CSE/STAT 416

Cross Validation; Ridge Regression

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University of Washington
June 29, 2022

Adapted from Hunter Schafer's slides

Administrivia

No class on Mon, Amal, Wuwei OH canceled.

- Enjoy the holiday ☺

Section Tomorrow:

- Coding Linear Regression
- Overfitting vs. Model Complexity

Learning Reflection 1 grades out!

- Note on “Uncertainties / Questions”
- With every graded assignment (except at the end of the quarter), you have **7 days to submit regrade requests**.

Upcoming Timeline:

- HW 1 released TODAY
    - Due **Tues 7/5, 11:59PM**
- Checkpoint 3 **Due Wed 7/6 1:50PM**
- Learning Reflection 2 **Due Fri 7/1 11:59PM**

CSE 416 will be a classroom-of-focus for research on feelings of belonging in CS!

- Leah Perlmutter, PhD Candidate

Belonging and CS Research Study

Leah Perlmutter (she/her), leahperl@uw.edu

tinyurl.com/belonging_study

HW1 Walkthrough

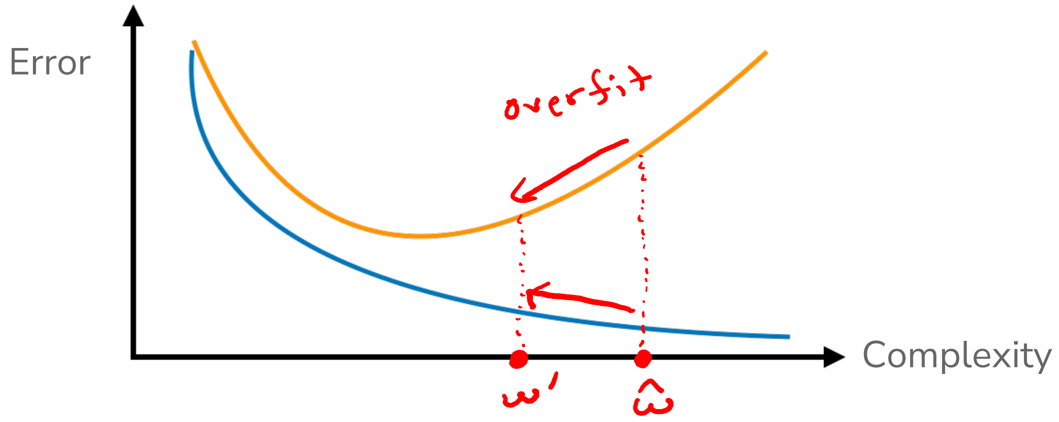
Recap Lecture 2

Overfitting

Overfitting happens when we too closely match the training data and fail to generalize.

Overfitting occurs when you train a predictor $\hat{w}$ but there exists another predictor w' from the same model class such that:

$$error_{true}(w') < error_{true}(\hat{w})$$
$$error_{train}(w') > error_{train}(\hat{w})$$



Poll Everywhere

Think

~~1.5 min~~
1 min

Rank these models from most to least complex.

A. $y = \underline{w_0} + \underline{w_1}(sq.ft.) + \underline{w_2}(\#\ bathrooms)$ 3

B. $y = \underline{w_0} + \underline{w_1}(sq.ft.) + \underline{w_2}(\#\ bathrooms) + \underline{w_3}(school\ rank)$ 4

C. $y = \underline{w_0} + \underline{w_1}(sq.ft.) + \underline{w_2}(\#\ bed) + \underline{w_3}(\#bath) + \underline{w_4}(age)$ 5

