



**POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO**

# Data Science Lab

Regression Analysis: Fundamentals

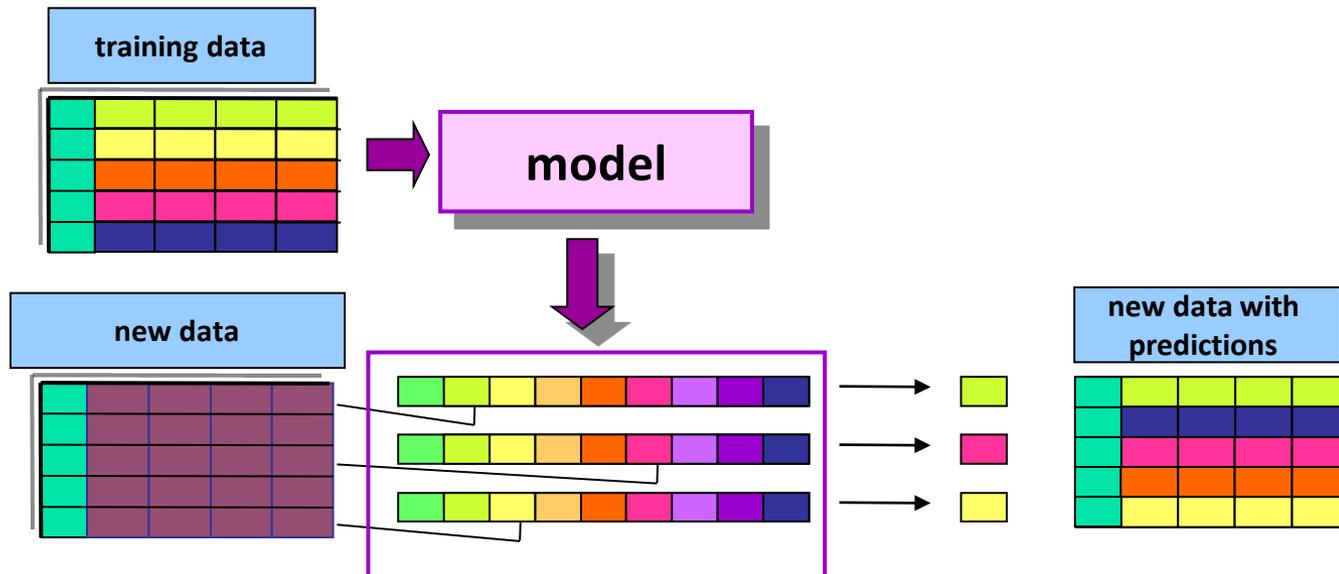
DataBase and Data Mining Group

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# Introduction to the regression analysis

- Objectives

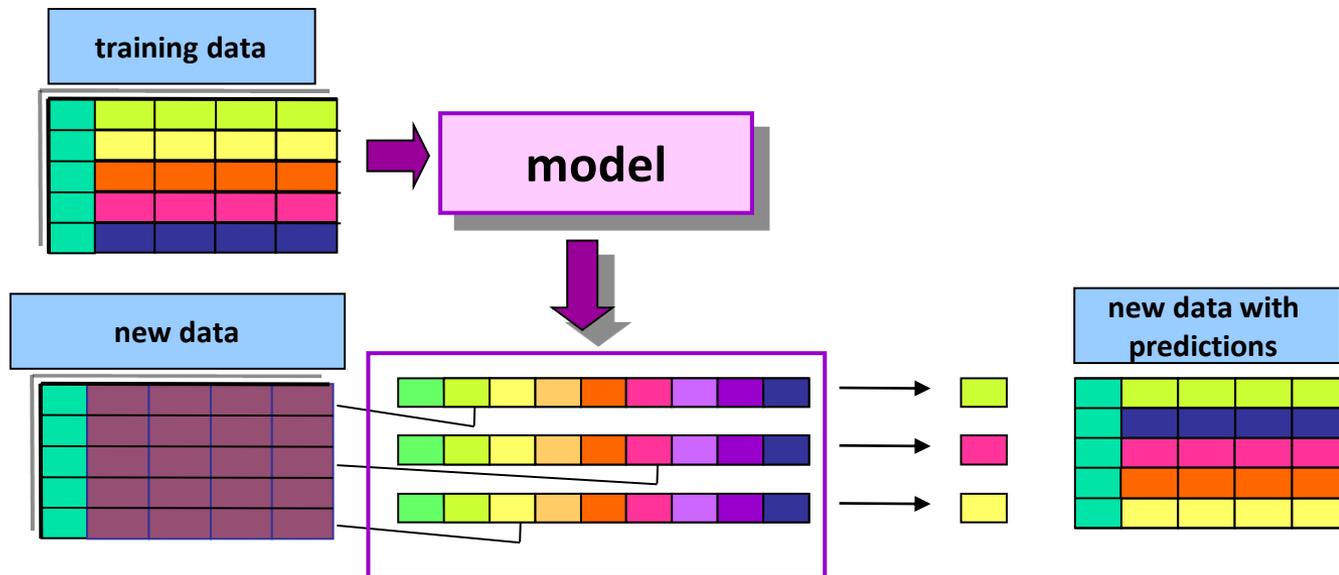
- Prediction of a **numerical target variable**
- Definition of an **interpretable model** of a given phenomenon



