## Foundation of Intelligent Systems, Part I

Regression

mcuturi@i.kyoto-u.ac.jp

### **Before starting**

• Please take this **survey** before the end of this week.



- Here are a few books which you can check beyond the slides.
  - Elements of Statistical Learning, Hastie Tibshirani Friedman
  - Pattern Recognition, Theodoridis Koutroumbras
  - Pattern Recognition & Machine Learning, Bishop
- You can also check Andrew Ng's video lectures (Stanford)

# **Fundamentals in Regression**

- ullet Can be studied from different viewpoints: statistical, linear algebra, Al... etc.
- Linear regression is currently revived by different ideas in sparsity
  - $\circ$  Lasso (1996 $\rightarrow$ )
  - $\circ$  SVM for regression (1996 $\rightarrow$ )
  - Compressed Sensing (2002→)

### One of the most standard data analysis tasks: Regression

Data: many observations of the same data type

- We have a database  $\{\mathbf{x}_1, \cdots, \mathbf{x}_N\}$ .
- Each datapoint  $\mathbf{x}_j$  can be encoded as a vector of features  $\mathbf{x}_j = \begin{bmatrix} x_1, j \\ x_2, j \\ \vdots \\ x_{\mathbf{d}, j} \end{bmatrix}$
- Each feature  $x_{i,j}$  of a given point  $\mathbf{x}_j$   $1 \le i \le d$  is a number.

This database can be seen as a  $\mathbb{R}^{d \times N}$  matrix

$$\{\mathbf{x}^{1}, \cdots, \mathbf{x}^{N}\} \Longleftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_{1,1} & x_{1,2} & \cdots & x_{1,N} \\ x_{2,1} & x_{2,2} & \cdots & x_{2,N} \\ x_{3,1} & x_{3,2} & \cdots & x_{3,N} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ x_{d,1} & x_{d,2} & \cdots & x_{d,N} \end{bmatrix}$$

### **Examples**





Patient 
$$\mathbf{x}_j = \begin{bmatrix} & \text{height} & \\ & \text{weight} & \\ & \vdots & \\ \# \text{ minutes exercise/week} & \\ & \text{LDL cholesterol} & \\ & \text{HDL cholesterol} & \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\mathsf{Blog}\; \mathbf{x}_j = \begin{bmatrix} \mathsf{avg.}\; \mathsf{pages}\; \mathsf{view/month} \\ \#\; \mathsf{posts} \\ \vdots \\ \mathsf{avg.}\; \#\; \mathsf{comments/month} \\ \mathsf{revenue}\; \mathsf{from}\; \mathsf{ads/month} \end{bmatrix}$$

#### Within such variables...

- Some variables are very cheap to measure, others very expensive
- Some variables might have a strong influence on other variables

- In the regression setting, the d variables are split between...
  - k regressor (or predictor) variables
  - $\circ d k$  response (or predicted) variables

...to highlight such a difference or **guess** expensive variables from **cheap** ones.

### The Regression Problem

• Given,

$$\circ \text{ A database } \{\mathbf{x}_1,\cdots,\mathbf{x}_N\} \Longleftrightarrow X = \begin{bmatrix} x_{1,1} & x_{1,2} & \cdots & x_{1,N} \\ x_{2,1} & x_{2,2} & \cdots & x_{2,N} \\ x_{3,1} & x_{3,2} & \cdots & x_{3,N} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ x_{d,1} & x_{d,2} & \cdots & x_{d,N} \end{bmatrix}$$

- $\circ$  A set of k regressors variables  $\text{Reg} \subset \{1, \cdots, d\}$
- $\circ$  A set of d-k response variable Res  $\subset \{1,\cdots,d\}$
- Regression = build a function  $f: \mathbb{R}^k \to \mathbb{R}^{d-k}$  such that,

$$\forall \mathbf{x}, f((\mathbf{x_i})_{i \in \text{Reg}}) \approx (\mathbf{x_k})_{k \in \text{Res}}.$$