D. $y = \underline{w_0} + \underline{w_1}(sq.ft.) + \underline{w_2}(sq.ft.)^2 + \underline{w_3}(\#\ bathrooms)$ 4

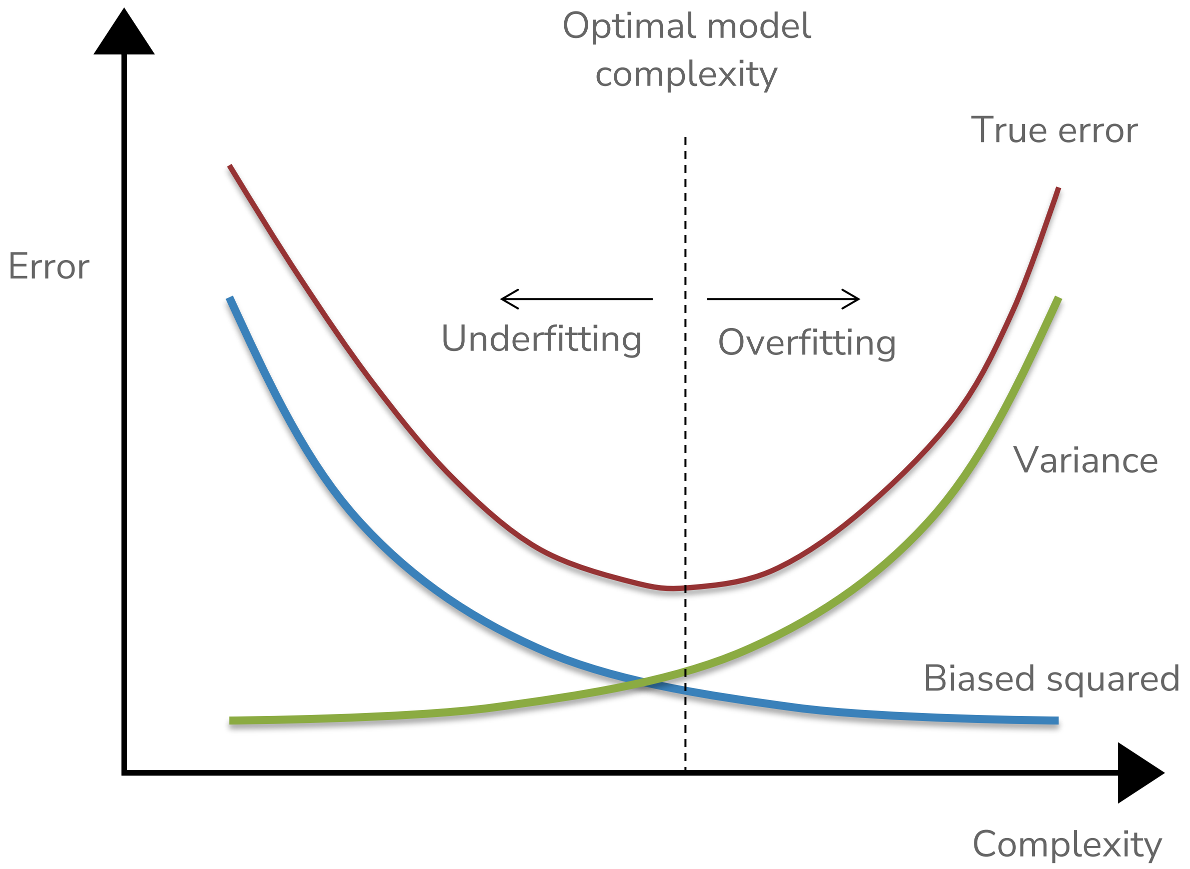
least A

$\downarrow$ B, D

most C

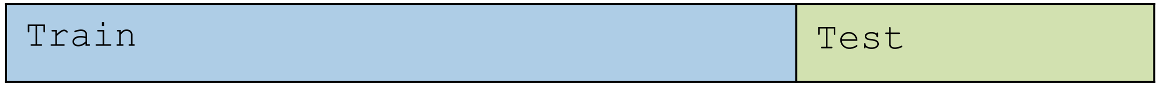
complexity = # of parameters

Bias – Variance Tradeoff

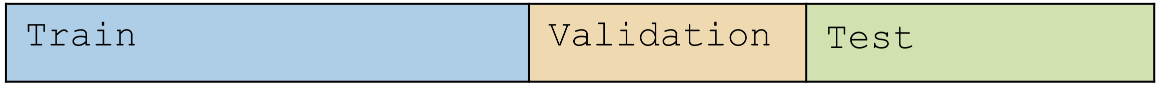


Validation Set

So far we have divided our dataset into train and test



We can't use Test to choose our model complexity, so instead, break up Train into ANOTHER dataset



e.g., 70% 15% 15%

We will pick the model that does best on validation. Note that this now makes the validation error of the "best" model a biased estimate of true error. The test error will be an unbiased estimate though since we never looked at it!

Validation Set

The process generally goes

```
train, validation, test = random_split(dataset)
for each model complexity p:
    model = train_model(model_p, train)
    val_err = error(model, validation)
    keep track of p and model with smallest val_err
return best p & error(model, test)
```

Validation Set

Pros

Easy to describe and implement

Pretty fast

- Only requires training a model and predicting on the validation set for each complexity of interest

Cons

- Have to sacrifice even more training data
- Prone to overfitting*

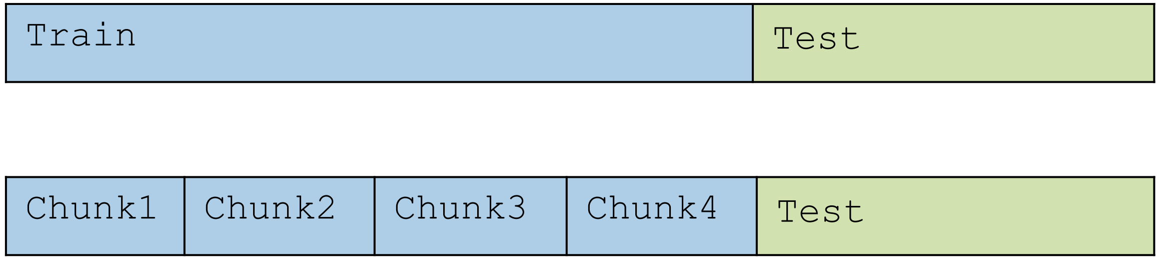
Cross-Validation

Picking up from where we left off

Cross-Validation

Clever idea: Use many small validation sets without losing too much training data.

