CS60020: Foundations of Algorithm Design and Machine Learning

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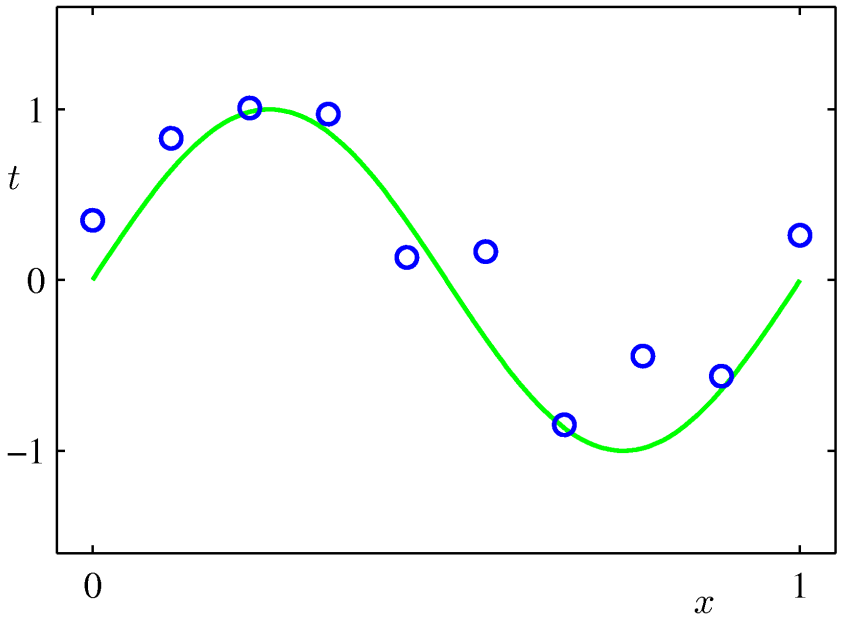
Linear Basis Function Models (1)

Example: Polynomial Curve Fitting



$$y(x, \mathbf{w}) = w_0 + w_1 x + w_2 x^2 + \ldots + w_M x^M = \sum_{j=0}^{M} w_j x^j$$

Linear Basis Function Models (2)

Generally

$$y(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) = \sum_{j=0}^{M-1} w_j \phi_j(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{w}^{\mathrm{T}} \boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x})$$

where $\phi_j(\mathbf{x})$ are known as *basis functions*.

Typically, $\phi_0(\mathbf{x}) = 1$, so that w_0 acts as a bias.

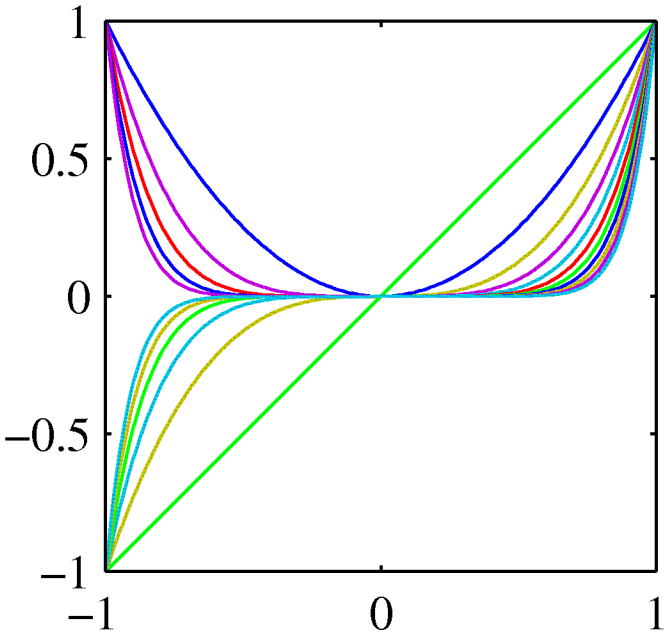
In the simplest case, we use linear basis functions : $\phi_d(\mathbf{x}) = x_d$.

Linear Basis Function Models (3)

Polynomial basis functions:

$$\phi_j(x) = x^j.$$

These are global; a small change in x affect all basis functions.

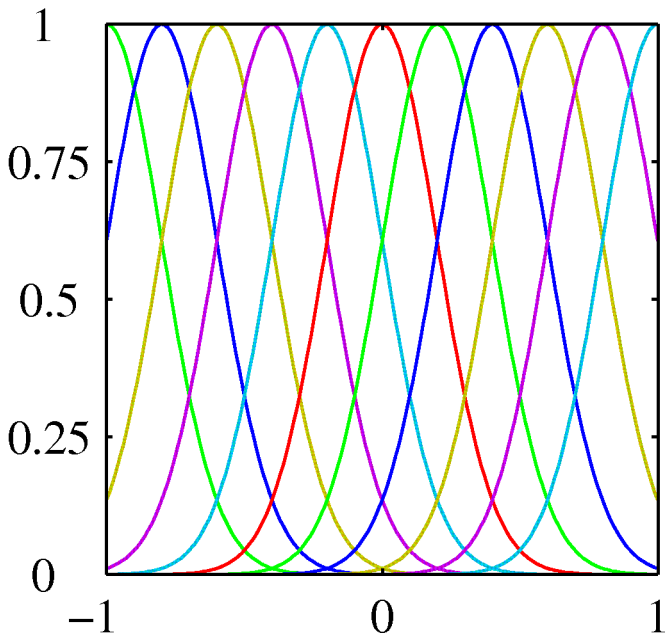


Linear Basis Function Models (4)

Gaussian basis functions:

$$\phi_j(x) = \exp\left\{-\frac{(x-\mu_j)^2}{2s^2}\right\}$$

These are local; a small change in x only affect nearby basis functions. μ_j and s control location and scale (width).



Linear Basis Function Models (5)

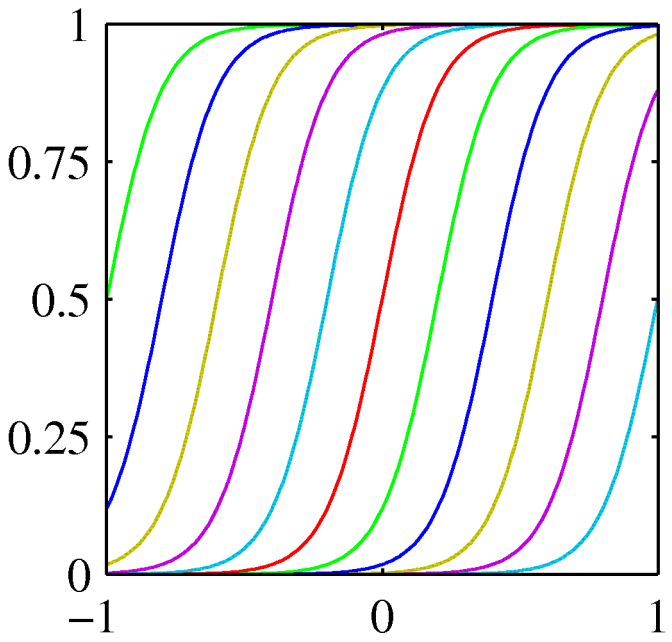
Sigmoidal basis functions:

$$\phi_j(x) = \sigma\left(\frac{x - \mu_j}{s}\right)$$

where

$$\sigma(a) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-a)}.$$

Also these are local; a small change in x only affect nearby basis functions. μ_j and s control location and scale (slope).



Maximum Likelihood and Least Squares (1)

Assume observations from a deterministic function with added Gaussian noise:

$$t = y(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) + \epsilon \qquad \text{where} \qquad p(\epsilon|\beta) = \mathcal{N}(\epsilon|0, \beta^{-1})$$

which is the same as saying,

$$p(t|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}, \beta) = \mathcal{N}(t|y(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}), \beta^{-1}).$$

Given observed inputs, $\mathbf{X} = \{\mathbf{x}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{x}_N\}$, and targets, $\mathbf{t} = [t_1, \ldots, t_N]^{\mathrm{T}}$, we obtain the likelihood function

$$p(\mathbf{t}|\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{w}, \beta) = \prod_{n=1}^{N} \mathcal{N}(t_n|\mathbf{w}^{\mathrm{T}}\boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x}_n), \beta^{-1}).$$

Maximum Likelihood and Least Squares (2)

Taking the logarithm, we get

$$\begin{aligned}\ln p(\mathbf{t}|\mathbf{w},\beta) &= \sum_{n=1}^{N} \ln \mathcal{N}(t_n|\mathbf{w}^{\mathrm{T}}\boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x}_n),\beta^{-1}) \\ &= \frac{N}{2}\ln\beta - \frac{N}{2}\ln(2\pi) - \beta E_D(\mathbf{w})\end{aligned}$$

where

$$E_D(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{2}\sum_{n=1}^{N}\{t_n - \mathbf{w}^{\mathrm{T}}\boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x}_n)\}^2$$

is the sum-of-squares error.

