if we don't know the exact solution?


- Use one of the iterative algorithms to do  $\min_{\theta} \ell(\theta)$
- Among the most popular: **gradient descent**


- Basic idea: start at  $\theta^{(0)}$

– Next step: do  $\theta^{(j+1)} = \theta^{(j)} - \gamma \nabla \ell(\theta^{(j)})$

  
Next  
solution

  
Current  
solution

  
Learning Rate  
(a constant)

 **Gradient** of the  
loss, evaluated  
at current sol.

- Run till convergence. (You'll implement this in HW5!)

# Linear Regression $\rightarrow$ Classification?

What if we want the same idea, but  $y$  is 0 or 1?

- Need to convert the  $\theta^T x$  to a probability in  $[0,1]$

$$p(y = 1|x) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-\theta^T x)} \quad \leftarrow \text{Logistic function}$$

Why does this work?

- If  $\theta^T x$  is really big,  $\exp(-\theta^T x)$  is really small  $\rightarrow p$  close to 1
- If really negative exp is huge  $\rightarrow p$  close to 0

**“Logistic Regression”**

# Break & Quiz

- **Q 2.1:** You have a regression dataset created from a quadratic process (i.e.,  $y_i = ax_i^2 + bx_i + c$ ). Predict what might happen if you run linear regression on this data set.
  - A. Linear regression will overfit the data.
  - B. Linear regression will under-fit the data.
  - C. Linear regression will neither overfit nor under-fit the data.
  - D. Not enough information to say.

# Break & Quiz

- **Q 2.1:** You have a regression dataset created from a quadratic process (i.e.,  $y_i = ax_i^2 + bx_i + c$ ). Predict what might happen if you run linear regression on this data set.
  - A. Linear regression will overfit the data.
  - **B. Linear regression will under-fit the data.**
  - C. Linear regression will neither overfit nor under-fit the data.
  - D. Not enough information to say.

# Break & Quiz

- **Q 2.1:** You have a regression dataset created from a quadratic process (i.e.,  $y_i = ax_i^2 + bx_i + c$ ). Predict what might happen if you run linear regression on this data set.
  - A. Linear regression will overfit the data.
  - B. Linear regression will under-fit the data. (Cannot represent non-linear relationship)
  - C. Linear regression will neither overfit nor under-fit the data.
  - D. Not enough information to say.

# Causal Interpretation

- Linear regression captures associations between features and outputs.
- Require causal assumptions to draw causal conclusions.
- 2021 Nobel Prize in Economics
  - Joshua Angrist and Guido Imbens
  - *“for their methodological contributions to the analysis of causal relationships”*