Foundations of Machine Learning Regression

Mehryar Mohri
Courant Institute and Google Research
mohri@cims.nyu.edu

Regression Problem

Training data: sample drawn i.i.d. from set X according to some distribution D,

$$S = ((x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_m, y_m)) \in X \times Y,$$

with $Y \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ is a measurable subset.

- Loss function: $L: Y \times Y \to \mathbb{R}_+$ a measure of closeness, typically $L(y,y') = (y'-y)^2$ or $L(y,y') = |y'-y|^p$ for some $p \ge 1$.
- Problem: find hypothesis $h:X \to \mathbb{R}$ in H with small generalization error with respect to target f

$$R_D(h) = \underset{x \sim D}{\text{E}} \left[L(h(x), f(x)) \right].$$

Notes

Empirical error:

$$\widehat{R}_D(h) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m L(h(x_i), y_i).$$

- In much of what follows:
 - $Y = \mathbb{R}$ or Y = [-M, M] for some M > 0.
 - $L(y, y') = (y'-y)^2 \longrightarrow$ mean squared error.

This Lecture

- Generalization bounds
- Linear regression
- Kernel ridge regression
- Support vector regression
- Lasso

Generalization Bound - Finite H

Theorem: let H be a finite hypothesis set, and assume that L is bounded by M. Then, for any $\delta > 0$, with probability at least $1 - \delta$,

$$\forall h \in H, R(h) \le \widehat{R}(h) + M\sqrt{\frac{\log|H| + \log\frac{2}{\delta}}{2m}}.$$

Proof: By the union bound,

$$\Pr\left[\sup_{h\in H}\left|R(h)-\widehat{R}(h)\right|>\epsilon\right]\leq \sum_{h\in H}\Pr\left[\left|R(h)-\widehat{R}(h)\right|>\epsilon\right].$$

By Hoeffding's bound, for a fixed h,

$$\Pr\left[\left|R(h) - \widehat{R}(h)\right| > \epsilon\right] \le 2e^{-\frac{2m\epsilon^2}{M^2}}.$$

Rademacher Complexity of Lp Loss

Theorem:Let $p \ge 1$, $H_p = \{x \mapsto |h(x) - f(x)|^p \colon h \in H\}$. Assume that $\sup_{x \in X, h \in H} |h(x) - f(x)| \le M$. Then, for any sample S of size m,

$$\widehat{\mathfrak{R}}_S(H_p) \le pM^{p-1}\widehat{\mathfrak{R}}_S(H).$$

Proof

- Proof: Let $H' = \{x \mapsto h(x) f(x) : h \in H\}$. Then, observe that $H_p = \{\phi \circ h : h \in H'\}$ with $\phi : x \mapsto |x|^p$.
 - ϕ is pM^{p-1} Lipschitz over [-M,M], thus $\widehat{\mathfrak{R}}_S(H_p) \leq pM^{p-1}\widehat{\mathfrak{R}}_S(H').$
 - Next, observe that:

$$\widehat{\mathfrak{R}}_{S}(H') = \frac{1}{m} \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{h \in H} \left[\sup_{i = 1}^{m} \sigma_{i} h(x_{i}) + \sigma_{i} f(x_{i}) \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{m} \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{h \in H} \left[\sup_{i = 1}^{m} \sigma_{i} h(x_{i}) \right] + \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{\sigma} \left[\sum_{i = 1}^{m} \sigma_{i} f(x_{i}) \right] = \widehat{\mathfrak{R}}_{S}(H).$$

Rad. Complexity Regression Bound

Theorem: Let $p \ge 1$ and assume that $||h - f||_{\infty} \le M$ for all $h \in H$. Then, for any $\delta > 0$, with probability at least $1 - \delta$, for all $h \in H$,

$$E\left[\left|h(x) - f(x)\right|^{p}\right] \le \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left|h(x_{i}) - f(x_{i})\right|^{p} + 2pM^{p-1}\Re_{m}(H) + M^{p}\sqrt{\frac{\log\frac{1}{\delta}}{2m}}.$$

$$E\left[\left|h(x) - f(x)\right|^{p}\right] \le \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left|h(x_{i}) - f(x_{i})\right|^{p} + 2pM^{p-1}\widehat{\Re}_{S}(H) + 3M^{p}\sqrt{\frac{\log\frac{2}{\delta}}{2m}}.$$

Proof: Follows directly bound on Rademacher complexity and general Rademacher bound.

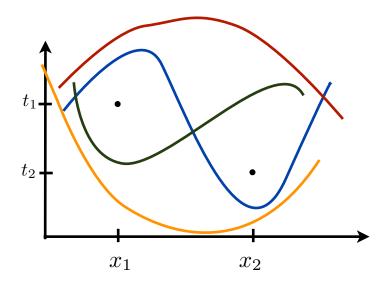
Notes

- As discussed for binary classification:
 - estimating the Rademacher complexity can be computationally hard for some Hs.
 - can we come up instead with a combinatorial measure that is easier to compute?