Maximum Likelihood and Least Squares (3)

Computing the gradient and setting it to zero yields

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}} \ln p(\mathbf{t}|\mathbf{w}, \beta) = \beta \sum_{n=1}^{N} \left\{ t_n - \mathbf{w}^{\mathrm{T}} \boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x}_n) \right\} \boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x}_n)^{\mathrm{T}} = \mathbf{0}.$$

Solving for $\mathbf{w}$, we get

$$\mathbf{w}_{\mathrm{ML}} = \left(\boldsymbol{\Phi}^{\mathrm{T}} \boldsymbol{\Phi} \right)^{-1} \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{t}$$

The Moore-Penrose pseudo-inverse, $\boldsymbol{\Phi}^{\dagger}$.

where

$$\boldsymbol{\Phi} = \begin{pmatrix} \phi_0(\mathbf{x}_1) & \phi_1(\mathbf{x}_1) & \cdots & \phi_{M-1}(\mathbf{x}_1) \\ \phi_0(\mathbf{x}_2) & \phi_1(\mathbf{x}_2) & \cdots & \phi_{M-1}(\mathbf{x}_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \phi_0(\mathbf{x}_N) & \phi_1(\mathbf{x}_N) & \cdots & \phi_{M-1}(\mathbf{x}_N) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Geometry of Least Squares

Consider

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{\Phi}\mathbf{w}_{\mathrm{ML}} = [\boldsymbol{\varphi}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{\varphi}_M]\, \mathbf{w}_{\mathrm{ML}}.$$

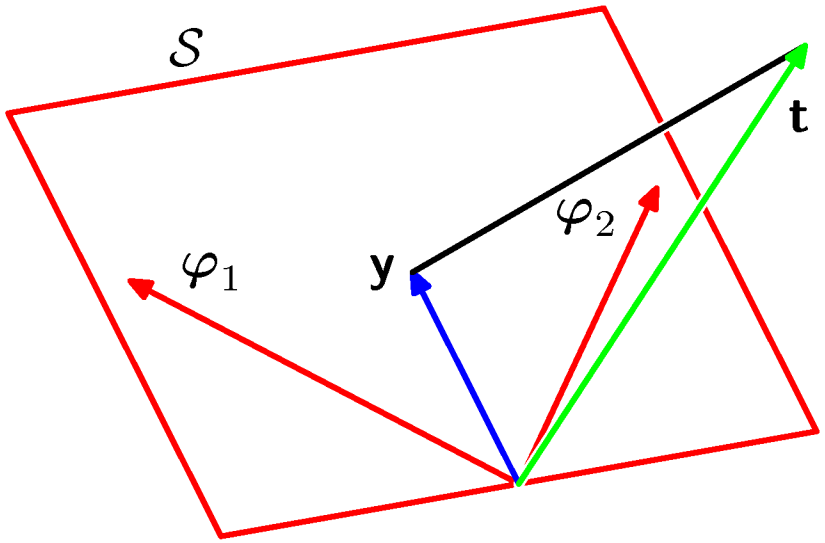
$$\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathcal{T} \qquad \mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{T}$$

$\mathcal{T}$: N-dimensional

$\mathcal{S}$: M-dimensional

$\mathcal{S}$ is spanned by $\boldsymbol{\varphi}_1, \ldots, \boldsymbol{\varphi}_M$.

$\mathbf{w}_{\mathrm{ML}}$ minimizes the distance between $\mathbf{t}$ and its orthogonal projection on $\mathcal{S}$, i.e. $\mathbf{y}$.



Least Squares Estimator

$$\hat{f}_n^L = \arg\min_{f \in \mathcal{F}_L} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (f(X_i) - Y_i)^2 \qquad f(X_i) = X_i \beta$$

$$\hat{\beta} = \arg\min_{\beta} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (X_i \beta - Y_i)^2 \qquad \hat{f}_n^L(X) = X\hat{\beta}$$

$$= \arg\min_{\beta} \frac{1}{n} (\mathbf{A}\beta - \mathbf{Y})^T (\mathbf{A}\beta - \mathbf{Y})$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} X_1 \\ \vdots \\ X_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} X_1^{(1)} & \dots & X_1^{(p)} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ X_n^{(1)} & \dots & X_n^{(p)} \end{bmatrix} \qquad \mathbf{Y} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{Y}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{Y}_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Least Squares Estimator

$$\widehat{\beta} = \arg\min_{\beta} \frac{1}{n}(\mathbf{A}\beta - \mathbf{Y})^T(\mathbf{A}\beta - \mathbf{Y}) = \arg\min_{\beta} J(\beta)$$

$$J(\beta) = (\mathbf{A}\beta - \mathbf{Y})^T(\mathbf{A}\beta - \mathbf{Y})$$

$$\left.\frac{\partial J(\beta)}{\partial \beta}\right|_{\widehat{\beta}} = 0$$

Normal Equations

$$(\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A})\hat{\beta} = \mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{Y}$$

p x p p x 1 p x 1

If $(\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A})$ is invertible,

$$\hat{\beta} = (\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A})^{-1}\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{Y} \qquad \hat{f}_n^L(X) = X\hat{\beta}$$

When is $(\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A})$ invertible ?
Recall: Full rank matrices are invertible.

What if $(\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A})$ is not invertible ?

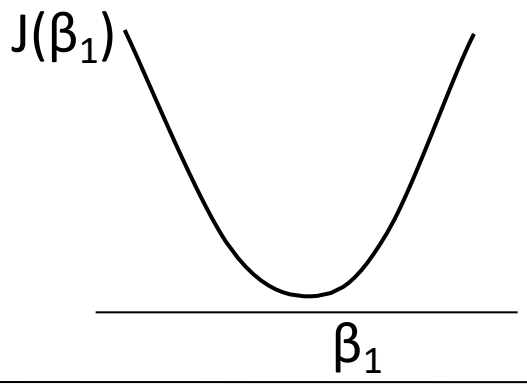
Gradient Descent

Even when $(\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A})$ is invertible, might be computationally expensive if **A** is huge.

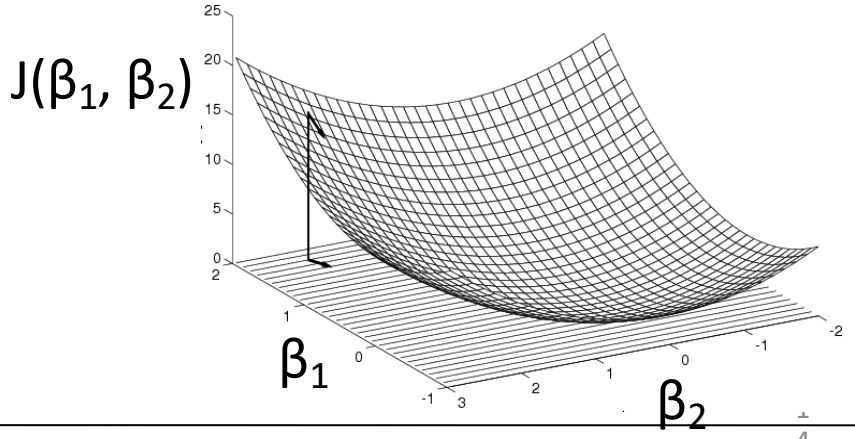
$$\widehat{\beta} = \arg\min_{\beta} \frac{1}{n}(\mathbf{A}\beta - \mathbf{Y})^T(\mathbf{A}\beta - \mathbf{Y}) = \arg\min_{\beta} J(\beta)$$

Treat as optimization problem

Observation: J(β) is convex in β.



How to find the minimizer?



Gradient Descent

Even when $(\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A})$ is invertible, might be computationally expensive if **A** is huge.

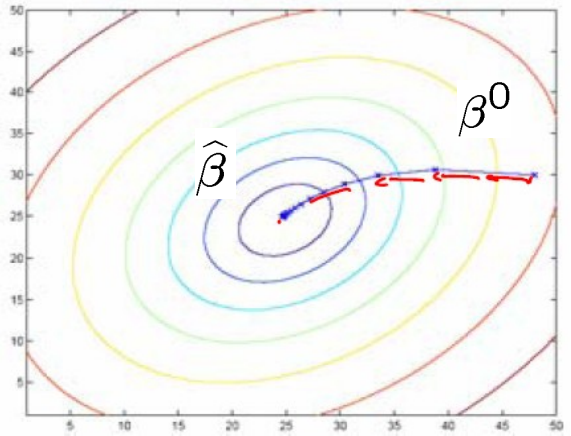
$$\widehat{\beta} = \arg\min_{\beta} \frac{1}{n}(\mathbf{A}\beta - \mathbf{Y})^T(\mathbf{A}\beta - \mathbf{Y}) = \arg\min_{\beta} J(\beta)$$

Since J(β) is convex, move along negative of gradient

Initialize: β^0

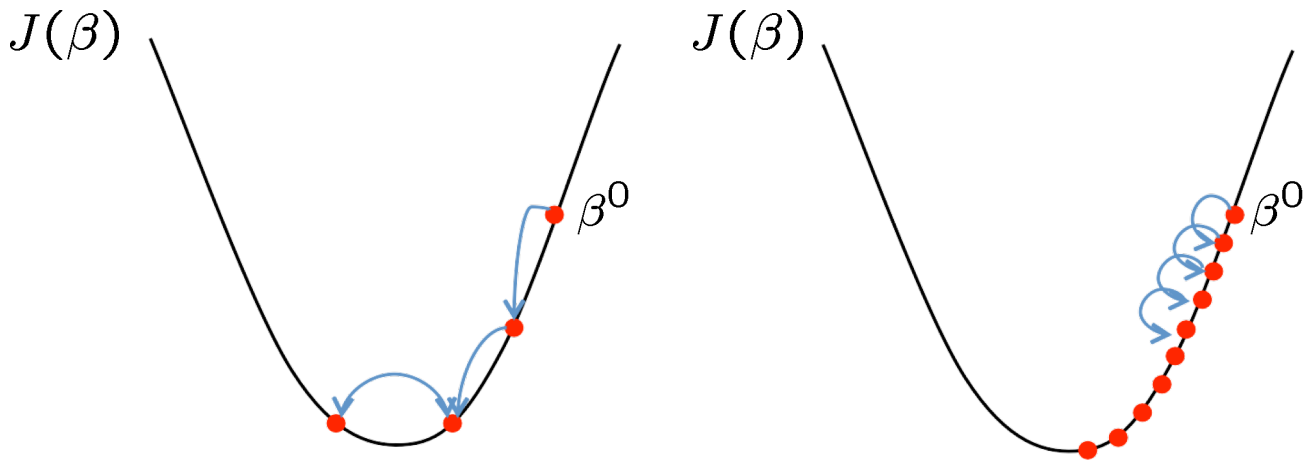
step size

Update:
$$\beta^{t+1} = \beta^t - \frac{\alpha}{2}\frac{\partial J(\beta)}{\partial \beta}\Big|_t$$
$$= \beta^t - \alpha\, \mathbf{A}^T(\underbrace{\mathbf{A}\beta^t - Y}_{0 \text{ if } \widehat{\beta} = \beta^t})$$



Stop: when some criterion met e.g. fixed # iterations, or $\left.\frac{\partial J(\beta)}{\partial \beta}\right|_{\beta^t} < \varepsilon$.