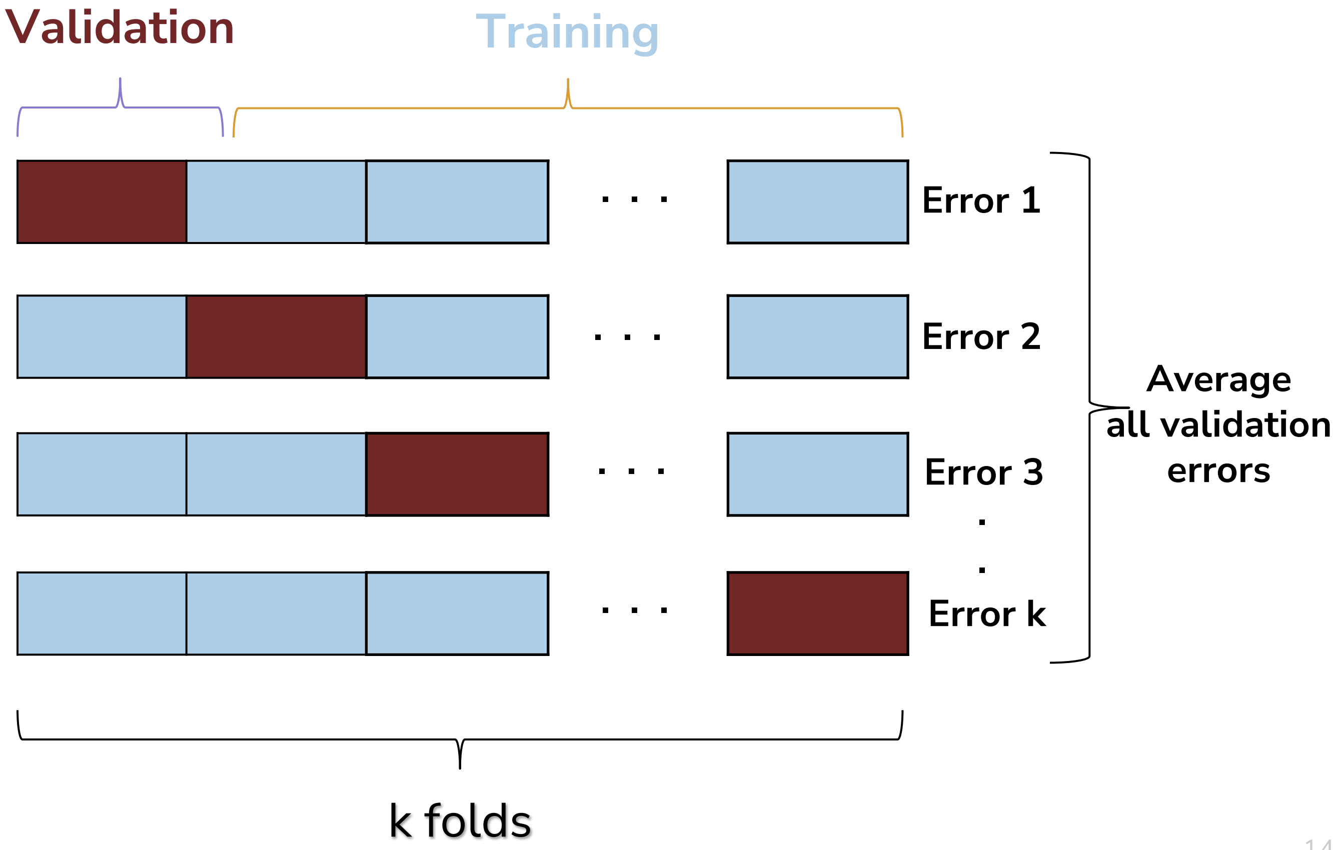
Still need to break off our test set like before. After doing so, break the training set into k chunks.



For a given model complexity, train it k times. Each time use all but one chunk and use that left out chunk to determine the validation error.

Cross Validation

For a set of hyperparameters, perform Cross Validation on k folds



Cross-Validation

The process generally goes

```
chunk_1, …, chunk_k, test = random_split(dataset)
for each model complexity p:
    for i in [1, k]:
        model = train_model(model_p, chunks - i)
        val_err = error(model, chunk_i)
    avg_val_err = average val_err over chunks
    keep track of p with smallest avg_val_err
return model trained on train (all chunks) with
best p & error(model, test)
```

Cross-Validation

Pros

- Prevent overfitting: By training the model on multiple folds instead of only 1 training set, this learns the model with the best generalization capabilities.
- Don’t have to actually get rid of any training data!

Cons

- Slow. For each model selection, we have to train k times
- Very computationally expensive

Cross-Validation

What size of k?

Theoretical best estimator is to use $k = n$

- Called "Leave One Out Cross Validation”

In practice, people use $k = 5$ to 10.

Poll Everywhere

Think

1 min

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Say we are testing p different polynomial degrees, using the pseudocode for k-fold cross-validation.

How many models would we train?

a) pk

b) $p(k-1)$

c) p^k

d) $pk+1$

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Poll Everywhere

Group

2 min

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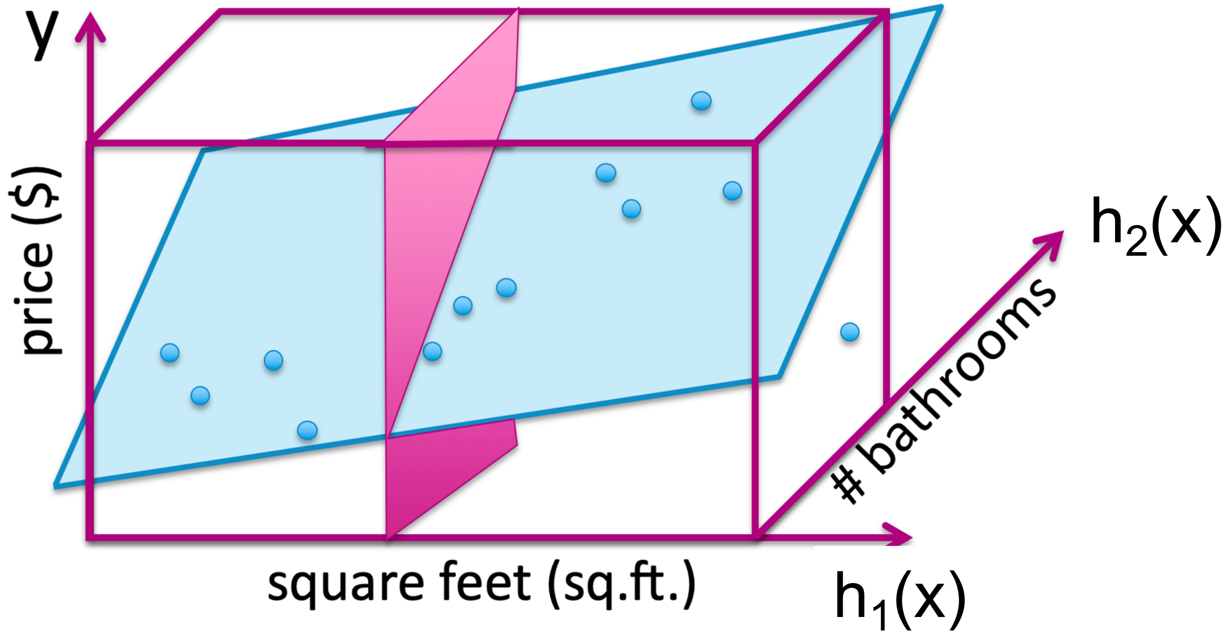
Coefficients and Overfitting

