Linear Regression

Nipun Batra and the teaching staff July 26, 2025

IIT Gandhinagar

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Setup

• Output is continuous in nature.

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- Examples of linear systems:

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- Examples of linear systems:

• v = u + at

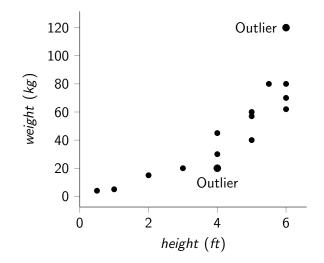
Task at hand

• TASK: Predict Weight = f(height)

Height	Weight
3	29
4	35
5	39
2	20
6	41
7	?
8	?
1	?

The first part of the dataset is the training points. The latter ones are testing points.

Scatter Plot



• $weight_1 \approx \theta_0 + \theta_1 \cdot height_1$

- $weight_1 \approx \theta_0 + \theta_1 \cdot height_1$
- weight₂ $\approx \theta_0 + \theta_1 \cdot height_2$

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- weight_N $\approx \theta_0 + \theta_1 \cdot height_N$

weight_i $\approx \theta_0 + \theta_1 \cdot height_i$

$$\begin{bmatrix} weight_1 \\ weight_2 \\ \dots \\ weight_N \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & height_1 \\ 1 & height_2 \\ \dots & \dots \\ 1 & height_N \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \theta_0 \\ \theta_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{n \times 1} = \mathbf{X}_{n \times d} \boldsymbol{\theta}_{d \times 1}$$

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$$\hat{\mathbf{y}}_{n \times 1} = \mathbf{X}_{n \times d} \boldsymbol{\theta}_{d \times 1}$$

- θ_0 Bias Term/Intercept Term
- θ_1 Slope

In the previous example y = f(x), where x is one-dimensional.

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Demand = f(# occupants, Temperature)

Demand = Base Demand + $K_1 * \#$ occupants + $K_2 *$ Temperature

We hope to:

• Learn f: Demand = f(#occupants, Temperature)

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- Learn f: Demand = f(#occupants, Temperature)
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- To predict the condition for the testing set

We have

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$$x_i = \begin{bmatrix} Temperature_i \\ #Occupants_i \end{bmatrix}$$

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• Estimated demand for i^{th} sample is
 $demand_i = \theta_0 + \theta_1 Temperature_i + \theta_2 Occupants_i$
• $demand_i = x_i'^T \theta$
• where $\theta = \begin{bmatrix} \theta_0 \\ \theta_1 \\ \theta_2 \end{bmatrix}$
• and $x_i' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ Temperature_i \\ \#Occupants_i \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ x_i \end{bmatrix}$

We have

- $x_i = \begin{vmatrix} Temperature_i \\ #Occupants_i \end{vmatrix}$ • Estimated demand for *i*th sample is $demand_i = \theta_0 + \theta_1$ Temperature_i + θ_2 Occupants_i • $demand_i = x_i^{T} \theta$ • where $\theta = \begin{bmatrix} \theta_0 \\ \theta_1 \\ \rho \end{bmatrix}$
- and $x'_i = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ Temperature_i \\ #Occupants_i \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ x_i \end{bmatrix}$
- Notice the transpose in the equation! This is because x_i is a column vector

• Demand increases, if # occupants increases, then θ_2 is likely to be positive

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- Demand increases, if temperature increases, then θ_1 is likely to be positive
- Base demand is independent of the temperature and the # occupants, but, likely positive, thus θ_0 is likely positive.

Normal Equation

• Assuming N samples for training

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$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{y_1} \\ \hat{y_2} \\ \vdots \\ \hat{y_N} \end{bmatrix}_{N \times 1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_{1,1} & x_{1,2} & \dots & x_{1,M} \\ 1 & x_{2,1} & x_{2,2} & \dots & x_{2,M} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_{N,1} & x_{N,2} & \dots & x_{N,M} \end{bmatrix}_{N \times (M+1)} \begin{bmatrix} \theta_0 \\ \theta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \theta_M \end{bmatrix}_{(M+1) \times 1}$$