Shattering

■ Definition: Let G be a family of functions mapping from X to \mathbb{R} . $A = \{x_1, \ldots, x_m\}$ is shattered by G if there exist $t_1, \ldots, t_m \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

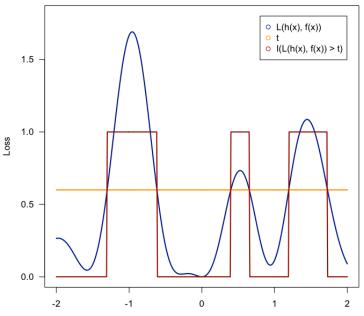
$$\left| \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \operatorname{sgn} (g(x_1) - t_1) \\ \vdots \\ \operatorname{sgn} (g(x_m) - t_m) \end{bmatrix} : g \in G \right\} \right| = 2^m.$$



Pseudo-Dimension

(Pollard, 1984)

- Definition: Let G be a family of functions mapping from X to \mathbb{R} . The pseudo-dimension of G, $\operatorname{Pdim}(G)$, is the size of the largest set shattered by G.
- Definition (equivalent, see also (Vapnik, 1995)): $Pdim(G) = VCdim \Big(\big\{ (x,t) \mapsto 1_{(g(x)-t)>0} \colon g \in G \big\} \Big).$



Pseudo-Dimension - Properties

Theorem: Pseudo-dimension of hyperplanes.

$$\operatorname{Pdim}(\mathbf{x} \mapsto \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x} + b \colon \mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^N, b \in \mathbb{R}) = N + 1.$$

Theorem: Pseudo-dimension of a vector space of real-valued functions H:

$$Pdim(H) = dim(H).$$

Generalization Bounds Classification——Regression

Lemma (Lebesgue integral): for $f \ge 0$ measurable,

$$\mathop{\mathbf{E}}_{D}[f(x)] = \int_{0}^{\infty} \mathop{\mathbf{Pr}}_{D}[f(x) > t] dt.$$

 \blacksquare Assume that the loss function L is bounded by M.

$$|R(h) - \widehat{R}(h)| = \left| \int_{0}^{M} \left(\Pr_{x \sim D} [L(h(x), f(x)) > t] - \Pr_{x \sim S} [L(h(x), f(x)) > t] \right) dt \right|$$

$$\leq M \sup_{t \in [0, M]} \left| \Pr_{x \sim D} [L(h(x), f(x)) > t] - \Pr_{x \sim S} [L(h(x), f(x)) > t] \right|$$

$$= M \sup_{t \in [0, M]} \left| \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{x \sim D} [1_{L(h(x), f(x)) > t}] - \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{x \sim S} [1_{L(h(x), f(x)) > t}] \right|.$$

$$\Pr\left[\sup_{h\in H}|R(h)-\widehat{R}(h)|>\epsilon\right] \leq \Pr\left[\sup_{\substack{h\in H\\t\in[0,M]}}\left|R(1_{L(h,f)>t})-\widehat{R}(1_{L(h,f)>t})\right|>\frac{\epsilon}{M}\right].$$

Standard classification generalization bound.

Generalization Bound - Pdim

Theorem: Let H be a family of real-valued functions. Assume that $\operatorname{Pdim}(\{L(h,f)\colon h\!\in\! H\})\!=\!d\!<\!\infty$ and that the loss L is bounded by M. Then, for any $\delta\!>\!0$, with probability at least $1\!-\!\delta$, for any $h\!\in\! H$,

$$R(h) \le \widehat{R}(h) + M\sqrt{\frac{2d\log\frac{em}{d}}{m}} + M\sqrt{\frac{\log\frac{1}{\delta}}{2m}}.$$

Proof: follows observation of previous slide and VCDim bound for indicator functions of lecture 3.

Notes

- Pdim bounds in unbounded case modulo assumptions: existence of an envelope function or moment assumptions.
- Other relevant capacity measures:
 - covering numbers.
 - packing numbers.
 - fat-shattering dimension.

This Lecture

- Generalization bounds
- Linear regression
- Kernel ridge regression
- Support vector regression
- Lasso

Linear Regression

- Feature mapping $\Phi: X \to \mathbb{R}^N$.
- Hypothesis set: linear functions.

$$\{x \mapsto \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{\Phi}(x) + b \colon \mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^N, b \in \mathbb{R}\}.$$

Optimization problem: empirical risk minimization.

$$\min_{\mathbf{w},b} F(\mathbf{w},b) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} (\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{\Phi}(x_i) + b - y_i)^2.$$

Linear Regression - Solution

Rewrite objective function as $F(\mathbf{W}) = \frac{1}{m} \|\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{W} - \mathbf{Y}\|^2$, $\mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} \Phi(x_1) \dots \Phi(x_m) \\ 1 & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{(N+1) \times m}$

with
$$\mathbf{X}^{\top} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{\Phi}(x_1)^{\top} & 1 \\ \vdots & \\ \mathbf{\Phi}(x_m)^{\top} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{W} = \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ \vdots \\ w_N \\ b \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{Y} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_m \end{bmatrix}$$
.