# Introduction to the regression analysis

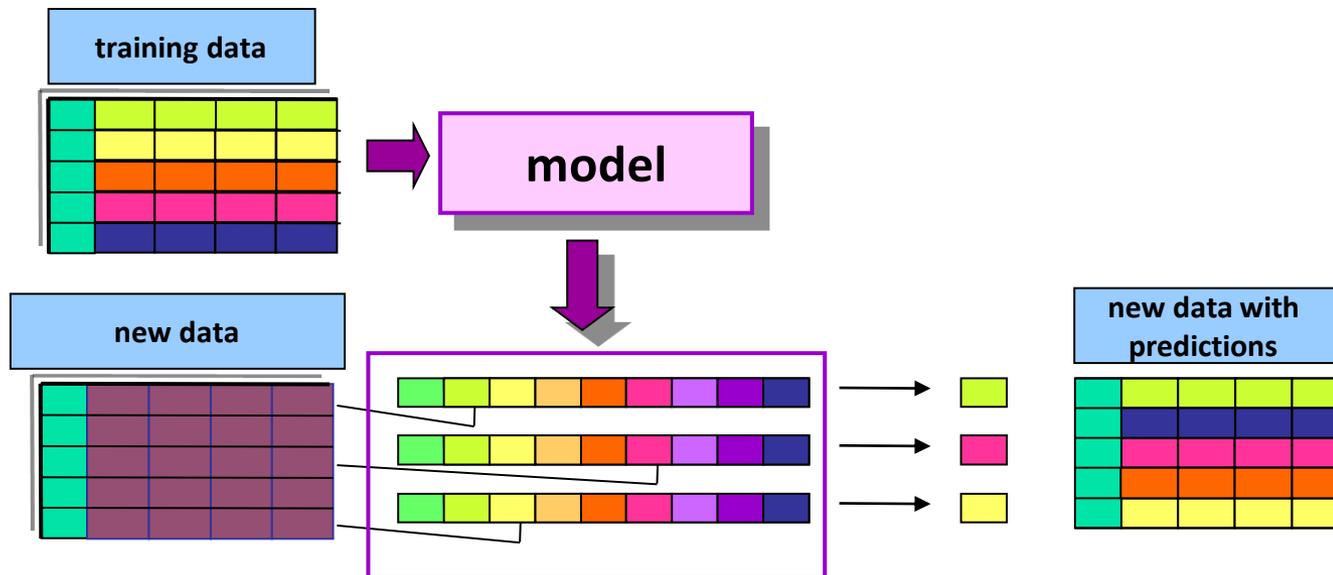
- Approach discussed in this set of slides
  - **Linear regression**
  - **SVMs (SVR)**

- Other approaches
  - k-Nearest Neighbours
  - Decision trees
  - ..



# Introduction to the regression analysis

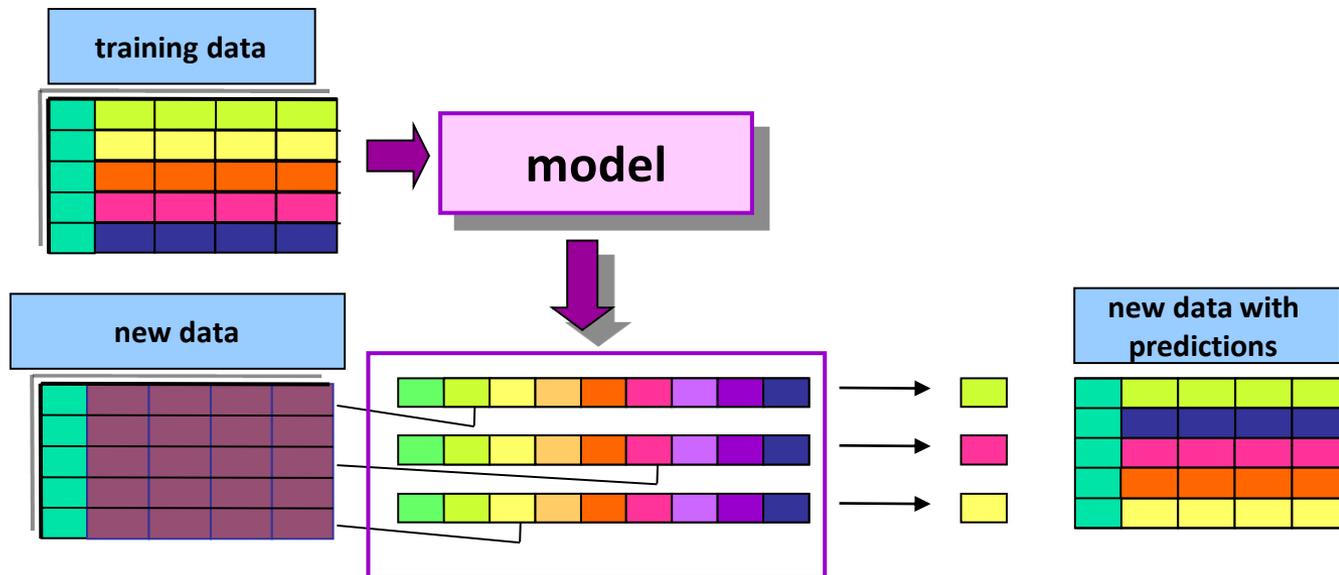
- Requirements
  - **accuracy**
  - interpretability
  - scalability
  - **noise and outlier management**