Effect of step--size α



Large α => Fast convergence but larger residual error
Also possible oscillations

Small α => Slow convergence but small residual error

Stochastic Gradient Descent

Gradient descent (also known as Batch Gradient Descent) computes the gradient using the whole dataset

Stochastic Gradient Descent computes the gradient using a single sample (or a mini-batch).

Sequential Learning

Data items considered one at a time (a.k.a. online learning); use stochastic (sequential) gradient descent:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{w}^{(\tau+1)} &= \mathbf{w}^{(\tau)} - \eta \nabla E_n \\ &= \mathbf{w}^{(\tau)} + \eta (t_n - \mathbf{w}^{(\tau)\mathrm{T}} \boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x}_n)) \boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x}_n). \end{aligned}$$

This is known as the *least-mean-squares (LMS) algorithm*. Issue: how to choose η?

Regularized Least Squares (1)

Consider the error function:

$$E_D(\mathbf{w}) + \lambda E_W(\mathbf{w})$$

Data term + Regularization term

With the sum-of-squares error function and a quadratic regularizer, we get

$$\frac{1}{2}\sum_{n=1}^{N}\{t_n - \mathbf{w}^{\mathrm{T}}\boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x}_n)\}^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2}\mathbf{w}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{w}$$

which is minimized by

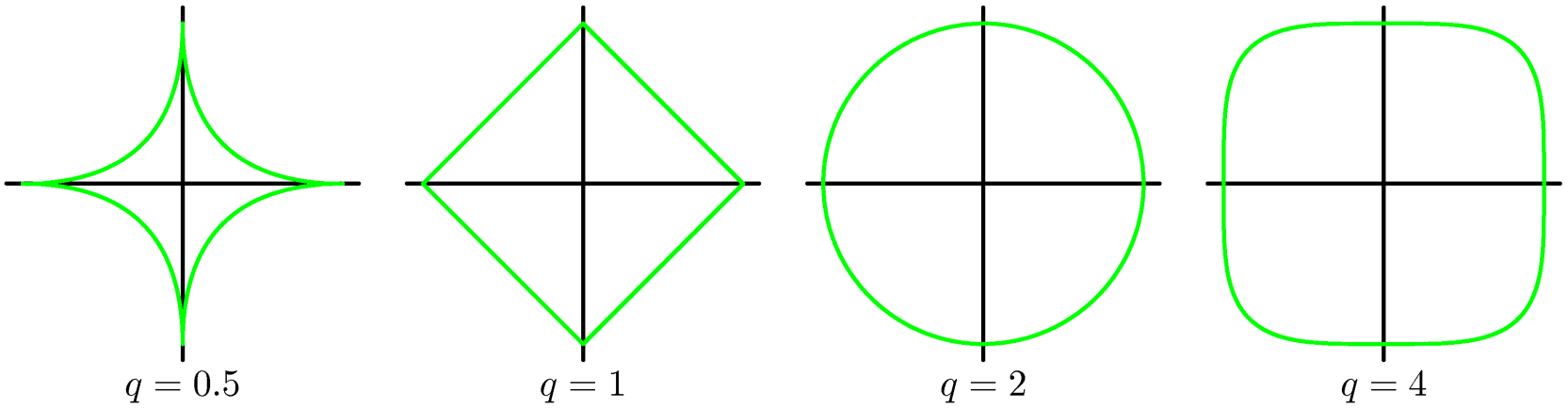
$$\mathbf{w} = \left(\lambda\mathbf{I} + \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{\mathrm{T}}\boldsymbol{\Phi}\right)^{-1}\boldsymbol{\Phi}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{t}.$$

λ is called the regularization coefficient.

Regularized Least Squares (2)

With a more general regularizer, we have

$$\frac{1}{2}\sum_{n=1}^{N}\{t_n - \mathbf{w}^{\mathrm{T}}\boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x}_n)\}^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2}\sum_{j=1}^{M}|w_j|^q$$

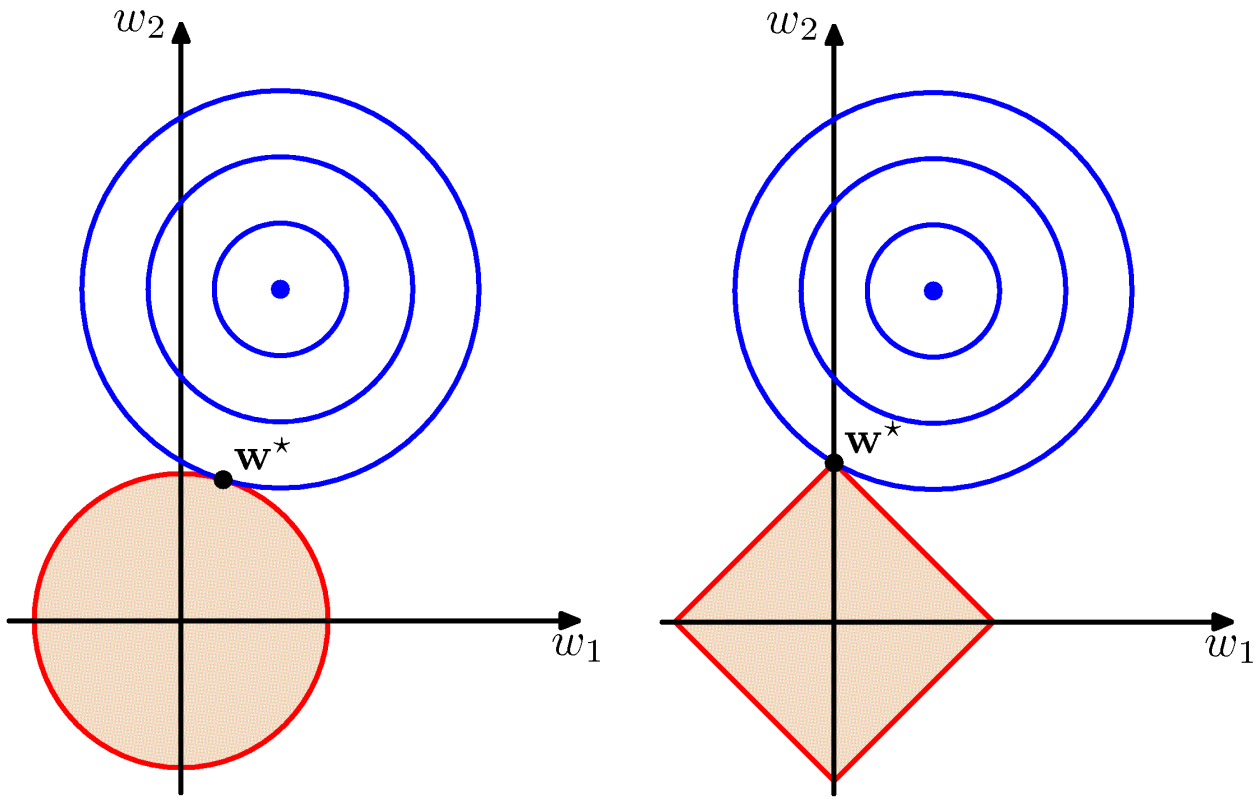


Lasso

Quadratic

Regularized Least Squares (3)

Lasso tends to generate sparser solutions than a quadratic regularizer.



Multiple Outputs (1)

Analogously to the single output case we have:

$$\begin{aligned} p(\mathbf{t}|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{W}, \beta) &= \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{t}|\mathbf{y}(\mathbf{W}, \mathbf{x}), \beta^{-1}\mathbf{I}) \\ &= \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{t}|\mathbf{W}^{\mathrm{T}}\boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x}), \beta^{-1}\mathbf{I}). \end{aligned}$$

Given observed inputs, $\mathbf{X} = \{\mathbf{x}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{x}_N\}$, and targets, $\mathbf{T} = [\mathbf{t}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{t}_N]^{\mathrm{T}}$, we obtain the log likelihood function

$$\begin{aligned} \ln p(\mathbf{T}|\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{W}, \beta) &= \sum_{n=1}^{N} \ln \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{t}_n|\mathbf{W}^{\mathrm{T}}\boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x}_n), \beta^{-1}\mathbf{I}) \\ &= \frac{NK}{2} \ln\left(\frac{\beta}{2\pi}\right) - \frac{\beta}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \left\|\mathbf{t}_n - \mathbf{W}^{\mathrm{T}}\boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x}_n)\right\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Multiple Outputs (2)

Maximizing with respect to $\mathbf{W}$, we obtain

$$\mathbf{W}_{\mathrm{ML}} = \left(\mathbf{\Phi}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{\Phi}\right)^{-1}\mathbf{\Phi}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{T}.$$

If we consider a single target variable, t_k, we see that

$$\mathbf{w}_k = \left(\mathbf{\Phi}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{\Phi}\right)^{-1}\mathbf{\Phi}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{t}_k = \mathbf{\Phi}^{\dagger}\mathbf{t}_k$$

where $\mathbf{t}_k = [t_{1k}, \ldots, t_{Nk}]^{\mathrm{T}}$, which is identical with the single output case.