Convex and differentiable function.

$$\nabla F(\mathbf{W}) = \frac{2}{m} \mathbf{X} (\mathbf{X}^{\top} \mathbf{W} - \mathbf{Y}).$$

$$\nabla F(\mathbf{W}) = 0 \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{W} - \mathbf{Y}) = 0 \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{W} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{Y}.$$

Linear Regression - Solution

Solution:

$$\mathbf{W} = \begin{cases} (\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^{\top})^{-1}\mathbf{X}\mathbf{Y} & \text{if } \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^{\top} \text{ invertible.} \\ (\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^{\top})^{\dagger}\mathbf{X}\mathbf{Y} & \text{in general.} \end{cases}$$

- Computational complexity: $O(mN+N^3)$ if matrix inversion in $O(N^3)$.
- Poor guarantees in general, no regularization.
- For output labels in \mathbb{R}^p , p>1, solve p distinct linear regression problems.

This Lecture

- Generalization bounds
- Linear regression
- Kernel ridge regression
- Support vector regression
- Lasso

Mean Square Bound - Kernel-Based Hypotheses

Theorem: Let $K: X \times X \to \mathbb{R}$ be a PDS kernel and let $\Phi: X \to \mathbb{H}$ be a feature mapping associated to K. Let $H = \left\{ \mathbf{x} \mapsto \mathbf{w} \cdot \Phi(x) : \|\mathbf{w}\|_{\mathbb{H}} \leq \Lambda \right\}$. Assume $K(x, x) \leq R^2$ and $|f(x)| \leq \Lambda R$ for all $x \in X$. Then, for any $\delta > 0$, with probability at least $1 - \delta$, for any $h \in H$,

$$R(h) \le \widehat{R}(h) + \frac{8R^2\Lambda^2}{\sqrt{m}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{\log\frac{1}{\delta}}{2}}\right)$$

$$R(h) \le \widehat{R}(h) + \frac{8R^2\Lambda^2}{\sqrt{m}} \left(\sqrt{\frac{\text{Tr}[\mathbf{K}]}{mR^2}} + \frac{3}{4}\sqrt{\frac{\log\frac{2}{\delta}}{2}} \right).$$

Mean Square Bound - Kernel-Based Hypotheses

Proof: direct application of the Rademacher Complexity Regression Bound (this lecture) and bound on the Rademacher complexity of kernelbased hypotheses (lecture 5):

$$\widehat{\mathfrak{R}}_S(H) \le \frac{\Lambda\sqrt{\mathrm{Tr}[\mathbf{K}]}}{m} \le \sqrt{\frac{R^2\Lambda^2}{m}}.$$

Ridge Regression

(Hoerl and Kennard, 1970)

Optimization problem:

$$\min_{\mathbf{w}} F(\mathbf{w}, b) = \lambda \|\mathbf{w}\|^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{m} (\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{\Phi}(x_i) + b - y_i)^2,$$

where $\lambda \ge 0$ is a (regularization) parameter.

- directly based on generalization bound.
- generalization of linear regression.
- closed-form solution.
- can be used with kernels.

Ridge Regression - Solution

- Assume b=0: often constant feature used (but not equivalent to the use of original offset!).
- Rewrite objective function as

$$F(\mathbf{W}) = \lambda ||\mathbf{W}||^2 + ||\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{W} - \mathbf{Y}||^2.$$

Convex and differentiable function.

$$\nabla F(\mathbf{W}) = 2\lambda \mathbf{W} + 2\mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{W} - \mathbf{Y}).$$
$$\nabla F(\mathbf{W}) = 0 \Leftrightarrow (\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^{\top} + \lambda \mathbf{I})\mathbf{W} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{Y}.$$

Solution:

$$\mathbf{W} = (\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^{\top} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1}\mathbf{X}\mathbf{Y}.$$

always invertible.

Ridge Regression - Equivalent Formulations

Optimization problem:

$$\min_{\mathbf{w},b} \sum_{i=1}^{m} (\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{\Phi}(x_i) + b - y_i)^2$$

subject to: $\|\mathbf{w}\|^2 \leq \Lambda^2$.