- Assuming N samples for training
- # Features = M

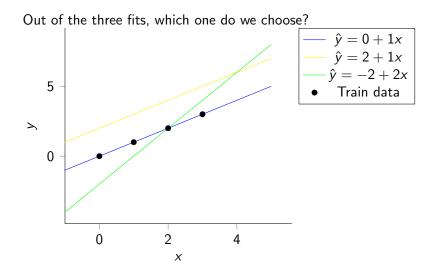
$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{y_1} \\ \hat{y_2} \\ \vdots \\ \hat{y_N} \end{bmatrix}_{N \times 1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_{1,1} & x_{1,2} & \dots & x_{1,M} \\ 1 & x_{2,1} & x_{2,2} & \dots & x_{2,M} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ 1 & x_{N,1} & x_{N,2} & \dots & x_{N,M} \end{bmatrix}_{N \times (M+1)} \begin{bmatrix} \theta_0 \\ \theta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \theta_M \end{bmatrix}_{(M+1) \times 1}$$

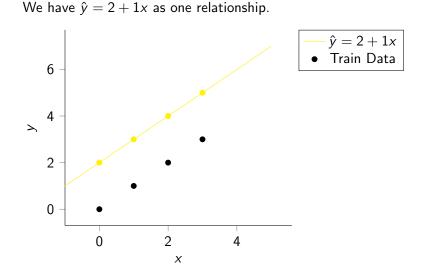
$$\hat{Y} = X\theta$$

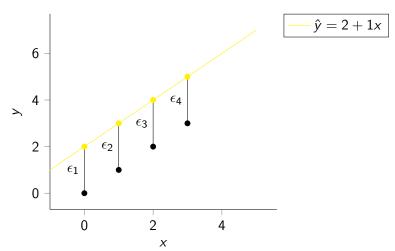
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- Given multiples values of $\theta_0, \theta_1 \dots \theta_M$ how to choose which is the best?
- Let us consider an example in 2d







How far is our estimated \hat{y} from ground truth y?

•
$$y_i = \hat{y}_i + \epsilon_i$$
 where $\epsilon_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$

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$$\epsilon_i = y_i - \hat{y}_i$$

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$$\epsilon_i = y_i - \hat{y}_i$$

•
$$\epsilon_i = y_i - (\theta_0 + x_i \cdot \theta_1)$$

• $|\epsilon_1|$, $|\epsilon_2|$, $|\epsilon_3|$, ... should be small.

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- minimize $\epsilon_1^2 + \epsilon_2^2 + \dots + \epsilon_N^2$ L_2 Norm

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- minimize $\epsilon_1^2 + \epsilon_2^2 + \cdots + \epsilon_N^2$ L_2 Norm
- minimize $|\epsilon_1| + |\epsilon_2| + \cdots + |\epsilon_n|$ L_1 Norm

$$Y = X\theta + \epsilon$$

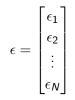
$$Y = X\theta + \epsilon$$

To Learn: θ

$$Y = X\theta + \epsilon$$

To Learn: θ Objective: minimize $\epsilon_1^2 + \epsilon_2^2 + \dots + \epsilon_N^2$





Objective: Minimize $\epsilon^T \epsilon$

Derivation of Normal Equation

$$\boldsymbol{\epsilon} = \boldsymbol{\mathsf{y}} - \boldsymbol{\mathsf{X}}\boldsymbol{\theta}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\epsilon}^{ op} \boldsymbol{\epsilon} = (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X} \boldsymbol{ heta})^{ op} (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X} \boldsymbol{ heta})$$

$$= \mathbf{y}^{\top} \mathbf{y} - 2 \mathbf{y}^{\top} \mathbf{X} \boldsymbol{\theta} + \boldsymbol{\theta}^{\top} \mathbf{X}^{\top} \mathbf{X} \boldsymbol{\theta}$$

This is what we wish to minimize

Minimizing the objective function

$$rac{\partial oldsymbol{\epsilon}^{ op}oldsymbol{\epsilon}}{\partial oldsymbol{ heta}} = 0$$

•
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}$$

Substitute the values in the top equation

Minimizing the objective function

$$\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\epsilon}^{\top} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} = \mathbf{0}$$

•
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}$$

•
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (-2\mathbf{y}^{\top} \mathbf{X} \boldsymbol{\theta}) = -2\mathbf{X}^{\top} \mathbf{y}$$

Substitute the values in the top equation

Minimizing the objective function

$$\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\epsilon}^{\top} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} = \mathbf{0}$$

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$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (-2\mathbf{y}^{\top} \mathbf{X} \boldsymbol{\theta}) = -2\mathbf{X}^{\top} \mathbf{y}$$

•
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (\theta^\top \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \theta) = 2 \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \theta$$

Substitute the values in the top equation

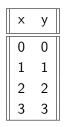
Normal Equation derivation

$$\mathbf{0} = -2\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{y} + 2\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\theta}$$

$$\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{ heta}$$

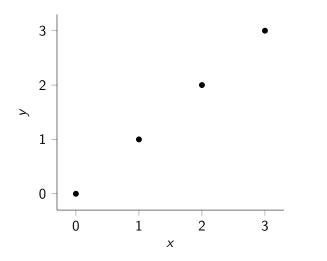
$$\hat{ heta}_{OLS} = (\mathbf{X}^{ op} \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^{ op} \mathbf{y}$$

Worked out example



Given the data above, find θ_0 and θ_1 .

