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# **3. Regression**

# **Categories of Learning (Rep.)**







# **Mathematical Formulation (Rep.)**

Suppose we are given a set  $\mathcal X$  of objects and a set  $\mathcal Y$ of object categories (classes). In the learning task we search for a mapping  $\varphi : \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{Y}$  such that *similar* elements in  $\mathcal X$  are mapped to *similar* elements in  $\mathcal Y$ .

### **Difference between regression and classification:**

- In regression,  $\mathcal Y$  is **continuous**, in classification it is discrete
- Regression learns a **function**, classification usually learns **class labels**

### **For now we will treat regression**



# **Basis Functions**

In principal, the elements of  $\mathcal X$  can be anything (e.g. real numbers, graphs, 3D objects). To be able to treat these objects mathematically we need functions  $\phi$  that map from  $\mathcal{X}$  to  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . We call these the **basis functions.** 

We can also interpret the basis functions as functions that extract **features** from the input data.

Features reflect the **properties** of the objects (width, height, etc.).





# **Simple Example: Linear Regression**

- Assume:  $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}, \mathcal{Y} = \mathbb{R}, \phi = I$  (identity)
- Given: data points  $(x_1, t_1), (x_2, t_2), \ldots$
- **Goal:** predict the value *t* of a new example *x*
- Parametric formulation:  $y(x, \mathbf{w}) = w_0 + w_1x$



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# **Linear Regression**

To evaluate the function *y*, we need an error function:

$$
E(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (y(x_i, \mathbf{w}) - t_i)^2
$$
 "Sum of  
Squared Errors"

We search for parameters  $\mathbf{w}^*$  s.th.  $E(\mathbf{w}^*)$  is minimal:  $N_{\rm}$  $\nabla F(x) = \nabla (x(x - x)) + \nabla (x(x - x)) + (0, 0)$ 

$$
\nabla E(\mathbf{w}) = \sum_{i=1} (y(x_i, \mathbf{w}) - t_i) \nabla y(x_i, \mathbf{w}) = (0 \quad 0)
$$
  

$$
y(x_i, \mathbf{w}) = w_0 + w_1 x_i \implies \nabla y(x_i, \mathbf{w}) = (1 \quad x_i)
$$

Using vector notation:  $\mathbf{x}_i := (1 \quad x_i)^T$   $y(x_i, \mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_i$ 

$$
\nabla E(\mathbf{w}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T - \sum_{i=1}^{N} t_i \mathbf{x}_i^T = (0 \quad 0) \Rightarrow \mathbf{w}^T \sum_{i=1}^{N} \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T = \sum_{i=1}^{N} t_i \mathbf{x}_i^T
$$

$$
=: A^T \qquad \qquad =: b^T
$$



Now we have:  $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}, \mathcal{Y} = \mathbb{R}, \phi_j(x) = x^j$ Given: data points  $(x_1,t_1),(x_2,t_2),\ldots,(x_N,t_N)$ 















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Thus, we have: 
$$
\sum_{i=1}^{N} \phi(x_i) \phi(x_i)^T = \Phi^T \Phi
$$
  
\nwhere 
$$
\Phi = \begin{pmatrix} \phi_0(x_1) & \phi_1(x_1) & \dots & \phi_{M-1}(x_1) \\ \phi_0(x_2) & \phi_1(x_2) & \dots & \phi_{M-1}(x_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \phi_0(x_N) & \phi_1(x_N) & \dots & \phi_{M-1}(x_N) \end{pmatrix}
$$
  
\n
$$
\nabla E(\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{w}^T \Phi^T \Phi - \mathbf{t}^T \Phi \implies \Phi^T \Phi \mathbf{w} = \Phi^T \mathbf{t}
$$
  
\nIt follows: 
$$
\mathbf{w} = (\Phi^T \Phi)^{-1} \Phi^T \mathbf{t} \implies \Phi^T \Phi \mathbf{w} = \Phi^T \mathbf{t}
$$



# **Computing the Pseudoinverse**

Mathematically, a pseudoinverse  $\Phi^+$  exists for every matrix  $\Phi$ .

However: If  $\Phi$  is (close to) singular the direct solution of  $\Phi$  is numerically unstable.