Optimization problem:

$$\min_{\mathbf{w},b} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \xi_i^2$$

subject to: $\xi_i = \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{\Phi}(x_i) + b - y_i$
$$\|\mathbf{w}\|^2 \le \Lambda^2.$$

Ridge Regression Equations

■ Lagrangian: assume b=0. For all ξ , \mathbf{w} , α' , $\lambda \geq 0$,

$$L(\xi, \mathbf{w}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}', \lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \xi_i^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{m} \alpha_i'(y_i - \xi_i - \mathbf{w} \cdot \boldsymbol{\Phi}(x_i)) + \lambda(\|\mathbf{w}\|^2 - \Lambda^2).$$

KKT conditions:

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} L = -\sum_{i=1}^{m} \alpha_i' \mathbf{\Phi}(x_i) + 2\lambda \mathbf{w} = 0 \iff \mathbf{w} = \frac{1}{2\lambda} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \alpha_i' \mathbf{\Phi}(x_i).$$

$$\nabla_{\xi_i} L = 2\xi_i - \alpha_i' = 0 \iff \xi_i = \alpha_i'/2.$$

$$\forall i \in [1, m], \alpha'_i(y_i - \xi_i - \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{\Phi}(x_i)) = 0$$
$$\lambda(\|\mathbf{w}\|^2 - \Lambda^2) = 0.$$

Moving to The Dual

 \blacksquare Plugging in the expression of w and ξ_i s gives

$$L = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \frac{{\alpha'}_{i}^{2}}{4} + \sum_{i=1}^{m} {\alpha'}_{i} y_{i} - \sum_{i=1}^{m} \frac{{\alpha'}_{i}^{2}}{2} - \frac{1}{2\lambda} \sum_{i,j=1}^{m} {\alpha'}_{i} {\alpha'}_{j} \mathbf{\Phi}(x_{i})^{\top} \mathbf{\Phi}(x_{j}) + \lambda \left(\frac{1}{4\lambda^{2}} \| \sum_{i=1}^{m} {\alpha'}_{i} \mathbf{\Phi}(x_{i}) \|^{2} - \Lambda^{2} \right).$$

Thus,

$$L = -\frac{1}{4} \sum_{i=1}^{m} {\alpha'_i}^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{m} {\alpha'_i} y_i - \frac{1}{4\lambda} \sum_{i,j=1}^{m} {\alpha'_i} {\alpha'_j} \mathbf{\Phi}(x_i)^{\top} \mathbf{\Phi}(x_j) - \lambda \Lambda^2$$
$$= -\lambda \sum_{i=1}^{m} {\alpha_i}^2 + 2 \sum_{i=1}^{m} {\alpha_i} y_i - \sum_{i,j=1}^{m} {\alpha_i} {\alpha_j} \mathbf{\Phi}(x_i)^{\top} \mathbf{\Phi}(x_j) - \lambda \Lambda^2,$$

with
$$\alpha_i' = 2\lambda\alpha_i$$
.

RR - Dual Optimization Problem

Optimization problem:

$$\max_{\boldsymbol{\alpha} \in \mathbb{R}^m} -\lambda \boldsymbol{\alpha}^\top \boldsymbol{\alpha} + 2\boldsymbol{\alpha}^\top \mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\alpha}^\top (\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X}) \boldsymbol{\alpha}$$
or
$$\max_{\boldsymbol{\alpha} \in \mathbb{R}^m} -\boldsymbol{\alpha}^\top (\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} + \lambda \mathbf{I}) \boldsymbol{\alpha} + 2\boldsymbol{\alpha}^\top \mathbf{y}.$$

Solution:

$$h(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \alpha_i \mathbf{\Phi}(\mathbf{x}_i) \cdot \mathbf{\Phi}(x),$$

with
$$\alpha = (\mathbf{X}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{X} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1}\mathbf{y}$$
.

Direct Dual Solution

Lemma: The following matrix identity always holds.

$$(\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^{\mathsf{T}} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1}\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{X} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1}.$$

- Proof: Observe that $(\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^{\top} + \lambda \mathbf{I})\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{X} + \lambda \mathbf{I})$. Left-multiplying by $(\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^{\top} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1}$ and right-multiplying by $(\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{X} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1}$ yields the statement.
- \blacksquare Dual solution: α such that

$$\mathbf{W} = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \alpha_i K(x_i, \cdot) = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \alpha_i \Phi(x_i) = \mathbf{X} \alpha.$$

By lemma,
$$\mathbf{W} = (\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^{\mathsf{T}} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1}\mathbf{X}\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}^{\mathsf{T}}\mathbf{X} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1}\mathbf{Y}$$
.

$$oldsymbol{lpha} = (\mathbf{X}^{\! op}\!\mathbf{X} \!+ \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1}\mathbf{Y}.$$

Computational Complexity

	Solution	Prediction
Primal	$O(mN^2 + N^3)$	O(N)
Dual	$O(\kappa m^2 + m^3)$	$O(\kappa m)$