Scatter Plot



Worked out example

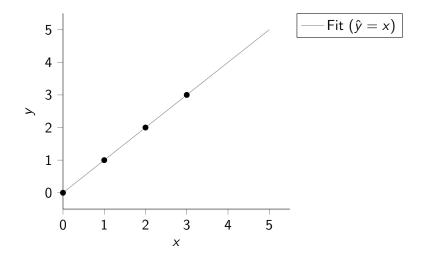
$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\mathbf{X}^{\top} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\mathbf{X}^{\top} \mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 6 \\ 6 & 14 \end{bmatrix}$$

Given the data above, find θ_0 and θ_1 .

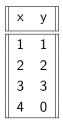
$$(\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{X})^{-1} = \frac{1}{20} \begin{bmatrix} 14 & -6\\ -6 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1\\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0\\ 1\\ 2\\ 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6\\ 14 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\theta = (X^T X)^{-1} (X^T y)$$
$$\begin{bmatrix} \theta_0 \\ \theta_1 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{20} \begin{bmatrix} 14 & -6 \\ -6 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 14 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Scatter Plot

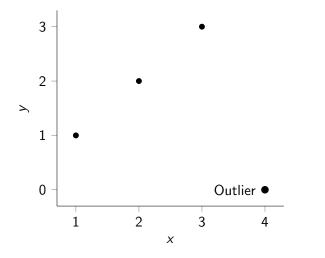


Effect of outlier



Compute the θ_0 and θ_1 .

Scatter Plot



$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

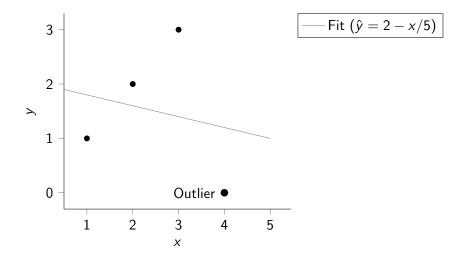
$$X^{T} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$X^{T} X = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 10 \\ 10 & 30 \end{bmatrix}$$

Given the data above, find θ_0 and θ_1 .

$$(\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{X})^{-1} = rac{1}{20} \begin{bmatrix} 30 & -10 \\ -10 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$
 $\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 14 \end{bmatrix}$

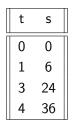
$$oldsymbol{ heta} = (\mathbf{X}^{ op} \mathbf{X})^{-1} (\mathbf{X}^{ op} \mathbf{y})$$
 $egin{bmatrix} heta_0 \ heta_1 \end{bmatrix} = egin{bmatrix} 2 \ (-1/5) \end{bmatrix}$

Scatter Plot



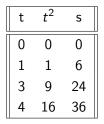
Basis Expansion

Transform the data, by including the higher power terms in the feature space.

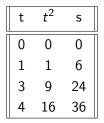


The above table represents the data before transformation

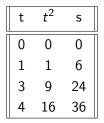
t	t ²	S
0	0	0
1	1	6
3	9	24
4	16	36



The above table represents the data after transformation



The above table represents the data after transformation Now, we can write $\hat{s} = f(t, t^2)$



The above table represents the data after transformation Now, we can write $\hat{s} = f(t, t^2)$ Other transformations: $\log(x), x_1 \times x_2$

A big caveat: Linear in what?!¹

1. $\hat{s} = \theta_0 + \theta_1 * t$ is linear

¹https://stats.stackexchange.com/questions/8689/ what-does-linear-stand-for-in-linear-regression

A big caveat: Linear in what?!¹

1.
$$\hat{s} = \theta_0 + \theta_1 * t$$
 is linear
2. Is $\hat{s} = \theta_0 + \theta_1 * t + \theta_2 * t^2$ linear?