Therefore: Singular Value Decomposition (SVD) is  $u$ sed:  $\Phi = UDV^T$  where

- matrices *U* and *V* are orthogonal matrices
- •*D* is a diagonal matrix

Then:  $\Phi^+ = V D^+ U^T$  where  $D^+$  contains the

*reciprocal* of all non-zero elements of *D*



# **A Simple Example**



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# **Varying the Sample Size**



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# **The Resulting Model Parameters**





# **Other Basis Functions**

Other basis functions are possible:

• Gaussian basis function:

$$
\phi_j(x) := \exp\left(-\frac{(x-\mu_j)^2}{2s^2}\right) \text{ where } \begin{array}{c} \mu_j \triangleq \text{mean val} \\ s \triangleq \text{scale} \end{array}
$$

• Sigmoidal basis function:

$$
\phi_j(x) := \sigma\left(\frac{x - \mu_j}{s}\right) \text{ where } \sigma(a) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-a)}
$$

In both cases a set of mean values is required. These define the **locations** of the basis functions.



## **Gaussian Basis Functions**





# **Sigmoidal Basis Functions**





# **Observations**

- The higher the model complexity grows, the better is the fit to the data
- If the model complexity is too high, all data points are explained well, but the resulting model oscillates very much. It can not generalize well. This is called *overfitting.*
- By increasing the size of the data set (number of samples), we obtain a better fit of the model
- More complex models have larger parameters **Problem:** How can we find a good model complexity for a given data set with a fixed size?





# **Regularization**

We observed that complex models yield large parameters, leading to oscillation. Idea:

Minimize the error function and the magnitude of the parameters simultaneously

We do this by adding a regularization term :

$$
\tilde{E}(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (\mathbf{w}^T \boldsymbol{\phi}(x) - t_i)^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} ||\mathbf{w}||^2
$$

where *λ* rules the influence of the regularization.





# **Regularization**

As above, we set the derivative to zero:

$$
\nabla \tilde{E}(\mathbf{w}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} (\mathbf{w}^T \boldsymbol{\phi}(x) - t_i) \boldsymbol{\phi}(x)^T + \lambda \mathbf{w}^T \doteq \mathbf{0}^T
$$

$$
\mathbf{w}^T \Phi^T \Phi + \lambda \mathbf{w}^T = \mathbf{t}^T \Phi \quad \Rightarrow \quad (\lambda I + \Phi^T \Phi) \mathbf{w} = \Phi^T \mathbf{t}
$$

$$
\mathbf{w} = (\lambda I + \Phi^T \Phi)^{-1} \Phi^T \mathbf{t}
$$

With regularization, we can find a complex model for a small data set. However, the problem now is to find an appropriate regularization coefficient *λ*.



### **Regularized Results**





# **The Problem from a Different View**

Assume that *y* is affected by Gaussian noise :  $t = y(x, \mathbf{w}) + \epsilon$  where  $\epsilon \leadsto \mathcal{N}(.; 0, \sigma^2)$ Thus, we have  $p(t | x, \mathbf{w}, \sigma) = \mathcal{N}(t; y(x, \mathbf{w}), \sigma^2)$ 





**Aim:** we want to find the **w** that maximizes *p*.

 $p(t | x, w, \sigma)$  is the *likelihood* of the measured data given a model. Intuitively:

Find parameters **w** that maximize the probability of measuring the already measured data *t*.

# **"Maximum Likelihood Estimation"**

We can think of this as fitting a model **w** to the data *t*. Note:  $\sigma$  is also part of the model and can be estimated. For now, we assume  $\sigma$  is known.