Kernel Ridge Regression

(Saunders et al., 1998)

Optimization problem:

$$\max_{\boldsymbol{\alpha} \in \mathbb{R}^m} -\lambda \boldsymbol{\alpha}^\top \boldsymbol{\alpha} + 2\boldsymbol{\alpha}^\top \mathbf{y} - \boldsymbol{\alpha}^\top \mathbf{K} \boldsymbol{\alpha}$$
 or
$$\max_{\boldsymbol{\alpha} \in \mathbb{R}^m} -\boldsymbol{\alpha}^\top (\mathbf{K} + \lambda \mathbf{I}) \boldsymbol{\alpha} + 2\boldsymbol{\alpha}^\top \mathbf{y}.$$

Solution:

$$h(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \alpha_i K(x_i, x),$$

with
$$\alpha = (\mathbf{K} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{y}$$
.

Notes

- Advantages:
 - strong theoretical guarantees.
 - generalization to outputs in \mathbb{R}^p : single matrix inversion (Cortes et al., 2007).
 - use of kernels.
- Disadvantages:
 - solution not sparse.
 - training time for large matrices: low-rank approximations of kernel matrix, e.g., Nyström approx., partial Cholesky decomposition.

This Lecture

- Generalization bounds
- Linear regression
- Kernel ridge regression
- Support vector regression
- Lasso

Support Vector Regression

(Vapnik, 1995)

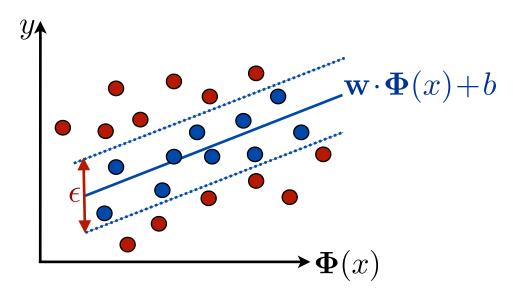
Hypothesis set:

$$\{x \mapsto \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{\Phi}(x) + b \colon \mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^N, b \in \mathbb{R}\}.$$

Loss function: ϵ **-insensitive loss.**

$$L(y, y') = |y' - y|_{\epsilon} = \max(0, |y' - y| - \epsilon).$$

Fit 'tube' with width ϵ to data.



Support Vector Regression (SVR)

(Vapnik, 1995)

Optimization problem: similar to that of SVM.

$$\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|^2 + C \sum_{i=1}^m |y_i - (\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{\Phi}(x_i) + b)|_{\epsilon}.$$

Equivalent formulation:

$$\min_{\mathbf{w}, \boldsymbol{\xi}, \boldsymbol{\xi}'} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{w}\|^2 + C \sum_{i=1}^m (\xi_i + \xi_i')$$
subject to $(\mathbf{w} \cdot \boldsymbol{\Phi}(x_i) + b) - y_i \le \epsilon + \xi_i$

$$y_i - (\mathbf{w} \cdot \boldsymbol{\Phi}(x_i) + b) \le \epsilon + \xi_i'$$

$$\xi_i \ge 0, \xi_i' \ge 0.$$

SVR - Dual Optimization Problem

Optimization problem:

$$\max_{\boldsymbol{\alpha}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}'} - \epsilon(\boldsymbol{\alpha}' + \boldsymbol{\alpha})^{\top} \mathbf{1} + (\boldsymbol{\alpha}' - \boldsymbol{\alpha})^{\top} \mathbf{y} - \frac{1}{2} (\boldsymbol{\alpha}' - \boldsymbol{\alpha})^{\top} \mathbf{K} (\boldsymbol{\alpha}' - \boldsymbol{\alpha})$$
subject to: $(\mathbf{0} \le \boldsymbol{\alpha} \le \mathbf{C}) \wedge (\mathbf{0} \le \boldsymbol{\alpha}' \le \mathbf{C}) \wedge ((\boldsymbol{\alpha}' - \boldsymbol{\alpha})^{\top} \mathbf{1} = 0)$.

Solution:

$$h(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{m} (\alpha_i' - \alpha_i) K(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}) + b$$