• e.g. if d=6, k=4,  $\mathrm{Reg}=\{1,2,3,4\}$ ,  $\mathrm{Res}=\{5,6\}$  we look for a function  $f:\mathbb{R}^4\to\mathbb{R}^2$ ,

$$f(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \approx (x_5, x_6)$$

### **Examples continued**





$$\mathsf{Patient} \; \mathbf{x}_j = \begin{bmatrix} & \mathsf{height} \\ & \mathsf{weight} \\ & \vdots \\ \# \; \mathsf{minutes} \; \mathsf{exercise/week} \\ & \mathsf{LDL} \; \mathsf{cholesterol} \\ & \mathsf{HDL} \; \mathsf{cholesterol} \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\mathsf{Blog}\; \mathbf{x}_j = \begin{bmatrix} \mathsf{avg.}\; \mathsf{pages}\; \mathsf{view/month} \\ \#\; \mathsf{posts} \\ \vdots \\ \mathsf{avg.}\; \#\; \mathsf{comments/month} \\ \mathsf{revenue}\; \mathsf{from}\; \mathsf{ads/month} \end{bmatrix}$$

### **Examples continued**



$$\mathsf{Credit\ card\ holder\ } \mathbf{x}_j = \begin{bmatrix} \mathsf{Income} \\ \mathsf{Age} \\ \vdots \\ \mathsf{Work\ history\ (months)} \\ \mathsf{Family} \\ \# \ \mathsf{Credit\ Incidents} \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\mathsf{Patient} \; \mathbf{x}_j = \begin{bmatrix} & \mathsf{height} \\ & \mathsf{weight} \\ & \vdots \\ \# \; \mathsf{minutes} \; \mathsf{exercise/week} \\ & \mathsf{LDL} \; \mathsf{cholesterol} \\ & \mathsf{HDL} \; \mathsf{cholesterol} \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\mathsf{Blog}\; \mathbf{x}_j = \begin{bmatrix} \mathsf{avg.}\; \mathsf{pages}\; \mathsf{view/month} \\ \#\; \mathsf{posts} \\ \vdots \\ \mathsf{avg.}\; \#\; \mathsf{comments/month} \\ \mathsf{revenue}\; \mathsf{from}\; \mathsf{ads/month} \end{bmatrix}$$

### In the following slides...

We only consider tasks with **one response** variable

- All other variables are regressors.
- We rename the **response** variable **y** and reassign  $x_1, \dots, x_d$  for the **regressors**
- predicting more than one variable? heavier mathematically, but similar.

We assume that **y** takes **continuous values**.

- When y takes discrete values, notably binary  $\{0,1\}$  things change a bit.
- Yet... binary c real : regression techniques "work" on discrete data
- but real ⊈ binary... we'll discuss that later.

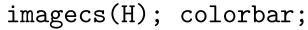
### Today's Example: Your apartment

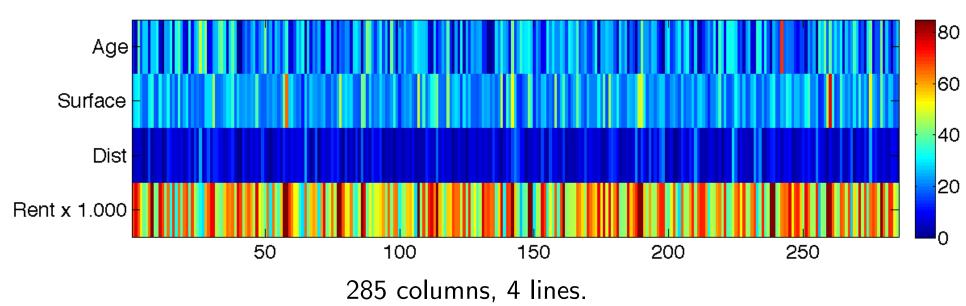


Collected information about 285 (out of 1226) apartments close to Kyoto U.

Kept 4 variables: Surface, Rent, Age of Building, Walking distance to station.