Interpreting Coefficients

Interpreting Coefficients – Multiple Linear Regression

$$\hat{y} = \hat{w}_0 + \hat{w}_1 h_1(x) + \hat{w}_2 h_2(x)$$

Fix



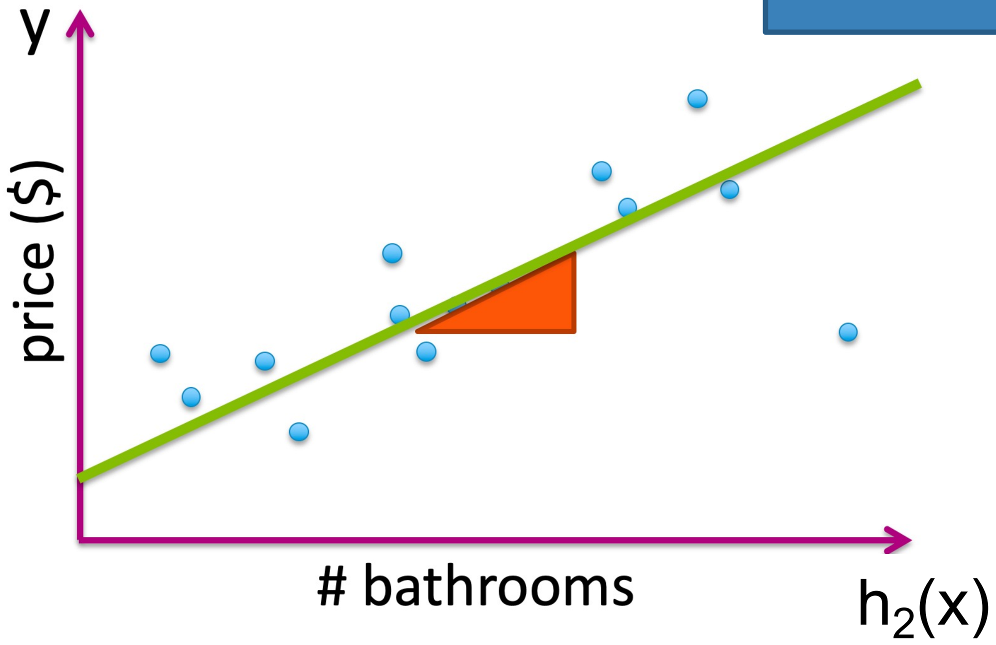
Interpreting Coefficients

Interpreting Coefficients – Multiple Linear Regression

$$\hat{y} = \hat{w}_0 + \hat{w}_1 h_1(x) + \hat{w}_2 h_2(x)$$

Fix

Holding $h_1(x)$ fixed!



Interpreting Coefficients

This also extends for multiple regression with many features!

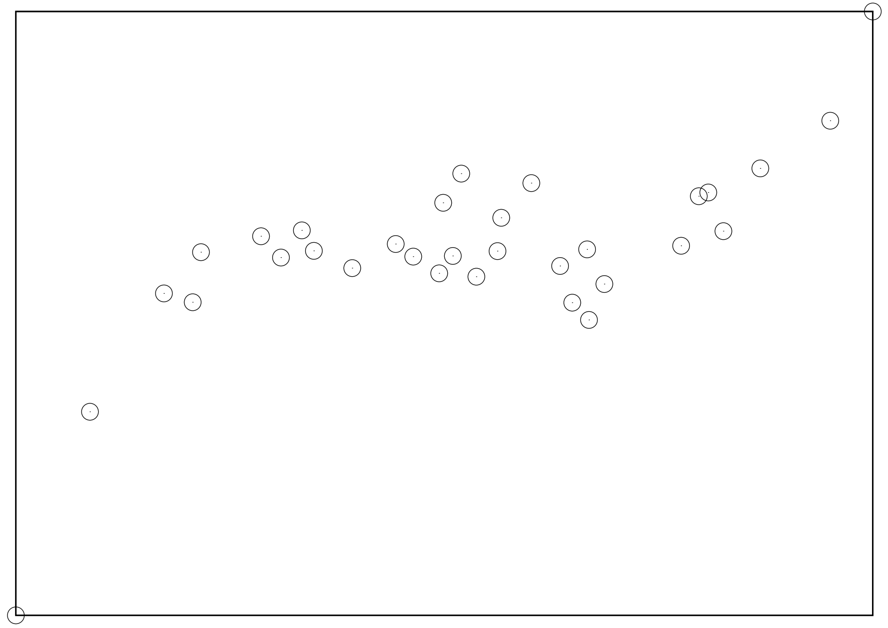
$$\hat{y} = \hat{w}_0 + \sum_{j=1}^{D} \hat{w}_j h_j(x)$$

Interpret $\hat{w}_j$ as the change in y per unit change in $h_j(x)$ if all other features are held constant.

This is generally not possible for polynomial regression or if other features use same data input!

Can't "fix" other features if they are derived from same input.