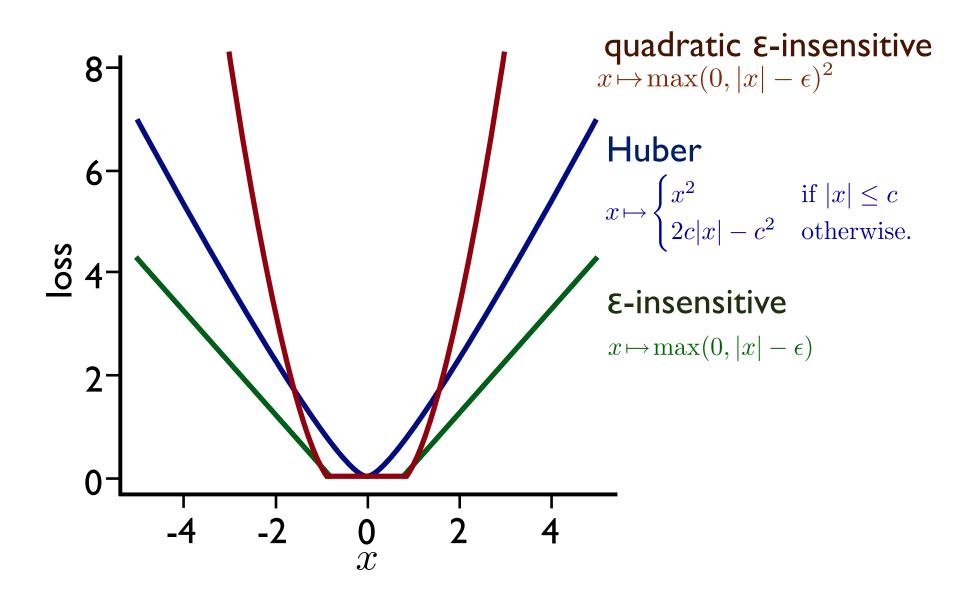
with
$$b = \begin{cases} -\sum_{i=1}^{m} (\alpha'_j - \alpha_j) K(x_j, x_i) + y_i + \epsilon & \text{when } 0 < \alpha_i < C \\ -\sum_{i=1}^{m} (\alpha'_j - \alpha_j) K(x_j, x_i) + y_i - \epsilon & \text{when } 0 < \alpha'_i < C. \end{cases}$$

Support vectors: points strictly outside the tube.

Notes

- Advantages:
 - strong theoretical guarantees (for that loss).
 - sparser solution.
 - use of kernels.
- Disadvantages:
 - selection of two parameters: C and ϵ . Heuristics:
 - search C near maximum y, ϵ near average difference of ys, measure of no. of SVs.
 - large matrices: low-rank approximations of kernel matrix.

Alternative Loss Functions



SVR - Quadratic Loss

Optimization problem:

$$\max_{\boldsymbol{\alpha}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}'} - \epsilon (\boldsymbol{\alpha}' + \boldsymbol{\alpha})^{\top} \mathbf{1} + (\boldsymbol{\alpha}' - \boldsymbol{\alpha})^{\top} \mathbf{y} - \frac{1}{2} (\boldsymbol{\alpha}' - \boldsymbol{\alpha})^{\top} \left(\mathbf{K} + \frac{1}{C} \mathbf{I} \right) (\boldsymbol{\alpha}' - \boldsymbol{\alpha})$$
subject to: $(\boldsymbol{\alpha} \ge \mathbf{0}) \wedge (\boldsymbol{\alpha} \ge \mathbf{0}) \wedge (\boldsymbol{\alpha}' - \boldsymbol{\alpha})^{\top} \mathbf{1} = 0$.

Solution:

$$h(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{m} (\alpha_i' - \alpha_i) K(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}) + b$$

with
$$b = \begin{cases} -\sum_{i=1}^{m} (\alpha'_{j} - \alpha_{j}) K(x_{j}, x_{i}) + y_{i} + \epsilon & \text{when } 0 < \alpha_{i} \land \xi_{i} = 0 \\ -\sum_{i=1}^{m} (\alpha'_{j} - \alpha_{j}) K(x_{j}, x_{i}) + y_{i} - \epsilon & \text{when } 0 < \alpha'_{i} \land \xi'_{i} = 0. \end{cases}$$

- Support vectors: points strictly outside the tube.
- For $\epsilon = 0$, coincides with KRR.

ε-Insensitive Bound - Kernel-Based Hypotheses

Theorem: Let $K: X \times X \to \mathbb{R}$ be a PDS kernel and let $\Phi: X \to H$ be a feature mapping associated to K. Let $H = \{\mathbf{x} \mapsto \mathbf{w} \cdot \Phi(x) : ||\mathbf{w}||_H \le \Lambda\}$. Assume $K(x, x) \le R^2$ and $|f(x)| \le \Gamma R$ for all $x \in X$. Then, for any $\delta > 0$, with probability at least $1 - \delta$, for any $h \in H$,

$$\begin{split} & \mathrm{E}[|h(x) - f(x)|_{\epsilon}] \leq \widehat{\mathrm{E}}[|h(x) - f(x)|_{\epsilon}] + \frac{R\Lambda}{\sqrt{m}} \left[2 + \left(\frac{\Gamma}{\Lambda} + 1\right) \sqrt{\frac{\log \frac{1}{\delta}}{2}} \right]. \\ & \mathrm{E}[|h(x) - f(x)|_{\epsilon}] \leq \widehat{\mathrm{E}}[|h(x) - f(x)|_{\epsilon}] + \frac{\Lambda R}{\sqrt{m}} \left[2\sqrt{\frac{\mathrm{Tr}[\mathbf{K}]/R^2}{m}} + 3\left(\frac{\Gamma}{\Lambda} + 1\right) \sqrt{\frac{\log \frac{2}{\delta}}{2}} \right]. \end{split}$$