The Bias-Variance Decomposition (1)

Recall the *expected squared loss*,

$$\mathbb{E}[L] = \int \{y(\mathbf{x}) - h(\mathbf{x})\}^2 p(\mathbf{x})\,\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} + \iint \{h(\mathbf{x}) - t\}^2 p(\mathbf{x}, t)\,\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x}\,\mathrm{d}t$$

where

$$h(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbb{E}[t|\mathbf{x}] = \int t p(t|\mathbf{x})\,\mathrm{d}t.$$

The second term of $\mathbb{E}[L]$ corresponds to the noise inherent in the random variable t.

What about the first term?

The Bias-Variance Decomposition (2)

Suppose we were given multiple data sets, each of size N. Any particular data set, $\mathcal{D}$, will give a particular function $y(\mathbf{x};\mathcal{D})$. We then have

$$
\begin{aligned}
&\{y(\mathbf{x};\mathcal{D}) - h(\mathbf{x})\}^2 \\
&= \{y(\mathbf{x};\mathcal{D}) - \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{D}}[y(\mathbf{x};\mathcal{D})] + \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{D}}[y(\mathbf{x};\mathcal{D})] - h(\mathbf{x})\}^2 \\
&= \{y(\mathbf{x};\mathcal{D}) - \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{D}}[y(\mathbf{x};\mathcal{D})]\}^2 + \{\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{D}}[y(\mathbf{x};\mathcal{D})] - h(\mathbf{x})\}^2 \\
&\quad +2\{y(\mathbf{x};\mathcal{D}) - \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{D}}[y(\mathbf{x};\mathcal{D})]\}\{\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{D}}[y(\mathbf{x};\mathcal{D})] - h(\mathbf{x})\}.
\end{aligned}
$$

The Bias-Variance Decomposition (3)

Taking the expectation over $\mathcal{D}$ yields

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{D}}\left[\{y(\mathbf{x};\mathcal{D}) - h(\mathbf{x})\}^2\right]$$
$$= \underbrace{\{\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{D}}[y(\mathbf{x};\mathcal{D})] - h(\mathbf{x})\}^2}_{(\text{bias})^2} + \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{D}}\left[\{y(\mathbf{x};\mathcal{D}) - \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{D}}[y(\mathbf{x};\mathcal{D})]\}^2\right]}_{\text{variance}}.$$

The Bias-Variance Decomposition (4)

Thus we can write

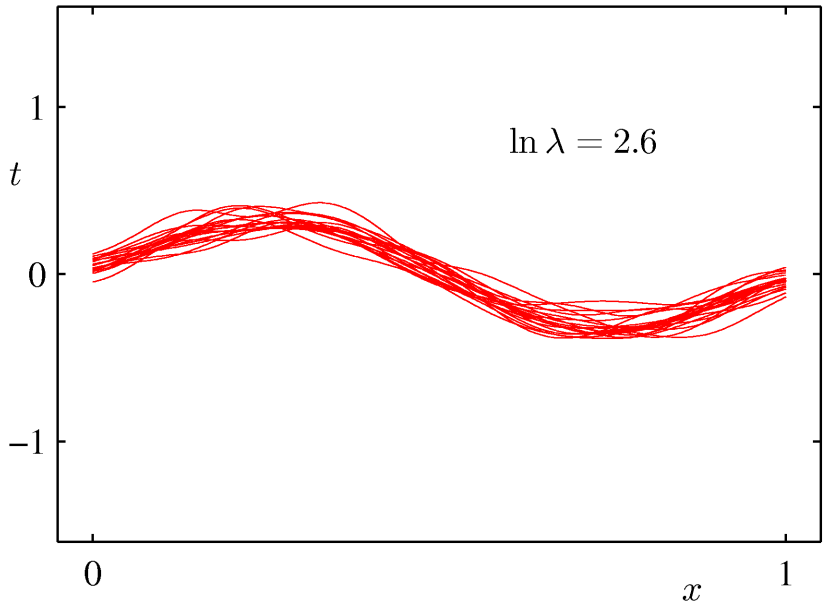
$$\text{expected loss} = (\text{bias})^2 + \text{variance} + \text{noise}$$

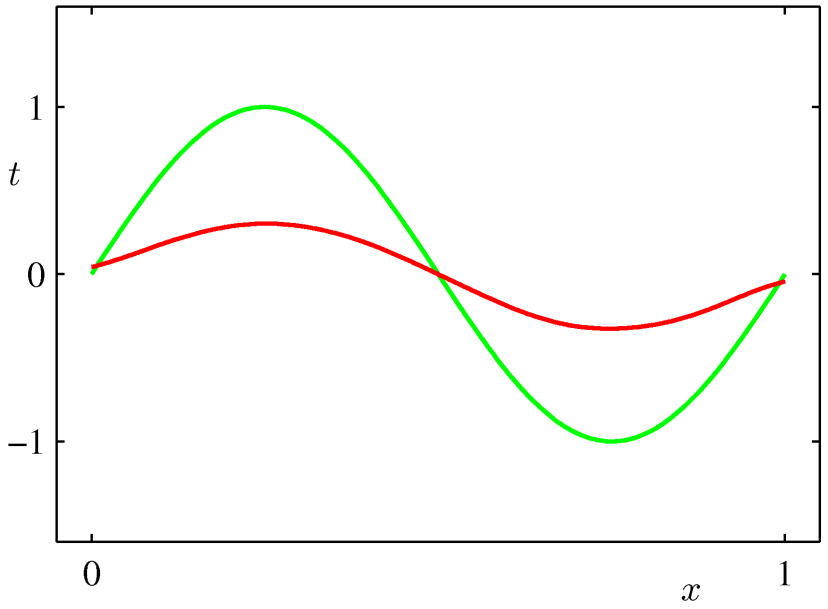
where

$$\begin{aligned}
(\text{bias})^2 &= \int \{\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{D}}[y(\mathbf{x};\mathcal{D})] - h(\mathbf{x})\}^2 p(\mathbf{x})\,\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} \\
\text{variance} &= \int \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{D}}\left[\{y(\mathbf{x};\mathcal{D}) - \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{D}}[y(\mathbf{x};\mathcal{D})]\}^2\right] p(\mathbf{x})\,\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} \\
\text{noise} &= \iint \{h(\mathbf{x}) - t\}^2 p(\mathbf{x},t)\,\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x}\,\mathrm{d}t
\end{aligned}$$

The Bias-Variance Decomposition (5)

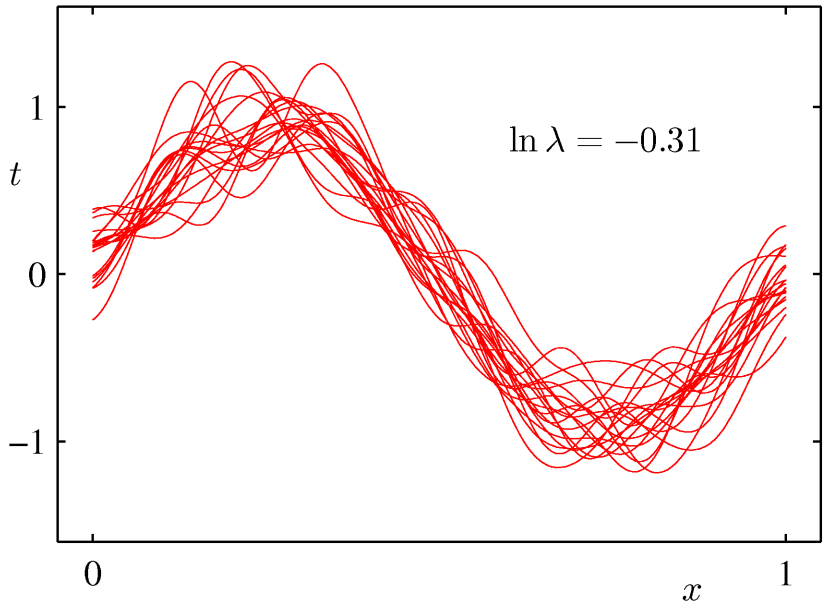
Example: 25 data sets from the sinusoidal, varying the degree of regularization, λ.