Overfitting

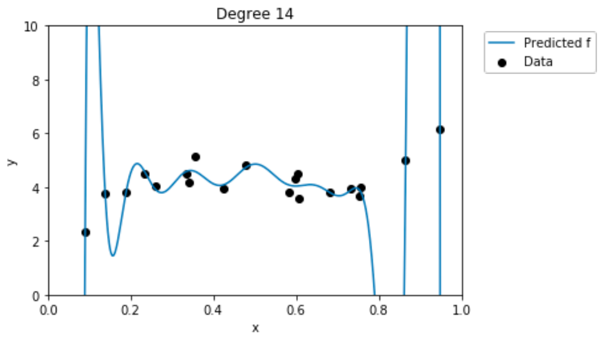


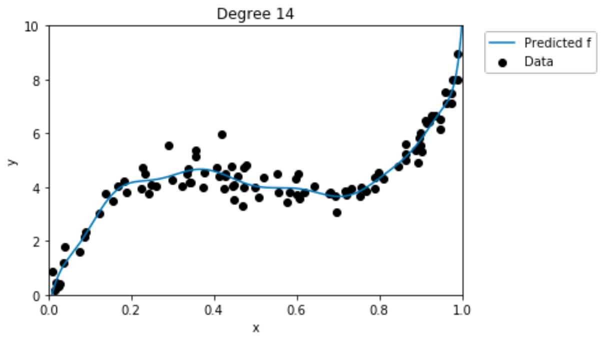
Often, overfitting is associated with very large estimated parameters $\hat{w}$!

Number of Features

Overfitting is not limited to polynomial regression of large degree. It can also happen if you use a large number of features!

Why? Overfitting depends on whether the amount of data you have is large enough to represent the true function's complexity.



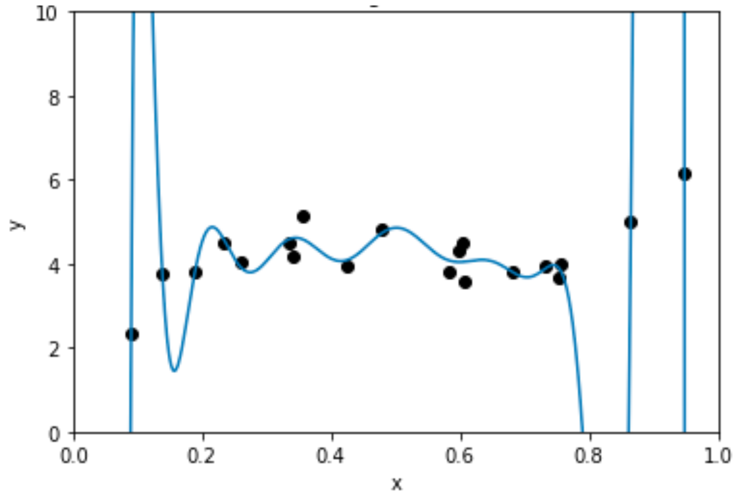


Number of Features

How do the number of features affect overfitting?

1 feature

Data must include representative example of all $(h_1(x), y)$ pairs to avoid overfitting

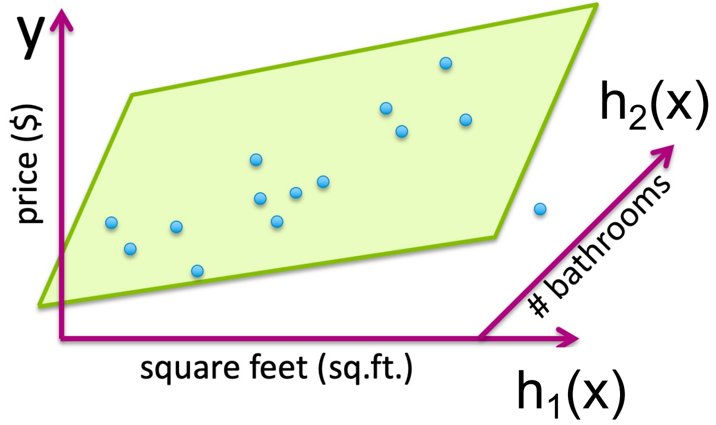


Number of Features

How do the number of features affect overfitting?

D features

Data must include representative example of all $((h_1(x), h_2(x), \ldots, h_D(x)), y)$ combos to avoid overfitting!



Introduction to the **Curse of Dimensionality**.
We will come back to this later in the quarter!

Poll Everywhere

Think

1 Minute

What characterizes overfitting?

(Low / High) Train Error, **(Low / High)** Test Error

(Low / High) Bias, **(Low / High)** Variance

In which scenario is it more likely for a model to overfit?

(Few / Many) Features

(Few / Many) Parameters

(Small / Large) Polynomial Degree

(Small / Large) Dataset

Poll Everywhere

Think

2 Minutes

What characterizes overfitting?

(Low / High) Train Error**, (Low / High)** Test Error

(Low / High) Bias**, (Low / High)** Variance

In which scenario is it more likely for a model to overfit?

(Few / Many) Features

(Few / Many) Parameters

(Small / Large) Polynomial Degree

(Small / Large) Dataset

Prevent Overfitting

Last time, we **trained multiple models**, using cross validation / validation set, to find one that was less likely to overfit

- For selecting polynomial degree, we train p models.
- For selecting which features to include, we'd have to train ____ models!

Can we **train one model** that isn't prone to overfitting in the first place?

