

Foundations of Machine Learning

AI2000 and AI5000

FoML-10
Bias Variance Decomposition

Dr. Konda Reddy Mopuri
Department of AI, IIT Hyderabad
July-Nov 2025

So far in FoML

- What is ML and the learning paradigms
- Probability refresher
- MLE, MAP, and fully Bayesian treatment
- Linear Regression with basis functions - and regularization
- Model selection



Breaking down the prediction error of a model

Frequentist interpretation of the model complexity



ભારતીય નોંકેટિક વિજ્ઞાન સંસ્કૃત પ્રૌદ્યોગિક
ભારતીય પ્રૌદ્યોગિકી સંસ્થાન હૈદરાબાદ
Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad



Expected Loss for Regression

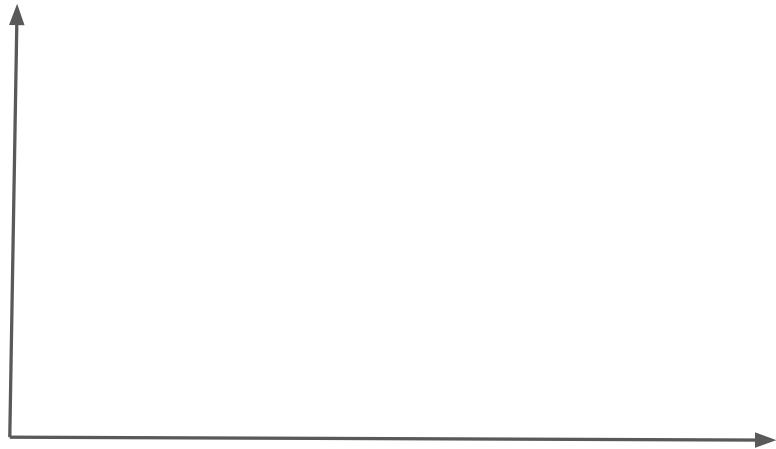
- Regression loss $L(t, y(\mathbf{x})) =$

Expected Loss for Regression

- Regression loss $L(t, y(\mathbf{x})) =$
- If we know the data distribution, we can find the

$$\mathbb{E}[L(t, y((\mathbf{x})))] =$$

Data and prediction distributions



Minimizing the Expected loss at given x



ભારતીય નોંકેટિક વિજ્ઞાન સંસ્કૃત પ્રેરણાખાર્ડ
ભારતીય પ્રૌદ્યોગિકી સંસ્થાન હૈદરાબાદ
Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad



Expected Loss for Regression

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



भारतीय नॉर्केटिक विज्ञान संस्था
भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान हैदराबाद
Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad



Minimizing the expected loss

$$\mathbb{E}[L] = \int \{y(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbb{E}[t/\mathbf{x}]\}^2 p(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} + \int \text{var}[t/\mathbf{x}] p(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}$$

- Optimal solution is unknown $y(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbb{E}[t/\mathbf{x}]$



Minimizing the expected loss

$$\mathbb{E}[L] = \int \{y(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbb{E}[t/\mathbf{x}]\}^2 p(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} + \int \text{var}[t/\mathbf{x}] p(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}$$

- Optimal solution is unknown $y(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbb{E}[t/\mathbf{x}]$
- We only have finite dataset (but not the distribution)



Minimizing the expected loss

$$\mathbb{E}[L] = \int \{y(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbb{E}[t/\mathbf{x}]\}^2 p(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} + \int \text{var}[t/\mathbf{x}] p(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}$$

- Frequentist approach → multiple datasets, multiple models

$$\mathbb{E}_D[(y_D(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbb{E}[t/\mathbf{x}])^2]$$

Minimizing the expected loss

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}_D[L]] = \int \mathbb{E}_D[(y_D(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbb{E}[t/\mathbf{x}])^2]p(\mathbf{x})d\mathbf{x} + \int \text{var}[t/\mathbf{x}]p(\mathbf{x})d\mathbf{x}$$

- Bias-Variance decomposition



Minimizing the expected loss

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}_D[L]] = \int \mathbb{E}_D[(y_D(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbb{E}[t/\mathbf{x}])^2]p(\mathbf{x})d\mathbf{x} + \int \text{var}[t/\mathbf{x}]p(\mathbf{x})d\mathbf{x}$$

- Bias-Variance decomposition

$$\mathbb{E}_D[(y_D(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbb{E}[t/\mathbf{x}])^2] = \mathbb{E}_D[(y_D(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbb{E}_D[y_D(\mathbf{x})] + \mathbb{E}_D[y_D(\mathbf{x})] - \mathbb{E}[t/\mathbf{x}])^2]$$