#### What does the matrix look like?

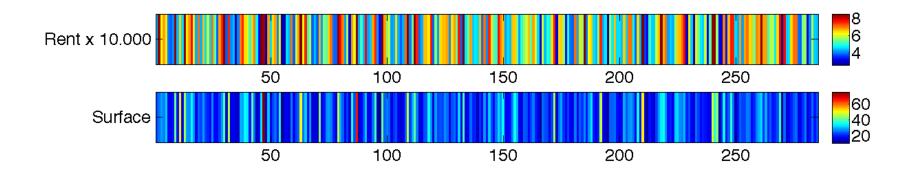


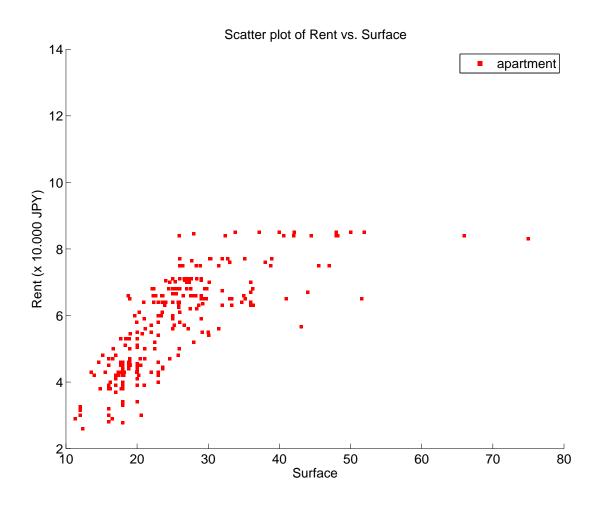


Each column represents one apartment.

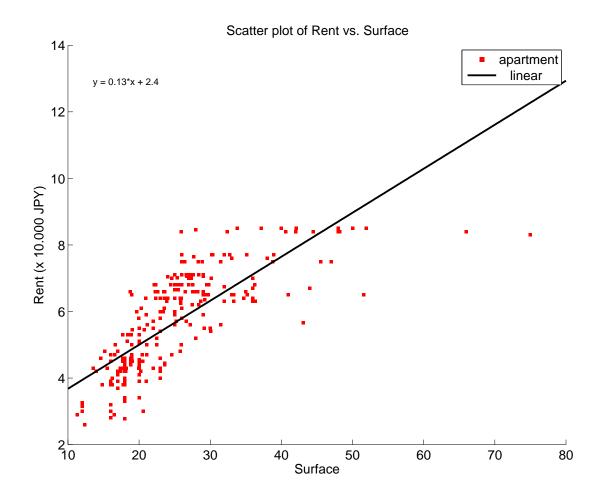
In these slides, we will regress the rent using age, surface and distance

# Regression: one variable vs. another

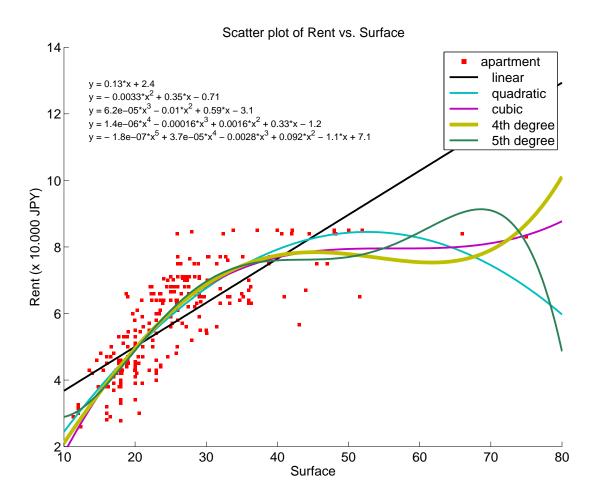




Note that the dataset has been censored above 85.000 JPY



Using the linear tool in curve fitting, we obtain the approximation  $\mathbf{y} = 0.13x + 2.4$ 



We can use higher order polynomials... yet look at the results.

#### Behind the curve tool

Matlab selects these curves using the least-squares criterion e.g.

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{f}\in\mathcal{F}} \sum_{j=1}^{N} (y_j - \boldsymbol{f}(x_j))^2$$

#### where $\mathcal{F}$ is a class of functions

Matlab considers a few function classes. Among them..

$$\circ$$
 Linear  $\min_{b,a_1\in\mathbb{R}} \sum_{j=1}^N \left(y_j - (\pmb{b} + \pmb{a_1x_j})\right)^2$ 

$$\circ$$
 Quadratic  $\min_{b,a_1,a_2\in\mathbb{R}} \sum_{j=1}^N \left(y_j - (m{b} + m{a_1}m{x_j} + m{a_2}m{x_j^2})\right)^2$ 

$$\circ \ \, \mathsf{Quadratic} \, \min_{b,a_1,a_2 \in \mathbb{R}} \, \sum_{j=1}^N \left( y_j - ( \boldsymbol{b} + \boldsymbol{a_1} \boldsymbol{x_j} + \boldsymbol{a_2} \boldsymbol{x_j^2} ) \right)^2 \\ \circ \ \, \mathsf{Cubic} \, \min_{b,a_1,a_2,a_3 \in \mathbb{R}} \, \sum_{j=1}^N \left( y_j - ( \boldsymbol{b} + \boldsymbol{a_1} \boldsymbol{x_j} + \boldsymbol{a_2} \boldsymbol{x_j^2} + \boldsymbol{a_3} \boldsymbol{x_j^3} ) \right)^2$$

 $\circ$  etc.