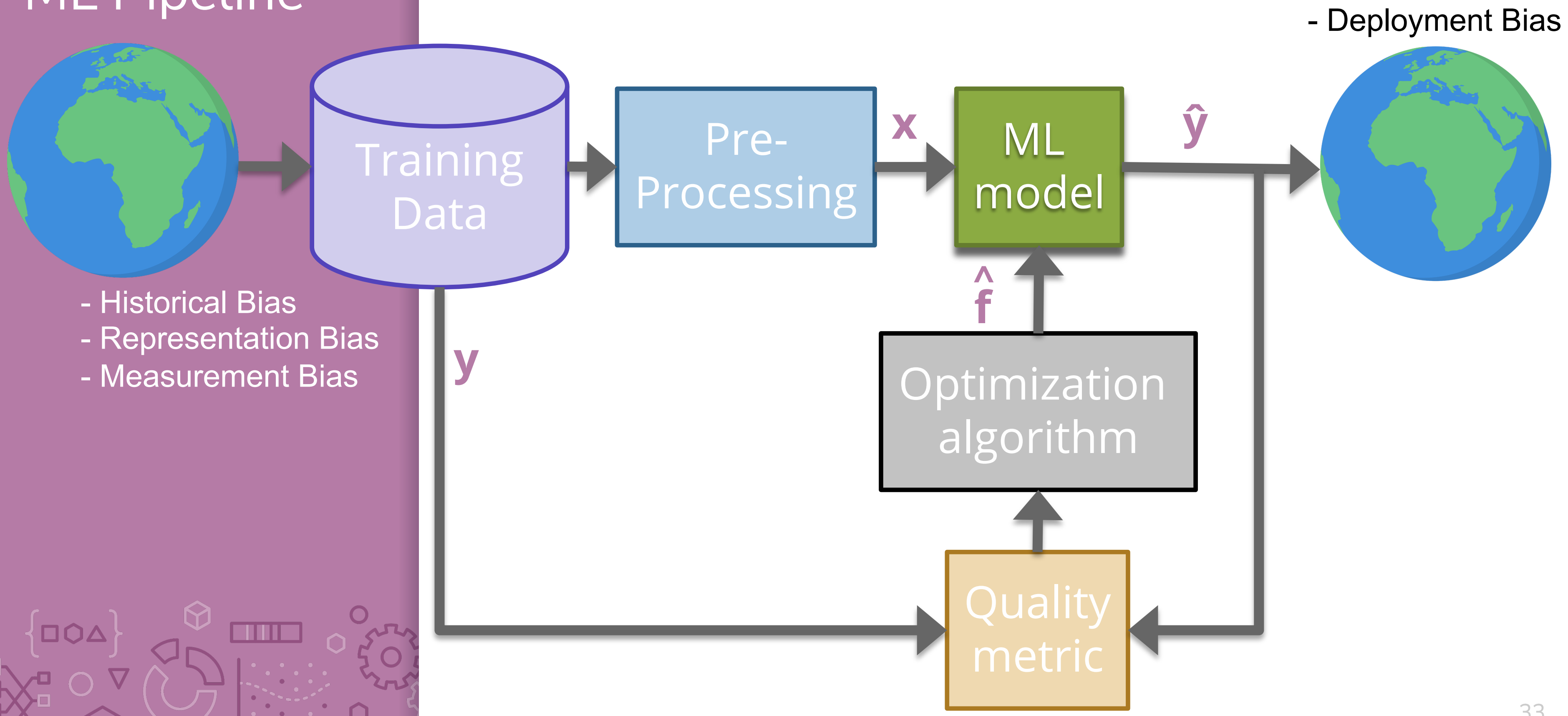
- **Big Idea**: Have the model self-regulate to prevent overfitting by making sure its coefficients don't get "too large"

This idea is called **regularization**.

Brain Break

Regularization

ML Pipeline



- Historical Bias
- Representation Bias
- Measurement Bias

Regularization

Before, we used the quality metric that minimized loss

$$\hat{w} = \underset{w}{\operatorname{argmin}}\, L(w)$$

Change quality metric to balance loss with measure of overfitting

$L(w)$ is the measure of fit

$R(w)$ measures the magnitude of coefficients

$$\hat{w} = \underset{w}{\operatorname{argmin}}\, L(w) + \lambda\, R(w)$$

λ: regularization parameter

How do we actually measure the magnitude of coefficients?

Magnitude

Come up with some number that summarizes the magnitude of the coefficients in w.

Sum?

Sum of absolute values?

Sum of squares?

Ridge Regression

Change quality metric to minimize

$$\hat{w} = \underset{w}{\operatorname{argmin}}\, MSE(w) + \lambda \|w\|_2^2$$

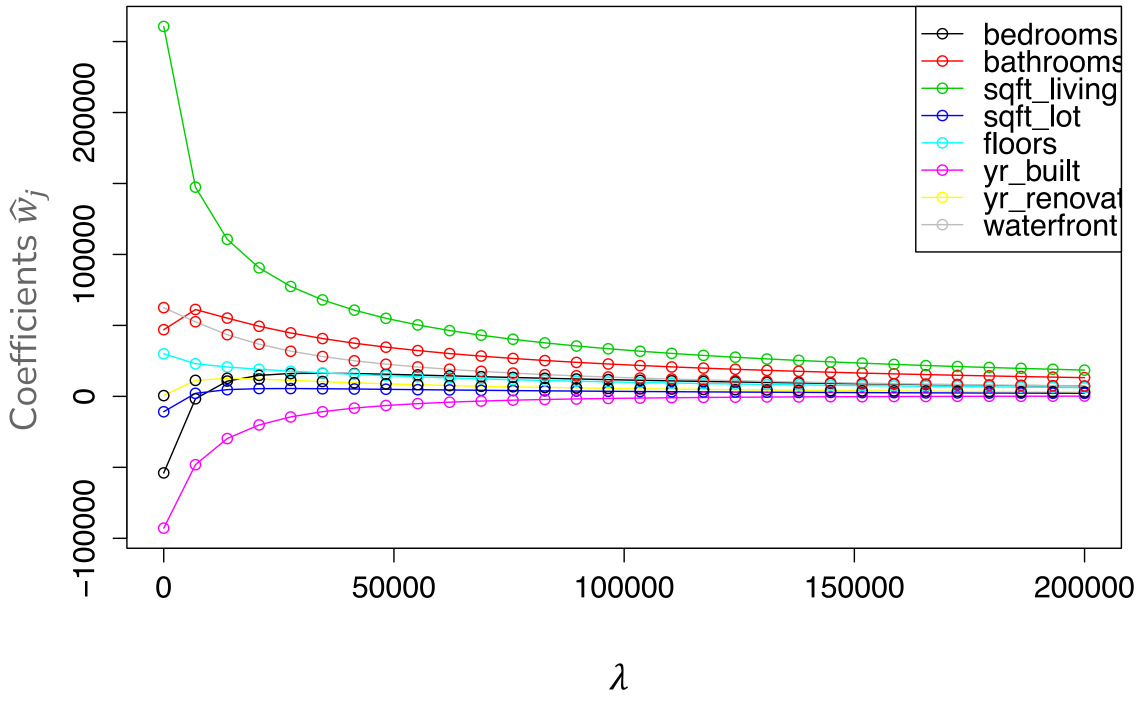
λ is a tuning **hyperparameter** that changes how much the model cares about the regularization term.