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1.
$$\hat{s} = \theta_0 + \theta_1 * t$$
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2. Is $\hat{s} = \theta_0 + \theta_1 * t + \theta_2 * t^2$ linear?
3. Is $\hat{s} = \theta_0 + \theta_1 * t + \theta_2 * t^2 + \theta_3 * \cos(t^3)$ linear?

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4. Is $\hat{s} = \theta_0 + \theta_1 * t + e^{\theta_2} * t$ linear?

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5. All except #4 are linear models!

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4. Is
$$\hat{s} = \theta_0 + \theta_1 * t + e^{\theta_2} * t$$
 linear?

- 5. All except #4 are linear models!
- 6. Linear refers to the relationship between the parameters that you are estimating (θ) and the outcome

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• Linear regression only refers to linear in the parameters

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- We can perform an arbitrary nonlinear transformation φ(x) of the inputs x and then linearly combine the components of this transformation.
- $\phi : \mathbb{R}^D \to \mathbb{R}^K$ is called the basis function

• Polynomial basis: $\phi(x) = \{1, x, x^2, x^3, \dots\}$

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- Fourier basis: $\phi(x) = \{1, \sin(x), \cos(x), \sin(2x), \cos(2x), \dots\}$

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- Fourier basis: $\phi(x) = \{1, \sin(x), \cos(x), \sin(2x), \cos(2x), ...\}$
- Gaussian basis: $\phi(x) = \{1, \exp(-\frac{(x-\mu_1)^2}{2\sigma^2}), \exp(-\frac{(x-\mu_2)^2}{2\sigma^2}), \dots\}$

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- Fourier basis: $\phi(x) = \{1, \sin(x), \cos(x), \sin(2x), \cos(2x), ...\}$
- Gaussian basis: $\phi(x) = \{1, \exp(-\frac{(x-\mu_1)^2}{2\sigma^2}), \exp(-\frac{(x-\mu_2)^2}{2\sigma^2}), \dots\}$
- Sigmoid basis: $\phi(x) = \{1, \sigma(x \mu_1), \sigma(x \mu_2), ...\}$ where $\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}}$

Geometric Interpretation

Let $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3, \dots, \mathbf{v}_i$ be vectors in \mathbb{R}^D , where D denotes the dimensions.

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A linear combination of $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3, \dots, \mathbf{v}_i$ is of the following form

$$\alpha_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{v}_2 + \alpha_3 \mathbf{v}_3 + \dots + \alpha_i \mathbf{v}_i$$

where $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \ldots, \alpha_i \in \mathbb{R}$

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It is the set of all vectors that can be generated by linear combinations of v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_i .

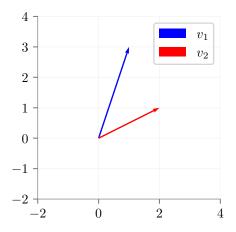
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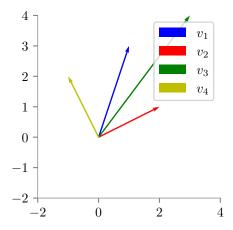
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It is the set of all vectors that can be generated by linear combinations of v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_i .

If we stack the vectors v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_i as columns of a matrix V, then the span of v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_i is given as $V\alpha$ where $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^i$

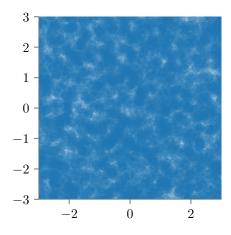
Find the span of
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$





We have $v_3 = v_1 + v_2$ We have $v_4 = v_1 - v_2$

Simulating the above example in python using different values of α_1 and α_2



 $\mathsf{Span}((\mathit{v}_1, \mathit{v}_2)) \in \mathcal{R}^2$

Find the span of
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

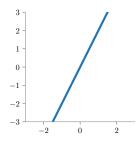
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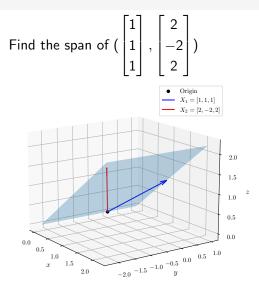
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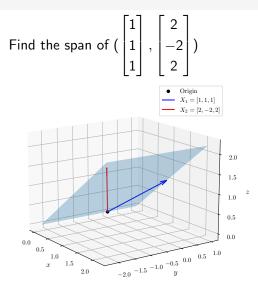
Span of the above set is along the line y = 2x

3y?