Given data points:  $(x_1, t_1), (x_2, t_2), \ldots, (x_N, t_N)$ Assumption: points are drawn independently from *p*:

$$
p(\mathbf{t} \mid \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}, \sigma) = \prod_{i=1}^{N} p(t_i \mid \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}, \sigma)
$$

$$
= \prod_{i=1}^{N} \mathcal{N}(t_i; \mathbf{w}^T \boldsymbol{\phi}(x_i), \sigma^2)
$$

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where:  
\n
$$
\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N)
$$
\n
$$
\mathbf{t} = (t_1, t_2, \dots, t_N)
$$

Instead of maximizing *p* we can also maximize its **logarithm** (monotonicity of the logarithm)



$$
\ln p(\mathbf{t} \mid \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}, \sigma) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \ln p(t_i \mid \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}, \sigma) \qquad \mathcal{N} \to \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \frac{(x-\mu)^2}{\sigma^2}}
$$

$$
= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{N} -\ln(\sigma^2) - \ln(2\pi) - \frac{1}{\sigma^2} (\mathbf{w}^T \boldsymbol{\phi}(x_i) - t_i)^2
$$

$$
= \frac{-N(\ln(\sigma^2) + \ln(2\pi))}{2} + \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (\mathbf{w}^T \boldsymbol{\phi}(x_i) - t_i)^2
$$
Consider for all  $\mathbf{w}$ 

### **The parameters that maximize the likelihood are equal to the minimum of the sum of squared errors**





$$
\ln p(\mathbf{t} \mid \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}, \sigma) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \ln p(t_i \mid \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}, \sigma)
$$
\n
$$
= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{N} -\ln(\sigma^2) - \ln(2\pi) - \frac{1}{\sigma^2} (\mathbf{w}^T \boldsymbol{\phi}(x_i) - t_i)^2
$$
\n
$$
= \frac{-N(\ln(\sigma^2) + \ln(2\pi))}{2} - \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (\mathbf{w}^T \boldsymbol{\phi}(x_i) - t_i)^2
$$

 $\mathbf{w}_{ML} := \argmax_{\mathbf{w}} \ln p(\mathbf{t} \mid \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}, \sigma) = \argmin_{\mathbf{w}}$ w  $E(\mathbf{w})=(\Phi^T\Phi)^{-1}\Phi^T\mathbf{t}$ **The ML solution is obtained using the Pseudoinverse**





# **Maximum A-Posteriori Estimation**

So far, we searched for parameters **w**, that maximize the data likelihood. Now, we assume a Gaussian *prior*:

$$
p(\mathbf{w} \mid \sigma_2) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{w}; \mathbf{0}, \sigma_2 I)
$$

Using this, we can compute the *posterior* (Bayes):



# **"Maximum A-Posteriori Estimation (MAP)"**





# **Maximum A-Posteriori Estimation**

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$$
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$$

Using this, we can compute the *posterior* (Bayes):

$$
p(\mathbf{w} \mid x, \mathbf{t}, \sigma_1, \sigma_2) \propto p(t \mid x, \mathbf{w}, \sigma_1) p(\mathbf{w} \mid \sigma_2)
$$
  
strictly: 
$$
p(\mathbf{w} \mid x, \mathbf{t}, \sigma_1, \sigma_2) = \frac{p(t \mid x, \mathbf{w}, \sigma_1) p(\mathbf{w} \mid \sigma_2)}{\int p(t \mid x, \mathbf{w}, \sigma_1) p(\mathbf{w} \mid \sigma_2) d\mathbf{w}}
$$

but the denominator is independent of **w** and we want to maximize *p.*



# **Maximum A-Posteriori Estimation**

$$
\ln p(\mathbf{w} \mid x, \mathbf{t}, \sigma_1, \sigma_2) \propto \ln p(t \mid x, \mathbf{w}, \sigma_1) + \ln p(\mathbf{w} \mid \sigma_2)
$$
  
const. 
$$
-\frac{1}{\sigma_1^2} \sum_{i=1}^N (\mathbf{w}^T \phi(x) - t_i)^2 \qquad \text{const.} - \frac{1}{2\sigma_2^2} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w}
$$

$$
\propto -\frac{1}{\sigma_1^2} \left( \sum_{i=1}^N (\mathbf{w}^T \boldsymbol{\phi}(x) - t_i)^2 + \frac{\sigma_1^2}{\sigma_2^2} \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w} \right)
$$

This is equal to the regularized error minimization. **The MAP Estimate corresponds to a regularized error minimization where**  $\lambda = (\sigma_1 / \sigma_2)^2$ 