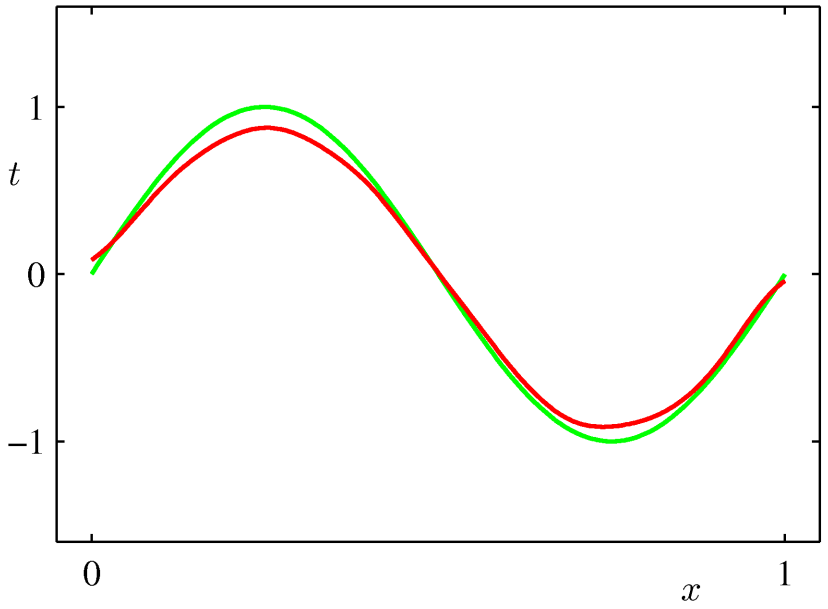




The Bias-Variance Decomposition (6)

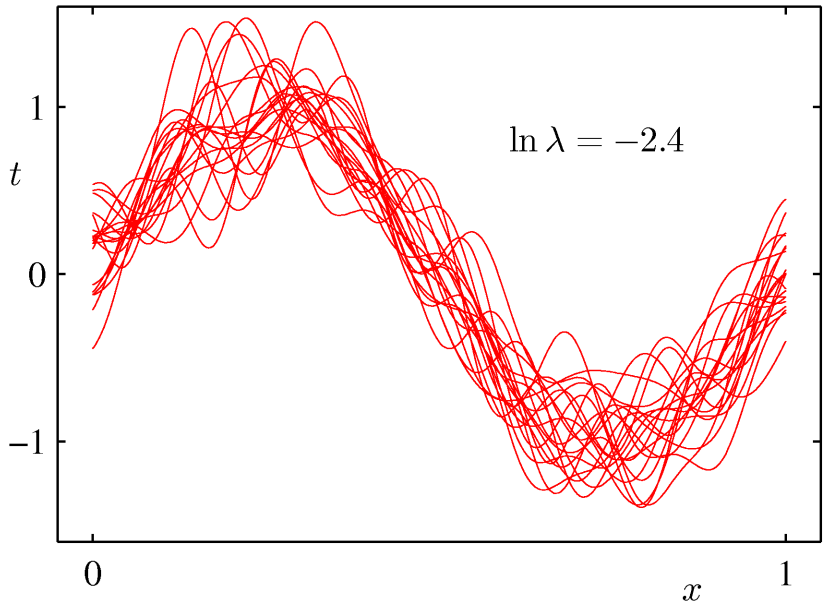
Example: 25 data sets from the sinusoidal, varying the degree of regularization, λ.

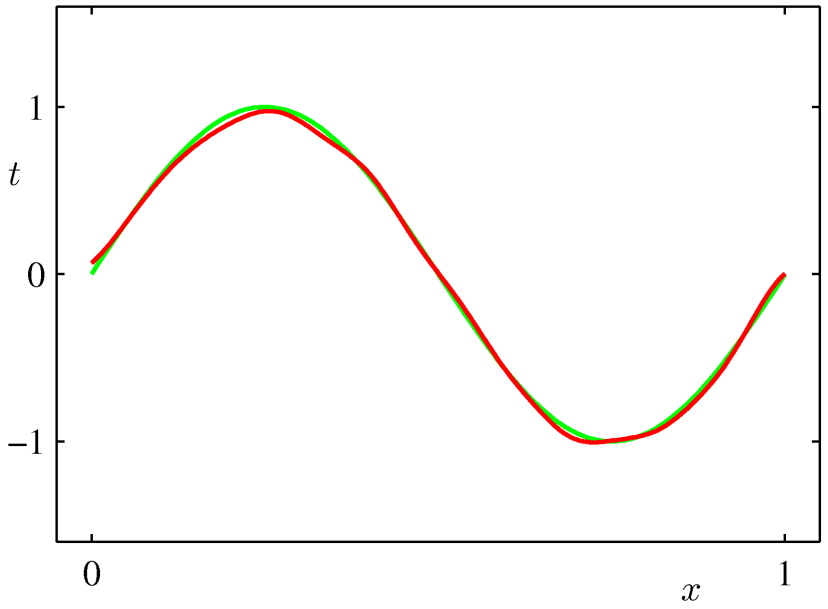




The Bias-Variance Decomposition (7)

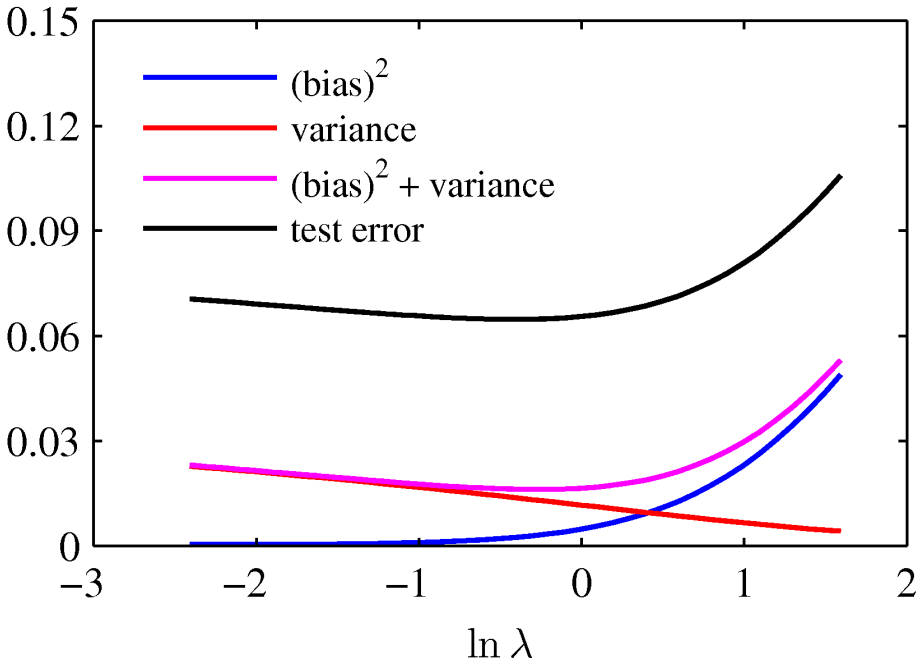
Example: 25 data sets from the sinusoidal, varying the degree of regularization, λ.





The Bias-Variance Trade-off

From these plots, we note that an over-regularized model (large λ) will have a high bias, while an under-regularized model (small λ) will have a high variance.



Bayesian Linear Regression (1)

Define a conjugate prior over $\mathbf{w}$

$$p(\mathbf{w}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{m}_0, \mathbf{S}_0).$$

Combining this with the likelihood function and using results for marginal and conditional Gaussian distributions, gives the posterior

$$p(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{t}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{m}_N, \mathbf{S}_N)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{m}_N &= \mathbf{S}_N \left(\mathbf{S}_0^{-1}\mathbf{m}_0 + \beta \mathbf{\Phi}^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{t} \right) \\ \mathbf{S}_N^{-1} &= \mathbf{S}_0^{-1} + \beta \mathbf{\Phi}^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{\Phi}. \end{aligned}$$

Bayesian Linear Regression (2)

A common choice for the prior is

$$p(\mathbf{w}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{0}, \alpha^{-1}\mathbf{I})$$

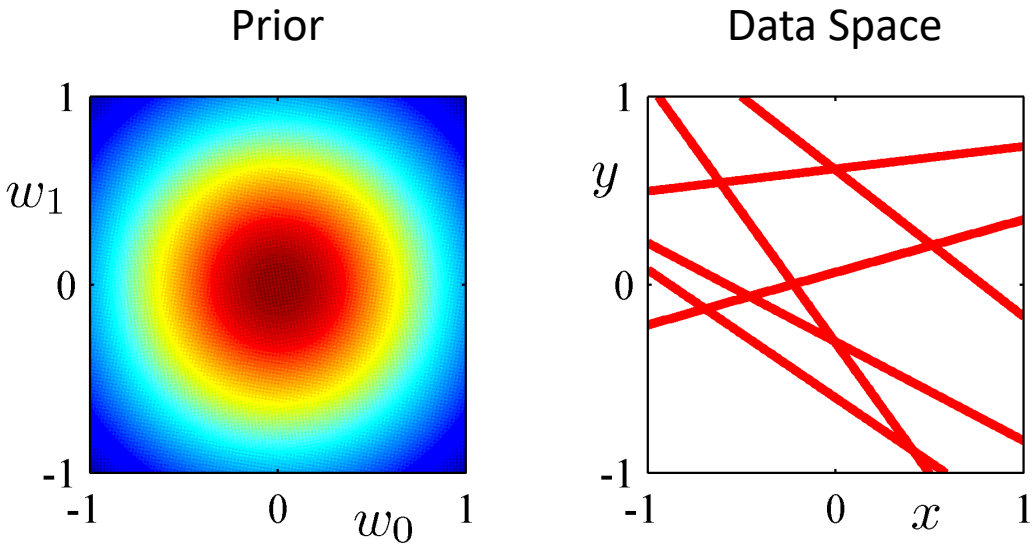
for which

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{m}_N &= \beta \mathbf{S}_N \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{t} \\ \mathbf{S}_N^{-1} &= \alpha \mathbf{I} + \beta \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{\mathrm{T}} \boldsymbol{\Phi}. \end{aligned}$$

Next we consider an example …

Bayesian Linear Regression (3)