#### How can we solve this? The linear case

Let's take a look at the function

$$(a,b) \mapsto \sum_{j=1}^{N} (y_j - (\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{a}x_j))^2.$$

Using the notations

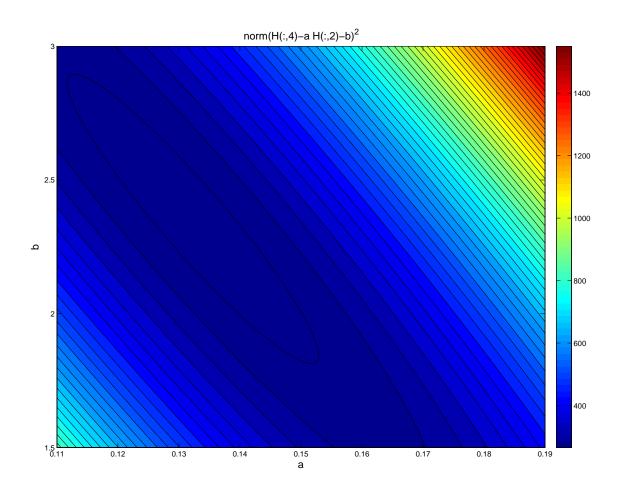
Rent 
$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 & y_2 & \cdots & y_N \end{bmatrix}$$
  
Surface  $X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & \cdots & x_N \end{bmatrix}$   
Constant  $\mathbf{1}_N = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ 

we have that

$$\sum_{j=1}^{N} (y_j - (\mathbf{a}x_j + \mathbf{b}))^2 = ||Y - aX - b\mathbf{1}_N||^2$$

## Contour plot of $(a,b) \rightarrow ||Y - aX - b\mathbf{1}_N||^2$

• Since we only handle 2 parameters, we can make a contour plot



• This validates the equation y = 0.13x + 2.4. How to get there?

### Some linear algebra

We define the function L as

$$L: (a,b) \mapsto \sum_{j=1}^{N} (y_j - (\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{a}x_j))^2$$

• The partial derivatives of L can be computed.

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial a} = -2\sum_{j=1}^{N} (y_j - (\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{a}x_j)) x_j$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial b} = -2\sum_{j=1}^{N} y_j - (\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{a}x_j)$$

• Any minimum  $(a^*, b^*)$  of L must be a saddle point.

### Some linear algebra

• Namely, the partial derivatives of L at  $(a^*, b^*)$  must be zero

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial a} = 2\left(\mathbf{a}\sum_{j} x_{j}^{2} + \mathbf{b}\sum_{j} x_{j} - \sum_{j} y_{j} x_{j}\right)$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial b} = 2\left(N\mathbf{b} - \sum_{j} y_{j} + \mathbf{a}\sum_{j} x_{j}\right)$$

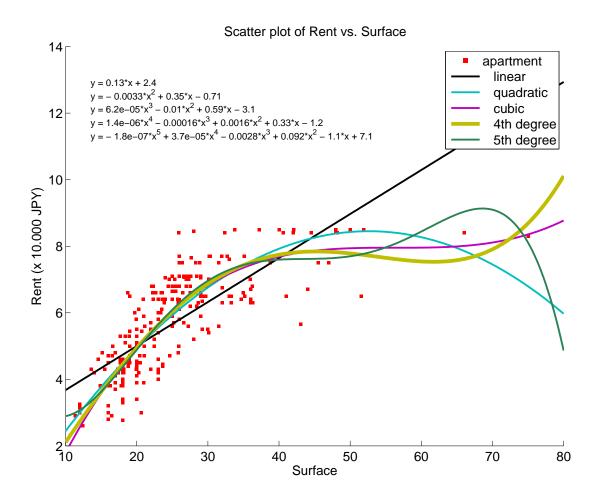
• Hence  $(a^*, b^*)$  must satisfy the linear system

$$0 = a^* \sum x_j^2 + b^* \sum x_j - \sum y_j x_j$$
$$0 = Nb^* - \sum y_j + a^* \sum x_j$$

Namely,

$$\begin{bmatrix} a^{\star} \\ b^{\star} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sum x_j^2 & \sum x_j \\ \sum x_j & N \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \sum y_j x_j \\ \sum y_j \end{bmatrix}$$

• ans = 0.132248772789152 2.354203561671262



We understood how to get the linear curve. What about the quadratic?