ε-Insensitive Bound - Kernel-Based Hypotheses

- Proof: Let $H_{\epsilon} = \{x \mapsto |h(x) f(x)|_{\epsilon} : h \in H\}$ and let H' be defined by $H' = \{x \mapsto h(x) f(x) : h \in H\}$.
 - The function $\Phi_\epsilon\colon x\mapsto |x|_\epsilon$ is I-Lipschitz and $\Phi_\epsilon(0)=0$. Thus, by the contraction lemma,

$$\widehat{\mathfrak{R}}_S(H_{\epsilon}) \leq \widehat{\mathfrak{R}}_S(H').$$

- Since $\widehat{\mathfrak{R}}_S(H') = \widehat{\mathfrak{R}}_S(H)$ (see proof for Rademacher Complexity of L_p Loss), this shows that $\widehat{\mathfrak{R}}_S(H_\epsilon) \leq \widehat{\mathfrak{R}}_S(H)$.
- The rest is a direct application of the Rademacher Complexity Regression Bound (this lecture).

On-line Regression

- On-line version of batch algorithms:
 - stochastic gradient descent.
 - primal or dual.
- Examples:
 - Mean squared error function: Widrow-Hoff (or LMS) algorithm (Widrow and Hoff, 1995).
 - SVR ε-insensitive (dual) linear or quadratic function: on-line SVR.

Widrow-Hoff

(Widrow and Hoff, 1988)

```
WIDROWHOFF(\mathbf{w}_0)

1 \mathbf{w}_1 \leftarrow \mathbf{w}_0 > typically \mathbf{w}_0 = \mathbf{0}

2 \mathbf{for} \ t \leftarrow 1 \ \mathbf{to} \ T \ \mathbf{do}

3 \mathrm{RECEIVE}(\mathbf{x}_t)

4 \widehat{y}_t \leftarrow \mathbf{w}_t \cdot \mathbf{x}_t

5 \mathrm{RECEIVE}(y_t)

6 \mathbf{w}_{t+1} \leftarrow \mathbf{w}_t + 2\eta(\mathbf{w}_t \cdot \mathbf{x}_t - y_t)\mathbf{x}_t \Rightarrow \eta > 0

7 \mathbf{return} \ \mathbf{w}_{T+1}
```

Dual On-Line SVR

$$(b=0)$$

(Vijayakumar and Wu, 1988)

```
DUALSVR()
    1 \alpha \leftarrow 0
   2 \quad \boldsymbol{\alpha}' \leftarrow \mathbf{0}
        for t \leftarrow 1 to T do
                    RECEIVE(x_t)
                   \widehat{y}_t \leftarrow \sum_{s=1}^T (\alpha_s' - \alpha_s) K(x_s, x_t)
                    RECEIVE(y_t)
                    \alpha'_{t+1} \leftarrow \alpha'_t + \min(\max(\eta(y_t - \widehat{y}_t - \epsilon), -\alpha'_t), C - \alpha'_t)
                    \alpha_{t+1} \leftarrow \alpha_t + \min(\max(\eta(\widehat{y}_t - y_t - \epsilon), -\alpha_t), C - \alpha_t)
          return \sum_{t=1}^{T} \alpha_t K(x_t, \cdot)
   9
```

This Lecture

- Generalization bounds
- Linear regression
- Kernel ridge regression
- Support vector regression
- Lasso

LASSO

(Tibshirani, 1996)

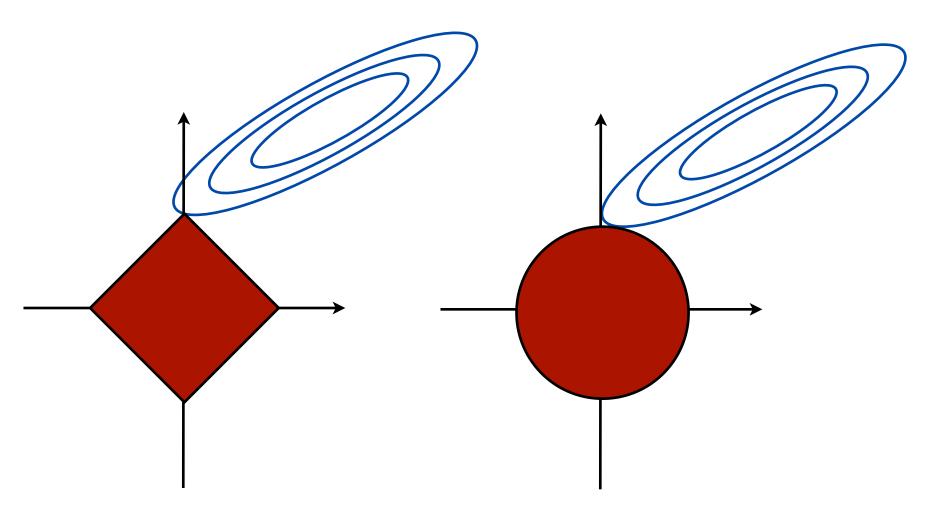
Optimization problem: 'least absolute shrinkage and selection operator'.