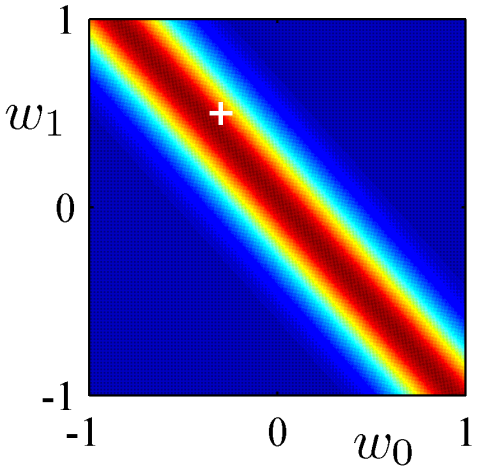
0 data points observed



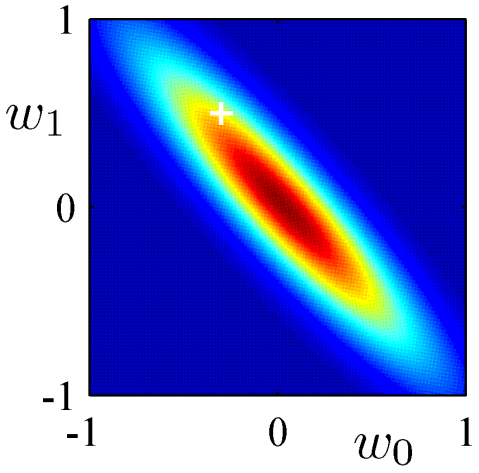
Bayesian Linear Regression (4)

1 data point observed

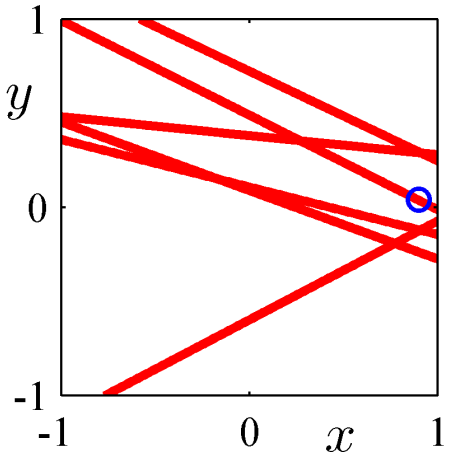
Likelihood



Posterior



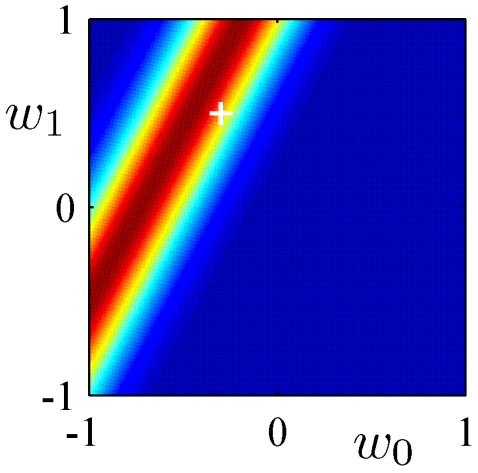
Data Space



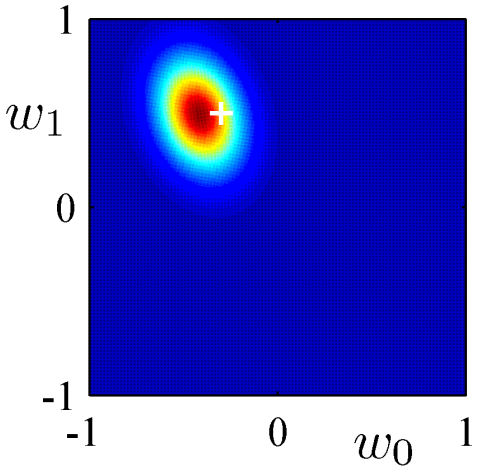
Bayesian Linear Regression (5)

2 data points observed

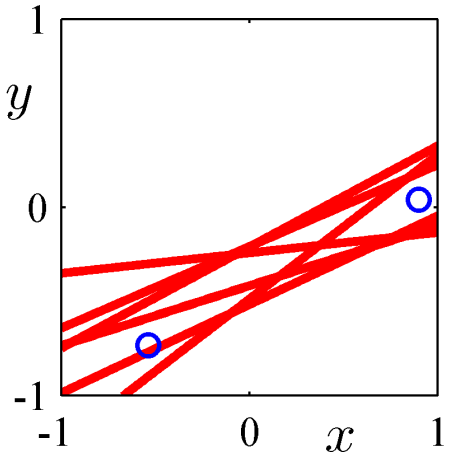
Likelihood



Posterior



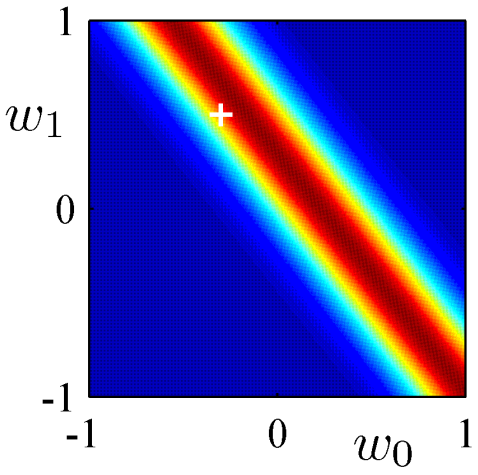
Data Space



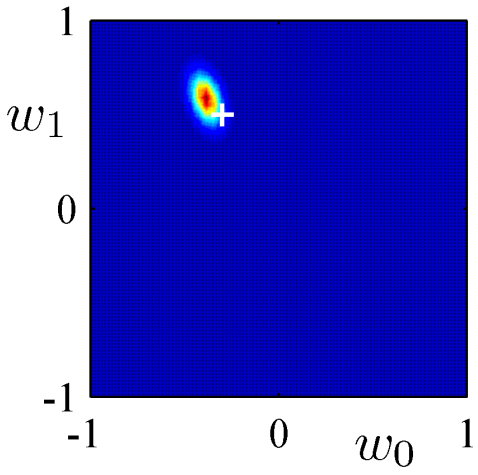
Bayesian Linear Regression (6)

20 data points observed

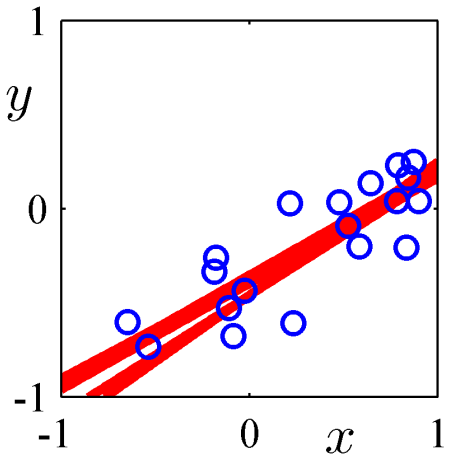
Likelihood



Posterior



Data Space



Predictive Distribution (1)

Predict t for new values of $\mathbf{x}$ by integrating over $\mathbf{w}$:

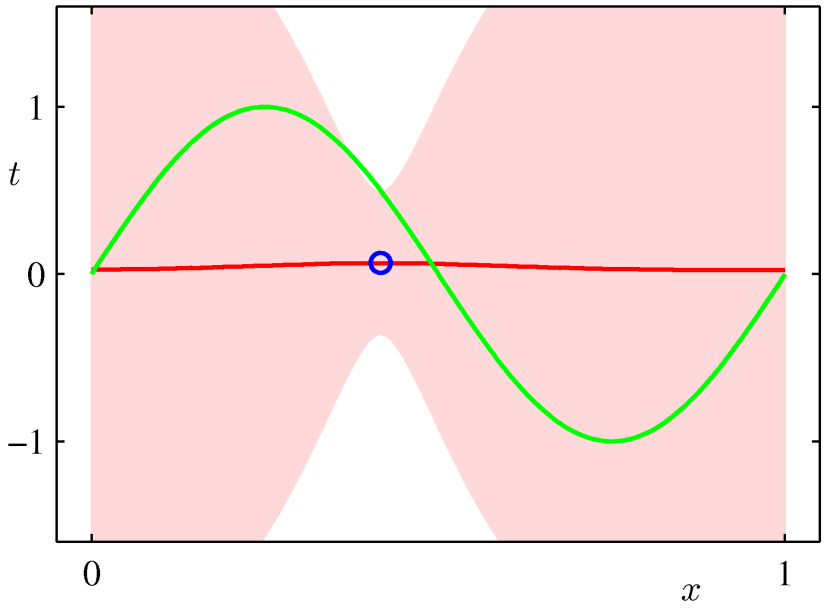
$$\begin{aligned} p(t|\mathbf{t}, \alpha, \beta) &= \int p(t|\mathbf{w}, \beta) p(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{t}, \alpha, \beta) \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{w} \\ &= \mathcal{N}(t|\mathbf{m}_N^{\mathrm{T}} \boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x}), \sigma_N^2(\mathbf{x})) \end{aligned}$$