# **Summary**

- Regression is a method to find a mathematical model (function) for a given data set
- Regression can be done by minimizing the sum of squared (SSE) errors, i.e. the distances to the data
- Maximum-likelihood estimation uses a probabilis-tic representation to fit a model into noisy data
- Maximum-likelihood under Gaussian noise is equivalent to SSE regression.
- Maximum-a-posteriori (MAP) estimation assumes a (Gaussian) prior on the model parameters
- MAP is solved by regularized regression

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# **Bayesian Linear Regression**

# **Bayesian Linear Regression**

- Using MAP, we can find optimal model parameters, but for practical applications two questions arise:
- What happens in the case of sequential data, i.e. the data points are observed subsequently?
- Can we model the probability of measuring a new data point, given all old data points? This is called the predictive distribution:



# **Sequential Data**

- Given: Prior mean  $m_0$  and covariance  $S_0$ , noise covariance  $\sigma$  $p_0(\mathbf{w} \mid S_0) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{w}; \mathbf{m}_0, S_0)$
- 1. Set  $i=0$
- 2. Observe data point  $(x_i, t_i)$
- 3. Formulate the likelihood  $p(t_i | x_i, w)$  as a function of w (= Gaussian with mean  $\phi(x_i)^T w$  and covariance  $\sigma$ )
- 4. Multiply the likelihood with the prior  $p_i(\mathbf{w} | S_i)$  and normalize (= Gaussian with  $m_{i+1}$  and  $S_{i+1}$ )
- 5. This results in a new prior  $p_{i+1}(\mathbf{w} \mid S_{i+1})$
- 6.Go back to 1. if there are still data points available



# **A Simple Example**

- Our aim to fit a straight line into a set of data points. Assume we have:
- Basis functions are equal to identity  $\phi(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}$
- Prior mean is zero, prior covariance  $\sigma_2^2 = 0.5$ , noise variance is  $\sigma_1^2 = 0.2^2$
- Ground truth is  $f(x, a) = a_0 + a_1x$  where  $a_1 = 0.5$
- $a_0 = -0.3$ Data points are sampled from ground truth Thus:
- We want to recover  $a_0$  and  $a_1$  from the sequentially incoming data points  $(x_1,t_1), (x_2,t_2), \ldots$



#### No data points observed



#### From: C.M. Bishop

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#### From: C.M. Bishop





#### Two data points observed



#### From: C.M. Bishop



#### 20 data points observed



#### From: C.M. Bishop



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# **The Predictive Distribution**

We obtain the predictive distribution by integrating over all possible model parameters:

$$
p(t \mid x, \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{x}) = \int \underbrace{p(t \mid x, \mathbf{w})p(\mathbf{w} \mid \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t})d\mathbf{w}}_{\text{New data likelihood}}
$$
\nAs before the posterior is prop. to the likelihood times the prior. But now, we don't maximize. The posterior can be computed analytically, as the prior is Gaussian.

 $\sqrt{ }$ 

. . . . .

$$
p(\mathbf{w} \mid \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{w} \mid \mathbf{m}_N, S_N) \text{ where } \underbrace{S_N^{-1} = S_0^{-1} + \sigma^{-2} \Phi^T \Phi}_{\text{Prior cov}}\\ \n\mathbf{w}_N = S_N (S_0^{-1} \mathbf{m}_0 + \sigma^{-2} \Phi^T \mathbf{t})
$$
\n
$$
\mathbf{w}_N = S_N (S_0^{-1} \mathbf{m}_0 + \sigma^{-2} \Phi^T \mathbf{t})
$$
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# **The Predictive Distribution (2)**

•Example: Sinusoidal data, 9 Gaussian basis functions, 1 data point



# **Predictive Distribution (3)**

•Example: Sinusoidal data, 9 Gaussian basis functions, 2 data points



# **Predictive Distribution (4)**

•Example: Sinusoidal data, 9 Gaussian basis functions, 4 data points



# **Predictive Distribution (5)**

•Example: Sinusoidal data, 9 Gaussian basis functions, 25 data points



# **Summary**

- A model that has been found using regression can be evaluated in different ways (e.g. loss function, crossvalidation, leave-one-out, BIC)
- This can be used to adjust model parameters such as ¸ using a validation data set
- Bayesian Linear Regression operates on sequential data and provides the predictive distribution
- When using Gaussian priors (and Gaussian noise), all computations can be done analytically, as all probabilities remain Gaussian