(Bias)² =

Variance =

Noise =



भारतीय नॉर्किंग विज्ञान संस्था
प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान हैदराबाद
Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad

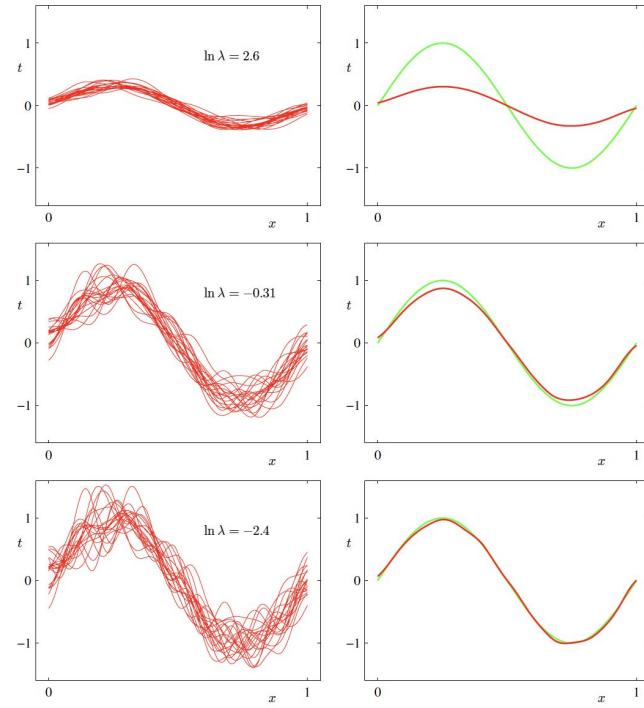


Example

Bias-Variance Decomposition Example

- 100 datasets of size 25
- $x \sim U[0, 1]$
- $t = \sin(2\pi x) + \epsilon$

$$\mathbb{E}_D[y_D(x)] = \bar{y}(x)$$



Bias-Variance Decomposition Example

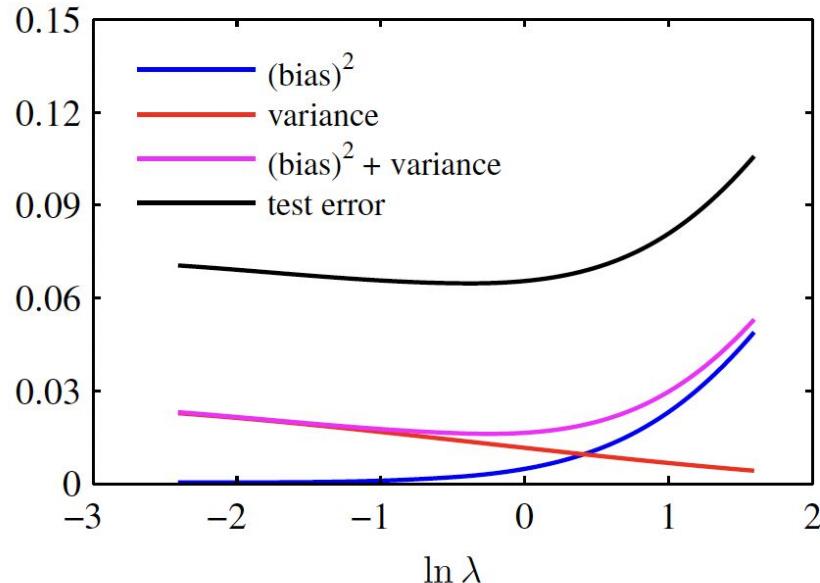
Estimating the bias and variance

$$(\text{bias})^2 = \int \{\mathbb{E}_D[y_D(x)] - \mathbb{E}[t/x]\}^2 p(x) dx$$

$$\text{variance} = \mathbb{E}_D[\{y_D(x) - \mathbb{E}_D[y_D(x)]\}]^2 p(x) dx$$



Bias-Variance Decomposition Example



Bias-Variance Decomposition

- In practice - we don't split our dataset to determine the model complexity
 - Large datasets are better
- Bayesian regression!



Rough work



भारतीय नॉर्किंग विज्ञान संस्था
भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान हैदराबाद
Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad



Next Bayesian Regression



ભારતીય નોંકેટિક વિજ્ઞાન સંસ્કૃત પ્રેરણાખાડ
ભારતીય પ્રૌદ્યોગિકી સંસ્થાન હૈદરાબાદ
Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad