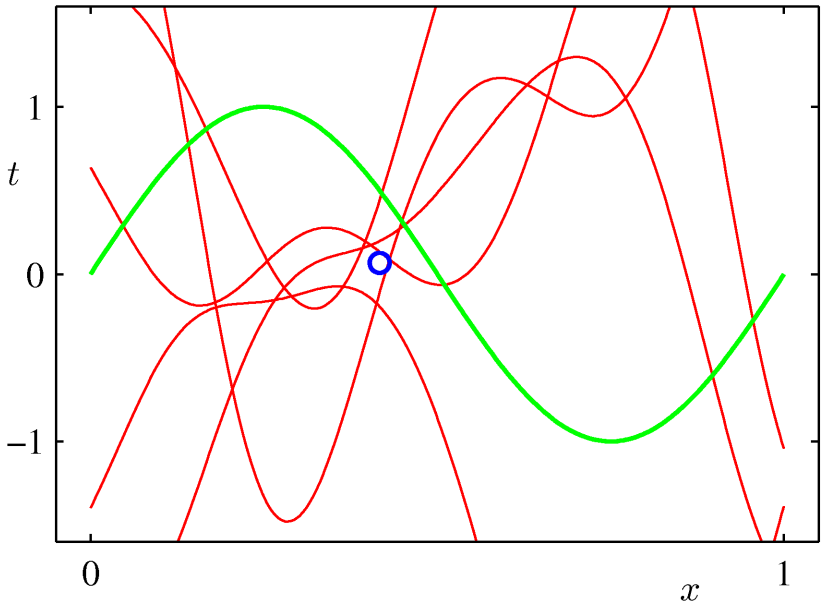
where

$$\sigma_N^2(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{\beta} + \boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x})^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{S}_N \boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x}).$$

Predictive Distribution (2)

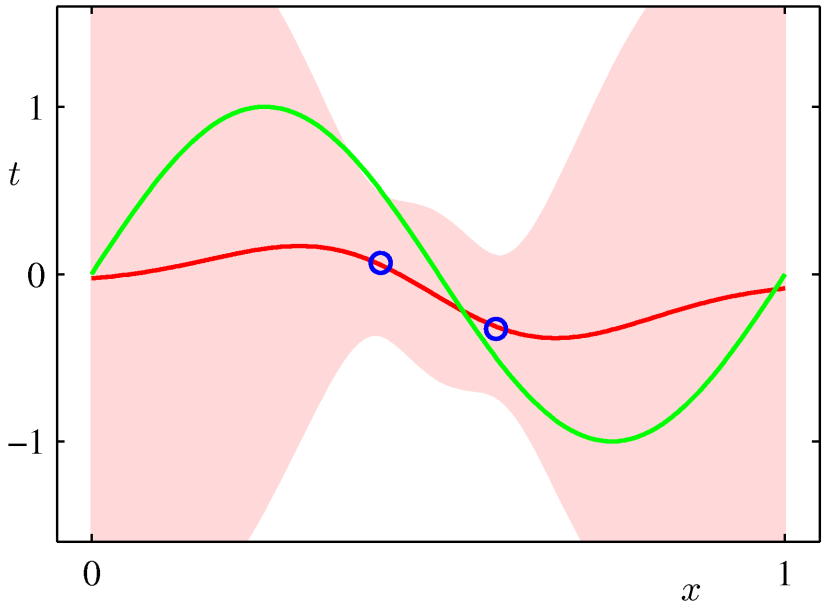
Example: Sinusoidal data, 9 Gaussian basis functions, 1 data point

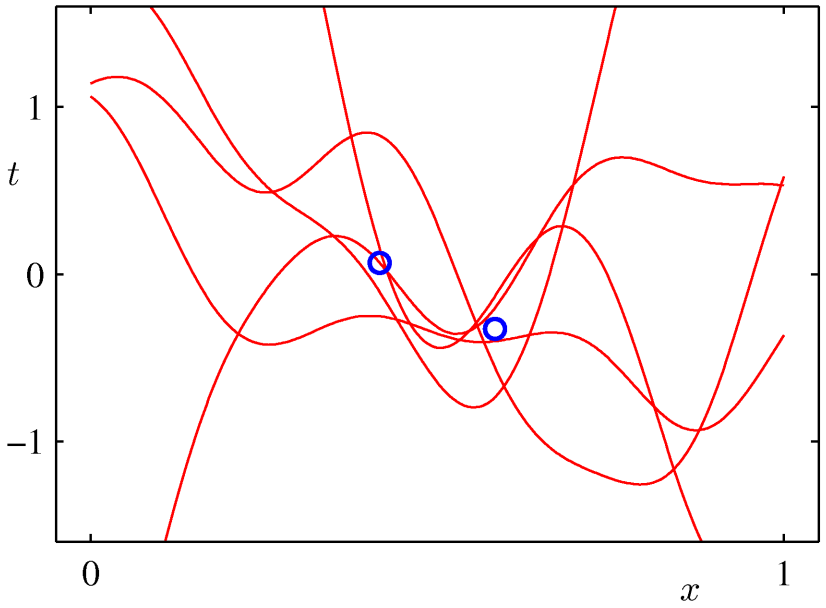




Predictive Distribution (3)

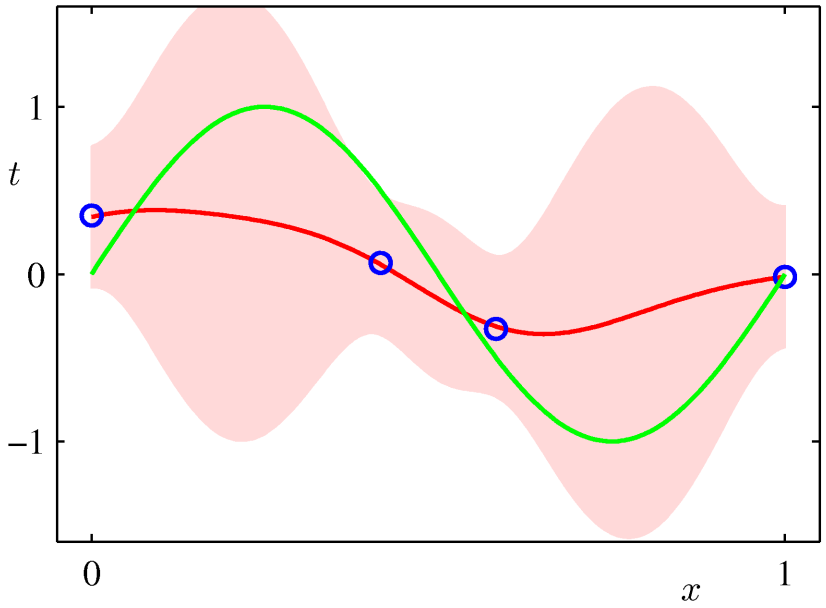
Example: Sinusoidal data, 9 Gaussian basis functions, 2 data points

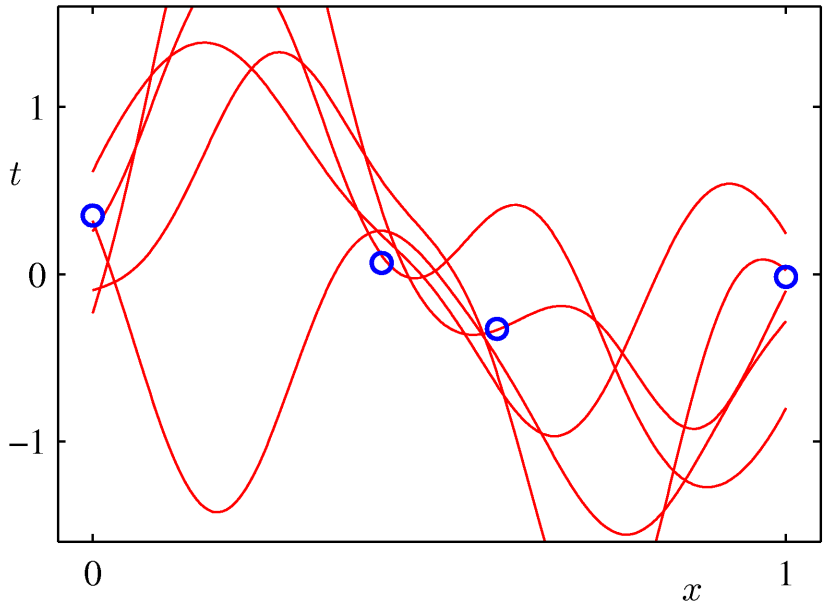




Predictive Distribution (4)

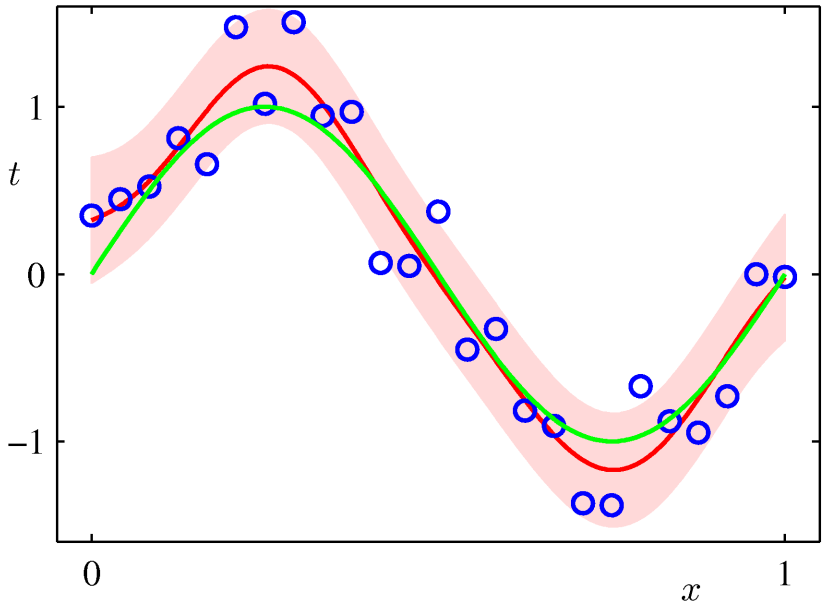
Example: Sinusoidal data, 9 Gaussian basis functions, 4 data points