$$\min_{\mathbf{w}} F(\mathbf{w}, b) = \lambda \|\mathbf{w}\|_1 + \sum_{i=1}^{m} (\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_i + b - y_i)^2,$$

where $\lambda \ge 0$ is a (regularization) parameter.

- Solution: equiv. convex quadratic program (QP).
 - general: standard QP solvers.
 - specific algorithm: LARS (least angle regression procedure), entire path of solutions.

Sparsity of L1 regularization



LI regularization

L2 regularization

Sparsity Guarantee

Rademacher complexity of L1-norm bounded linear hypotheses:

$$\widehat{\mathfrak{R}}_{S}(H) = \frac{1}{m} \operatorname{E} \left[\sup_{\|\mathbf{w}\|_{1} \leq \Lambda_{1}} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \sigma_{i} \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}_{i} \right]$$

$$= \frac{\Lambda_{1}}{m} \operatorname{E} \left[\left\| \sum_{i=1}^{m} \sigma_{i} \mathbf{x}_{i} \right\|_{\infty} \right] \qquad \text{(by definition of the dual norm)}$$

$$= \frac{\Lambda_{1}}{m} \operatorname{E} \left[\max_{j \in [1, N]} \left| \sum_{i=1}^{m} \sigma_{i} x_{ij} \right| \right] \qquad \text{(by definition of } \| \cdot \|_{\infty} \text{)}$$

$$= \frac{\Lambda_{1}}{m} \operatorname{E} \left[\max_{j \in [1, N]} \max_{s \in \{-1, +1\}} s \sum_{i=1}^{m} \sigma_{i} x_{ij} \right] \qquad \text{(by definition of } | \cdot | \text{)}$$

$$= \frac{\Lambda_{1}}{m} \operatorname{E} \left[\sup_{z \in A} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \sigma_{i} z_{i} \right] \leq r_{\infty} \Lambda_{1} \sqrt{\frac{2 \log(2N)}{m}}. \qquad \text{(Massart's lemma)}$$

Notes

Advantages:

- theoretical guarantees.
- sparse solution.
- feature selection.

Drawbacks:

- no natural use of kernels.
- no closed-form solution (not necessary, but can be convenient for theoretical analysis).

Regression

- Many other families of algorithms: including
 - neural networks.
 - decision trees (see multi-class lecture).
 - boosting trees for regression.

References

- Corinna Cortes, Mehryar Mohri, and Jason Weston. A General Regression Framework for Learning String-to-String Mappings. In *Predicting Structured Data*. The MIT Press, 2007.
- Efron, B., Johnstone, I., Hastie, T. and Tibshirani, R. (2002). Least angle regression. *Annals of Statistics* 2003.
- Arthur Hoerl and Robert Kennard. Ridge Regression: biased estimation of nonorthogonal problems. *Technometrics*, 12:55-67, 1970.
- C. Saunders and A. Gammerman and V. Vovk, Ridge Regression Learning Algorithm in Dual Variables, In ICML '98, pages 515--521,1998.
- Robert Tibshirani. Regression shrinkage and selection via the lasso. Journal of Royal Statistical Society, pages B. 58:267-288, 1996.
- David Pollard. Convergence of Stochastic Processes. Springer, New York, 1984.
- David Pollard. Empirical Processes: Theory and Applications. Institute of Mathematical Statistics, 1990.

References

- Sethu Vijayakumar and Si Wu. Sequential support vector classifiers and regression. In Proceedings of the International Conference on Soft Computing (SOCO'99), 1999.
- Vladimir N.Vapnik. Estimation of Dependences Based on Empirical Data. Springer, Basederlin, 1982.
- Vladimir N. Vapnik. The Nature of Statistical Learning Theory. Springer, 1995.
- Vladimir N. Vapnik. Statistical Learning Theory. Wiley-Interscience, New York, 1998.
- Bernard Widrow and Ted Hoff. Adaptive Switching Circuits. Neurocomputing: foundations of research, pages 123-134, MIT Press, 1988.