### What about the quadratic case?

Quadratic 
$$\min_{b,a_1,a_2\in\mathbb{R}} \sum_{j=1}^N \left(y_j - (\boldsymbol{b} + \boldsymbol{a_1}\boldsymbol{x_j} + \boldsymbol{a_2}\boldsymbol{x_j^2})\right)$$

same idea... define

$$L: (a_1, a_2, b) \mapsto \sum_{j=1}^{N} (y_j - (\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{a_1} x_j + \mathbf{a_2} x_j^2))^2$$

look at the objective's derivatives...

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial a_2} = -2\sum_{j=1}^{N} (y_j - (\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{a_1} x_j + \mathbf{a_2} x_j^2)) x_j^2$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial a_1} = -2\sum_{j=1}^{N} (y_j - (\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{a_1} x_j + \mathbf{a_2} x_j^2)) x_j$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial b} = -2\sum_{j=1}^{N} (y_j - (\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{a_1} x_j + \mathbf{a_2} x_j^2))$$

### What about the quadratic case?

We consider the equations that a saddle point must verify:

$$0 = \sum_{j=1}^{N} (y_j - (b^* + a_1^* x_j + a_2^* x_j^2)) x_j^2$$

$$0 = \sum_{j=1}^{N} (y_j - (b^* + a_1^* x_j + a_2^* x_j^2)) x_j$$

$$0 = \sum_{j=1}^{N} (y_j - (b^* + a_1^* x_j + a_2^* x_j^2))$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_2^{\star} \\ a_1^{\star} \\ b^{\star} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sum x_j^4 & \sum x_j^3 & \sum x_j^2 \\ \sum x_j^3 & \sum x_j^2 & \sum x_j \\ \sum x_j^2 & \sum x_j & N \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \sum y_j x_j^2 \\ \sum y_j x_j \\ \sum y_j \end{bmatrix}$$

• ans = -0.003306463076068 0.347969105896777 -0.705157514974559

### **Higher order polynomials**

- Intuitively, for polynomial up to degree p we would have to
  - Build the corresponding Toeplitz Matrix
  - $\circ$  Build the corresponding vector with y and x combined at different exponents
  - Solve the linear system
- Surprisingly

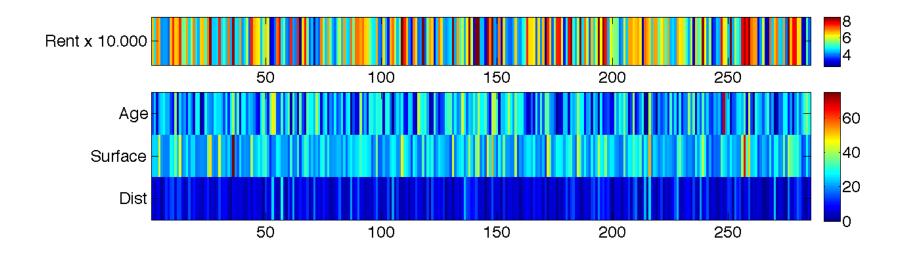
Finding the best  $p^{\rm th}$  order polynomial with least-squares  $\updownarrow$  Solving a p dimensional linear system

- Not so surprising after all:
  - Least-squares: objective of degree 2 in coefficients
  - $\circ$  Minimum  $\Leftrightarrow$  saddle point  $\Leftrightarrow$  system of degree 1..
  - Least-squares has been chosen because it yields a linear system...

## The general case: one vs. all rest

What about using all other variables?

Rent 
$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 & y_2 & \cdots & y_N \end{bmatrix}$$
 All other variables  $X = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}_1 & \mathbf{x}_2 & \cdots & \mathbf{x}_N \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix}$ 



### The general case

- We assume that we have d regressor variables, 1 response variable.
- ullet Consider again the **linear** approach. We look for a function f of the form

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 x_1 + \alpha_2 x_2 + \dots + \alpha_d x_d.$$

- We want to determine d + 1 weights,
  - $\circ$  a constant  $\alpha_0$
  - $\circ$  1  $\leq i \leq d, \alpha_i$  weights for each variable.
- Least squares:

$$L(\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \cdots, \alpha_d) = \sum_{j=1}^{N} (y_j - (\boldsymbol{\alpha_0} + \boldsymbol{\alpha_1} x_{1,j} + \boldsymbol{\alpha_2} x_{2,j} + \cdots + \boldsymbol{\alpha_d} x_{d,j})^2$$

### The general case

Notice that

$$L(\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \cdots, \alpha_d) \to \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left( y_i - \left( \alpha_0 + \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_d \end{bmatrix}^T \mathbf{x}_i \right) \right)^2 = \| \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_0 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_d \end{bmatrix}^T X - Y \|^2,$$

where

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}_1 & \mathbf{x}_2 & \cdots & \mathbf{x}_N \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1 \times N}$$

and

$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 & \cdots & y_N \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^N.$$

• We write  $\alpha$  for the d+1 dimensional vector  $\begin{bmatrix} \alpha_0 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_d \end{bmatrix}$  .