What if $\lambda = 0$?

What if $\lambda = \infty$?

λ in between?

Coefficient Paths



Poll Everywhere

Think

1.5 Minutes

How does λ affect the bias and variance of the model? For each underlined section, select "Low" or "High" appropriately.

When $\lambda = 0$

The model has **(Low / High)** Bias and **(Low / High)** Variance.

When $\lambda = \infty$

The model has **(Low / High)** Bias and **(Low / High)** Variance.

Poll Everywhere

Group

3 Minutes

How does λ affect the bias and variance of the model? For each underlined section, select “Low” or “High” appropriately.

When $\lambda = 0$

The model has **(Low / High)** Bias and **(Low / High)** Variance.

When $\lambda = \infty$

The model has **(Low / High)** Bias and **(Low / High)** Variance.

Demo: Ridge Regression

See Jupyter Notebook for interactive visualization.

Shows relationship between

- Regression line
- Mean Square Error
  - Also called Ordinary Least Squares
- Ridge Regression Quality Metric
- Coefficient Paths

Brain Break

Choosing λ

Poll Everywhere

Think

1 min

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How should we choose the best value of λ?

After we train each model with a certain λ_i and find

$\hat{w}_i = \text{argmin}_w\ MSE(w) + \lambda_i||w||_2^2$:

a) Pick the λ_i that has the smallest $MSE(\hat{w}_i)$ on the **train set**

b) Pick the λ_i that has the smallest $MSE(\hat{w}_i)$ on the **validation set**

c) Pick the λ_i that has the smallest $MSE(\hat{w}_i) + \lambda_i||\hat{w}_i||_2^2$ on the **train set**

d) Pick the λ_i that has the smallest $MSE(\hat{w}_i) + \lambda_i||\hat{w}_i||_2^2$ on the **validation set**

e) None of the above

Poll Everywhere

Group

2 min

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c) Pick the λ_i that has the smallest $MSE(\hat{w}_i) + \lambda_i ||\hat{w}_i||_2^2$ on the **train set**

d) Pick the λ_i that has the smallest $MSE(\hat{w}_i) + \lambda_i ||\hat{w}_i||_2^2$ on the **validation set**

e) None of the above

Choosing λ

For any particular setting of λ, use Ridge Regression objective to train.

$$\hat{w}_{ridge} = \underset{w}{\operatorname{argmin}}\, MSE(w) + \lambda \left|\left|w\right|\right|_2^2$$

If λ is too small, will overfit to **training set**. Too large, $\hat{w}_{ridge} = 0$.

How do we choose the right value of λ? We want the one that will do best on **future data.** Hence, we use the validation set.

For future data, what matters is that the model gets accurate predictions.

$MSE(w)$ measures error of predictions

$MSE(w) + \lambda \left|\left|w_{1:D}\right|\right|_2^2$ measures error of predictions & coefficient size

Regularization is a tool **used during training** to get a model that is likely to generalize. Regularization is **not used during prediction**.

Choosing λ

The process for selecting λ is exactly the same as we saw with using a validation set or using cross validation.

```
for $\lambda$ in $\lambda$s:
  Train a model using using Gradient Descent
      $\hat{w}_{ridge(\lambda)} = \underset{w}{\operatorname{argmin}}\, MSE_{train}(w) + \lambda \left|\left|w_{1:D}\right|\right|_2^2$
  Compute validation error
      $validation\_error = MSE_{val}(\hat{w}_{ridge(\lambda)})$
  Track $\lambda$ with smallest $validation\_error$
Return $\lambda^*$ & estimated future error $MSE_{test}(\hat{w}_{ridge(\lambda^*)})$
```

Poll Everywhere

Think

1 minutes

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A model **parameter** is learnt during training (e.g., $\hat{w}$)

A **hyperparameter** is a parameter that is external to the model, whose value is used to influence the learning process.

What hyperparameters have we learned so far?

Poll Everywhere

Group

2 minutes

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A model **parameter** is learnt during training (e.g., $\hat{w}$)

A **hyperparameter** is a parameter that is external to the model, whose value is used to influence the learning process.

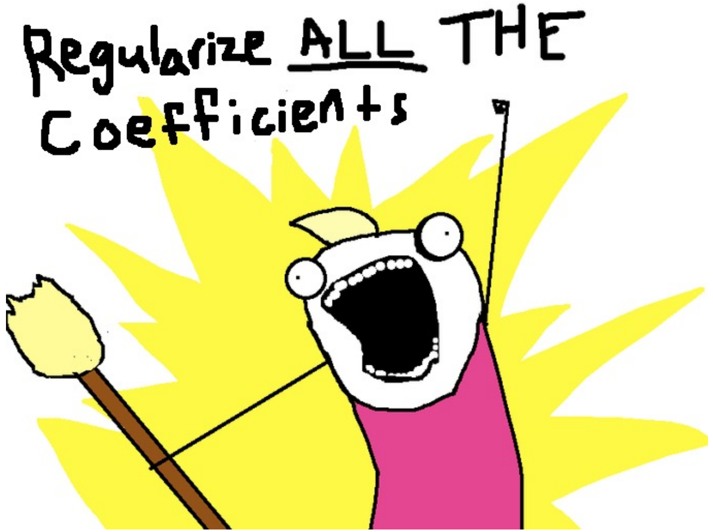
What hyperparameters have we learned so far?

Scaling

Regularization

At this point, I've hopefully convinced you that regularizing coefficient magnitudes is a good thing to avoid overfitting!

You:



We might have gotten a bit carried away, it doesn't ALWAYS make sense...

The Intercept

For most of the features, looking for large coefficients makes sense to spot overfitting. The one it does not make sense for is the **intercept**.

We shouldn't penalize the model for having a higher intercept since that just means the y value units might be really high! Also, the intercept doesn't affect the curvature of a loss function (it's just a linear scale).

My demo before does this wrong and penalizes w_0 as well!

Two ways of dealing with this

Center the y values so they have mean 0

- This means forcing w_0 to be small isn't a problem

Change the measure of overfitting to not include the intercept

$$\underset{w_0, w_{rest}}{\operatorname{argmin}} MSE(w_0, w_{rest}) + \lambda||w_{rest}||_2^2$$

Other Coefficients

The L2 penalty penalizes all (non-intercept) coefficients equally

Is that reasonable?

Poll Everywhere

Think

1 Minute

How would the coefficient change if we change the scale of our feature?

Consider our housing example with $(sq.ft., price)$ of houses

Say we learned a coefficient $\hat{w}_1$ for that feature

What happens if we change the unit of x to square **miles?** Would $\hat{w}_1$ need to change?

a) The $\hat{w}_1$ in the new model with sq. miles would be larger

b) The $\hat{w}_1$ in the new model with sq. miles would be smaller

c) The $\hat{w}_1$ in the new model with sq. miles would stay the same

Poll Everywhere

Group

2 Minute

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Scaling Features

The other problem we overlooked is the “scale” of the coefficients.

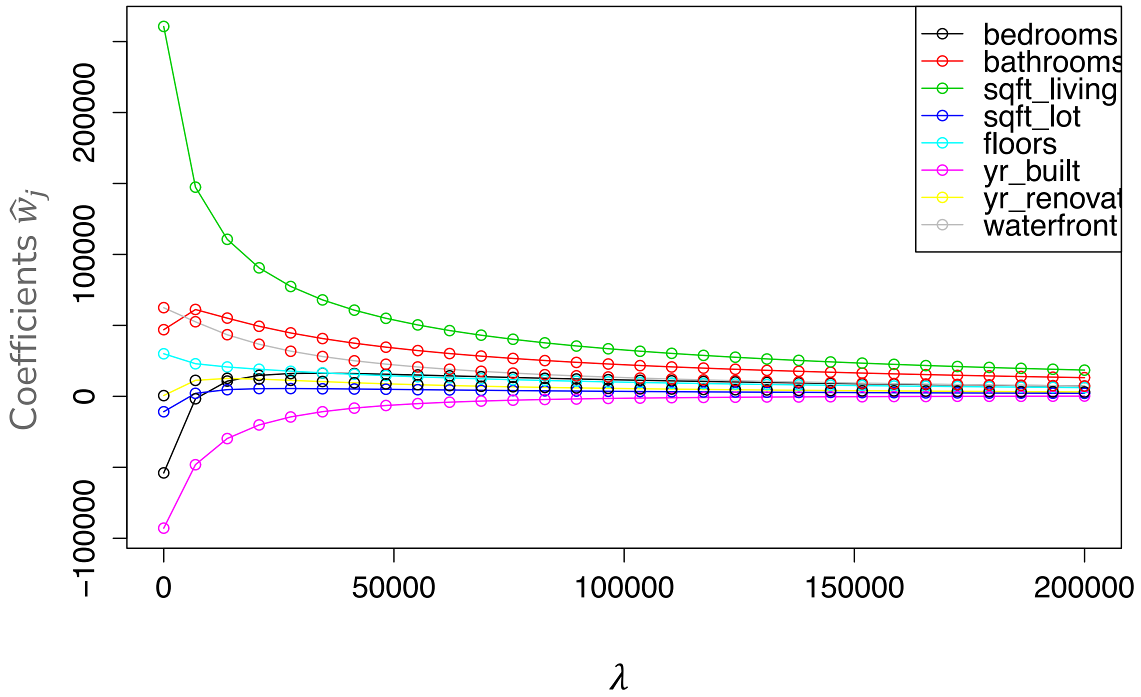
Remember, the coefficient for a feature increase per unit change in that feature (holding all others fixed in multiple regression)

Consider our housing example with $(sq.ft., price)$ of houses

- Say we learned a coefficient $\hat{w}_1$ for that feature
- What happens if we change the unit of x to square **miles?** Would $\hat{w}_1$ need to change?
  - It would need to get bigger since the prices are the same but its inputs are smaller

This means we accidentally penalize features for having large coefficients due to having small value inputs!

Coefficient Paths



Scaling Features

Fix this by **normalizing** the features so all are on the same scale!

$$\tilde{h}_j(x_i) = \frac{h_j(x_i) - \mu_j(x_1, \dots, x_N)}{\sigma_j(x_1, \dots, x_N)}$$

Where

The mean of feature j:

$$\mu_j(x_1, \dots, x_N) = \frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N} h_j(x_i)$$

The standard devation of feature j:

$$\sigma_j(x_1, \dots, x_N) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N}\left(h_j(x_i) - \mu_j(x_1, \dots, x_N)\right)^2}$$

Important: Must scale the test data and all future data using the means and standard deviations **of the training set!**

Otherwise the units of the model and the units of the data are not comparable!

Recap

Theme: Use regularization to prevent overfitting

Ideas:

- How to interpret coefficients
- How overfitting is affected by number of data points
- Overfitting affecting coefficients
- Use regularization to prevent overfitting
- How L2 penalty affects learned coefficients
- Visualizing what regression is doing
- Practicalities: Dealing with intercepts and feature scaling