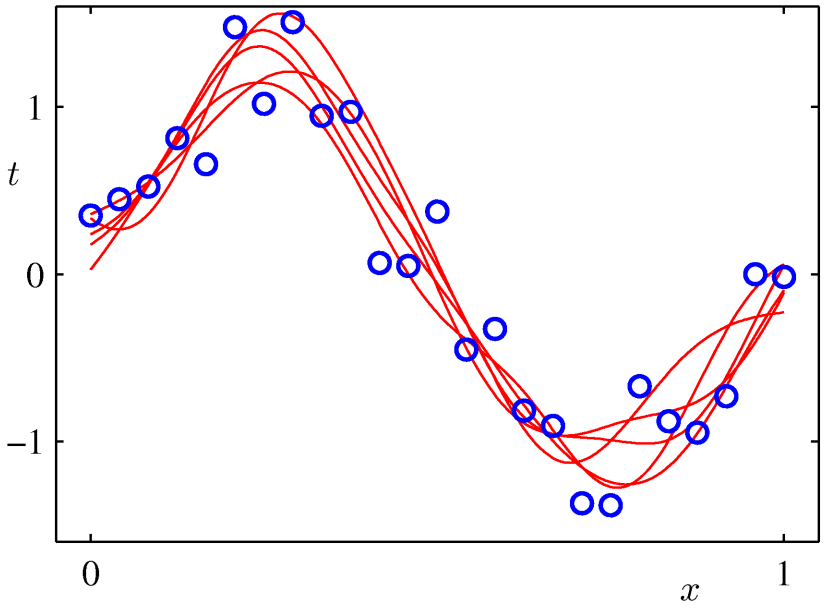




Predictive Distribution (5)

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





Equivalent Kernel (1)

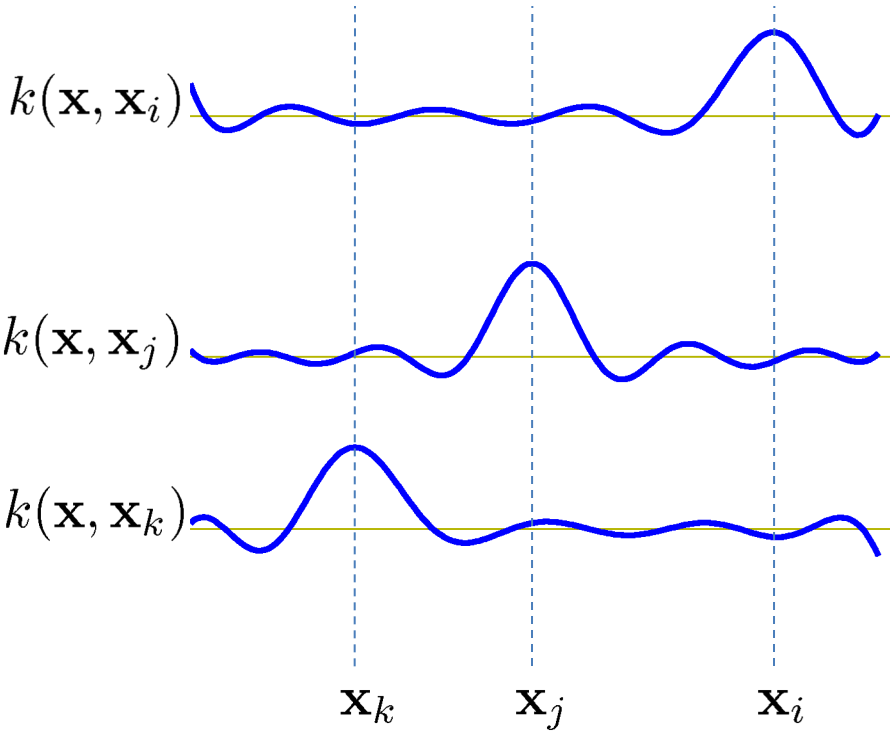
The predictive mean can be written

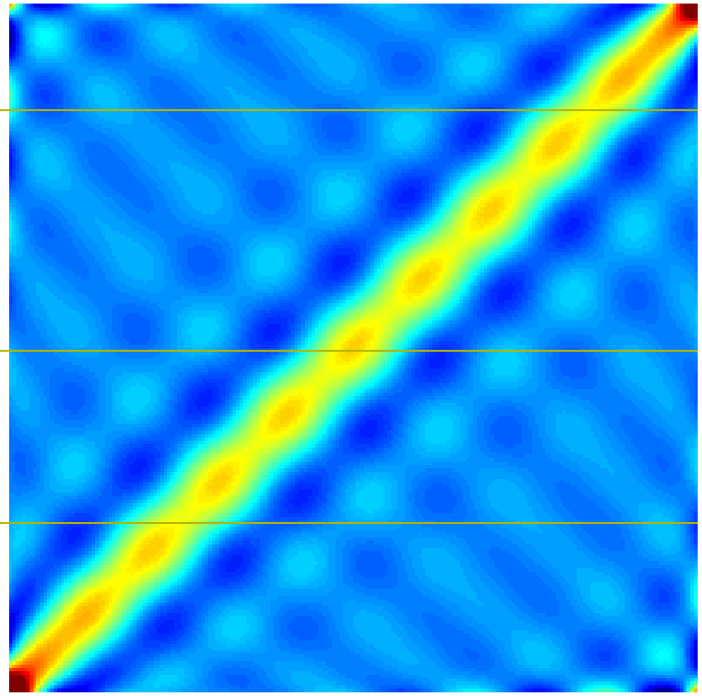
$$
\begin{aligned}
y(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{m}_N) &= \mathbf{m}_N^{\mathrm{T}} \boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x}) = \beta \boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x})^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{S}_N \boldsymbol{\Phi}^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{t} \\
&= \sum_{n=1}^{N} \beta \boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x})^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{S}_N \boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x}_n) t_n \\
&= \sum_{n=1}^{N} k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_n) t_n .
\end{aligned}
$$

Equivalent kernel or *smoother matrix*.

This is a weighted sum of the training data target values, t_n.

Equivalent Kernel (2)

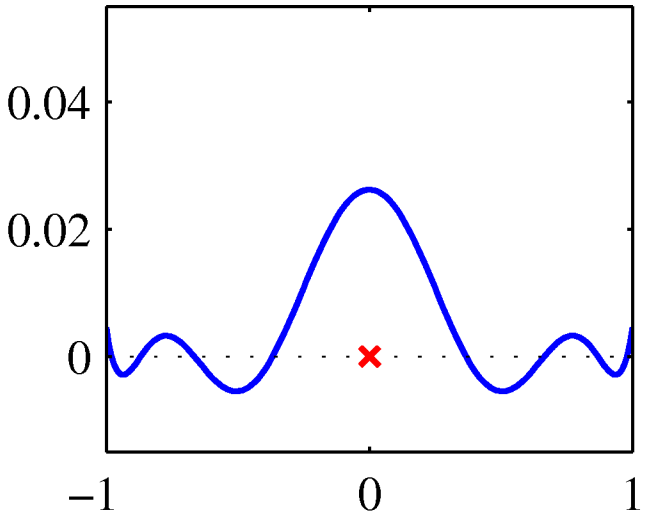




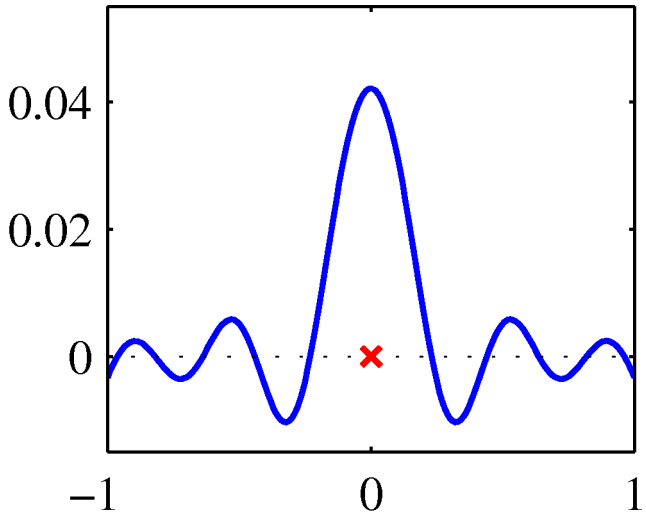
Weight of t_n depends on distance between $\mathbf{x}$ and $\mathbf{x}_n$; nearby $\mathbf{x}_n$ carry more weight.

Equivalent Kernel (3)

Non-local basis functions have local equivalent kernels:



Polynomial



Sigmoidal

Equivalent Kernel (4)

The kernel as a covariance function: consider

$$\begin{aligned}\mathrm{cov}[y(\mathbf{x}), y(\mathbf{x}')] &= \mathrm{cov}[\boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x})^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{w}^{\mathrm{T}}\boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x}')] \\ &= \boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x})^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{S}_N\boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x}') = \beta^{-1}k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}').\end{aligned}$$

We can avoid the use of basis functions and define the kernel function directly, leading to *Gaussian Processes* (Chapter 6).

Equivalent Kernel (5)

$$\sum_{n=1}^{N} k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_n) = 1$$

for all values of $\mathbf{x}$; however, the equivalent kernel may be negative for some values of $\mathbf{x}$.

Like all kernel functions, the equivalent kernel can be expressed as an inner product:

$$k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = \boldsymbol{\psi}(\mathbf{x})^{\mathrm{T}} \boldsymbol{\psi}(\mathbf{z})$$

where $\boldsymbol{\psi}(\mathbf{x}) = \beta^{1/2} \mathbf{S}_N^{1/2} \boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x})$.