### Linear least squares

Expanding this expression,

$$L(\alpha) = (\alpha^T X X^T \alpha - 2Y X^T \alpha + ||Y||^2)$$

Consider the gradient of that function

$$\nabla L = 2XX^T\alpha - 2XY^T$$

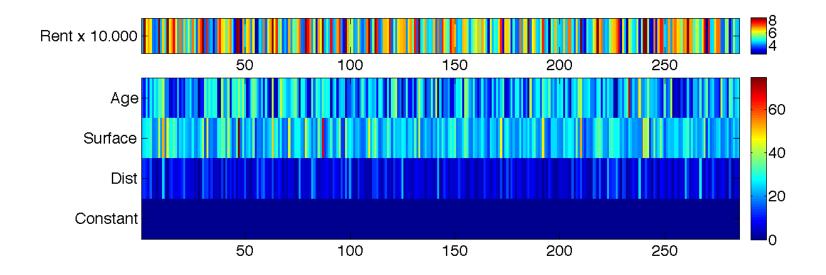
Hence this gradient is zero for

$$\alpha^* = (XX^T)^{-1}XY^T$$

- $XX^T \in \mathbf{S}^n_+$ , that is  $XX^T$  is a positive (semi)definite matrix.
- This works if  $XX^T \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$  is **invertible**, that is  $XX^T \in \mathbf{S}_{++}^n$ .

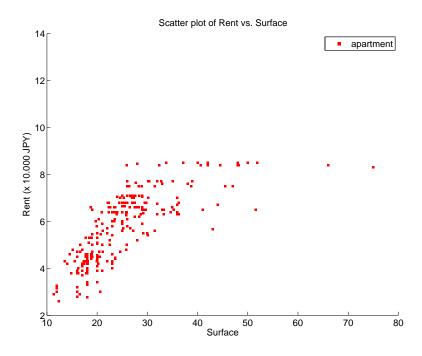
### Considering again rents vs the rest

• Getting the data again, adding a line of  $\mathbf{1}'s$ 



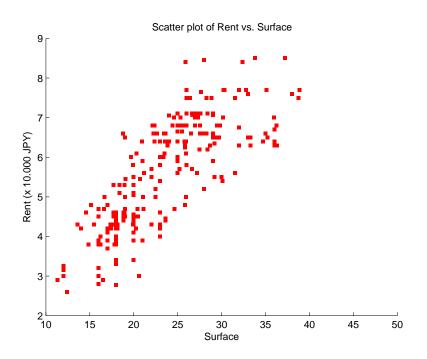
5.611128285287092

### What went wrong?



 $\mathsf{rent} \! = 0.00014 \; \mathsf{age} \; + \; 0.00422 \; \mathsf{surf} \; \text{-} 0.0125 \; \mathsf{dist} \; + \; 56.110 \; \mathsf{JPY}$ 

### What happens if we remove outliers? (surf> 40)



Moral of the story: easy to draw wrong conclusions even with simple tools

### What else can go wrong? Next time...

- What happens when  $d \gg n$ ?  $(XX^T)$  is **no longer invertible**...
  - o high-dimensional data in genomics,
  - images analysis (lots of features)

- What happens when  $(XX^T)$  is badly conditioned  $(\frac{\lambda_{\min}(XX^T)}{\lambda_{\max}(XX^T)} \approx 0)$ ?
  - $\circ$  if  $\lambda_{\min}(XX^T) = 1e 10$ ,  $\lambda_{\max}((XX^T)^{-1}) = 1e10!!$
  - Very bad numerical stability of the solution...

- When  $d \gg n$ , we might want to do variable selection,
  - $\circ$  *i.e.* pick a subset d' of the d variables which is relevant to predict **y**.
  - $\circ$  *i.e.* favor vectors  $\beta$  such that  $\|\beta\|_0 = \operatorname{card} \beta_i \neq 0$  is small.