Find the span of
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1\\1\\1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2\\-2\\2 \end{bmatrix}$$
)





The span is the plane z = x or $x_3 = x_1$ 46/68

Consider **X** and **y** as follows.

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & -2 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} 8.8957 \\ 0.6130 \\ 1.7761 \end{pmatrix}$$

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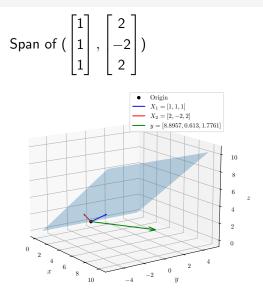
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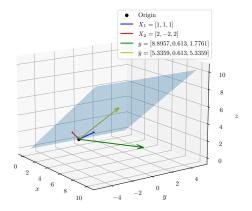
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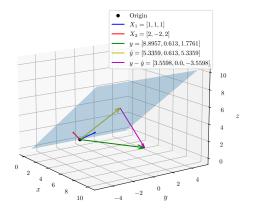
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- We wish to find $\hat{\boldsymbol{y}}$ such that

$$\underset{\hat{\mathbf{y}} \in SPAN\{\bar{x_1}, \bar{x_2}, \dots, \bar{x_D}\}}{\arg\min} ||\mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}||_2$$

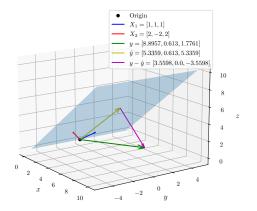




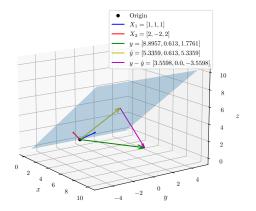
- We seek a $\hat{\boldsymbol{y}}$ in the span of the columns of \boldsymbol{X} such that it is closest to \boldsymbol{y}



• This happens when $\mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}} \perp \mathbf{x}_j \forall j$ or $\mathbf{x}_j^\top (\mathbf{y} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}) = 0$



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Regularization

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- This prevents coefficients from becoming too large

Ridge Regression (L2 Regularization)

Objective Function:

$$J(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathsf{MSE} + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^{n} \theta_j^2$$

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- Note: $(\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{X} + \lambda \mathbf{I})$ is always invertible for $\lambda > 0$

Lasso Regression (L1 Regularization)

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$$J(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} (h_{\boldsymbol{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}) - \mathbf{y}^{(i)})^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^{n} |\theta_j|}$$

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- Elastic Net: Combines both penalties

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- Critical Insight: λ controls bias-variance tradeoff

Dummy Variables and Multicollinearity

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The matrix X is not full rank.

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- Avoid dummy variable trap

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Can we use the direct encoding?

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Can we use the direct encoding? Then this implies that $S{>}W{>}E{>}N$

N-1 Variable encoding

	ls it N?	ls it E?	ls it W?
Ν	1	0	0
E	0	1	0
W	0	0	1
S	0	0	0

N Variable encoding

	ls it N?	ls it E?	ls it W?	Is it S?
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S	0	0	0	1

Which is better N variable encoding or N-1 variable encoding?

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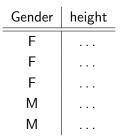
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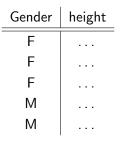
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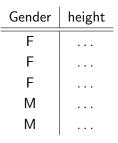
W and S are related by one bit.

This introduces dependencies between them, and this can cause confusion in classifiers.





Encoding



Encoding

Is Female	height
1	
1	
1	
0	
0	

Is Female	height
1	5
1	5.2
1	5.4
0	5.8
0	6

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*height*_i = $\theta_0 + \theta_1 * (Is Female) + \epsilon_i$

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Now, θ_0 can be interpreted as average person height. θ_1 as the amount that female height is above average and male height is below average.

Practice and Review

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Violation Consequences:

• Biased coefficient estimates

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- No Multicollinearity: Features are not highly correlated

Violation Consequences:

- Biased coefficient estimates
- Invalid confidence intervals

Before using linear regression, verify these assumptions:

- Linearity: Relationship between x and y is linear
- Independence: Observations are independent of each other
- Homoscedasticity: Error variance is constant across all values of x
- Normality: Errors are normally distributed (for inference)
- No Multicollinearity: Features are not highly correlated

Violation Consequences:

- Biased coefficient estimates
- Invalid confidence intervals
- Poor prediction performance

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- Foundation: Building block for more complex models