# Introduction to the regression analysis

## ■ Applications

- Estimating the cost of a house
- Estimating the remaining useful life (RUL) of an industrial equipment
- Industrial Vehicle Usage Predictions
- Predicting the Number of Free Floating Car Sharing Vehicles within Urban Areas
- ...



- The term "regression" was coined by **Francis Galton** in 1877 to describe a biological phenomenon
  - the heights of descendants of tall ancestors tend to regress down towards a normal average (i.e, regression toward the mean)
- Father of regression **Carl F. Gauss** (1777–1855)

- Given
  - A numerical target attribute
  - A collection of data objects also characterized by the target attribute
- The regression task finds a model that allows predicting the target variable value of new objects through
  - $y = f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$

- Regression analysis can be classified based on
  - **Number of explanatory variables**
    - Simple regression: single explanatory variable
    - Multiple regression: includes any number of explanatory variables
  - **Types of relationship**
    - Linear regression: straight-line relationship
    - Non-linear: implies curved relationships (e.g., logarithmic relationships)
  - **Temporal dimension**
    - Cross Sectional: data gathered from the same time period
    - Time Series: involves data observed over equally spaced points in time

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x$$

- The regression line provides an **interpretable model** of the phenomenon under analysis
  - $y$ : **estimated** (or predicted) **value**
  - $\beta_0$ : estimation of the **regression intercept**
    - The intercept represents the estimated value of  $y$  when  $x$  assumes 0
  - $\beta_1$ : estimation of the **regression slope**
  - $x$ : **independent variable**

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x$$

- *Least squares method*
  - $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$  can be obtained by **minimizing the Residual sum of squares (RSS)** that is the sum of the squared residuals
    - differences between actual values ( $y$ ) and estimated ones ( $\hat{y}$ )

$$\begin{aligned} \min RSS &= \min \sum_i (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 = \\ &= \min \sum_i (y_i - (\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i))^2 \end{aligned}$$

# Estimation of the parameters by least squares

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x$$

$$\beta_1 = \frac{\sum_i (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sum_i (x_i - \bar{x})^2}$$

$$\beta_0 = \bar{y} - \beta_1 \bar{x}$$

- where  $\bar{y} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i y_i$  and  $\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i x_i$  are the sample means

# Simple linear regression: example

Size in feet <sup>2</sup>	Price (\$) in 1000's
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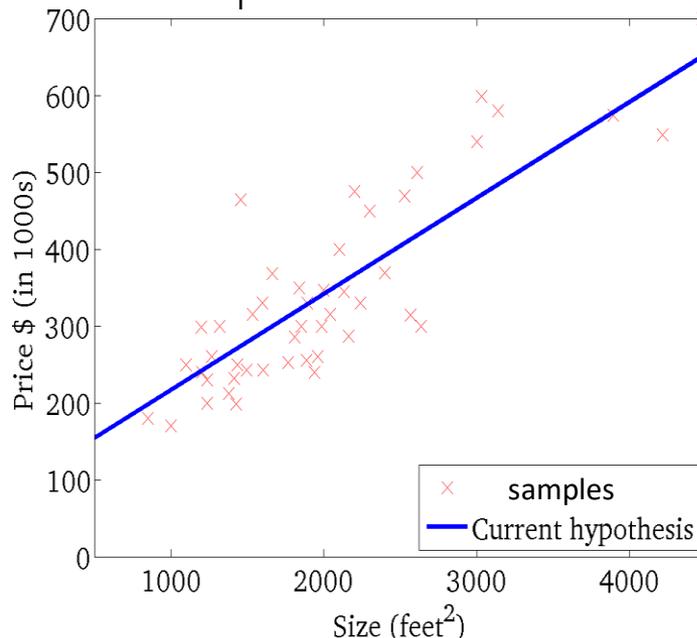
2104	460
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1416	232
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1534	315
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852	178
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...	...
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- Goal of a **real estate agency**

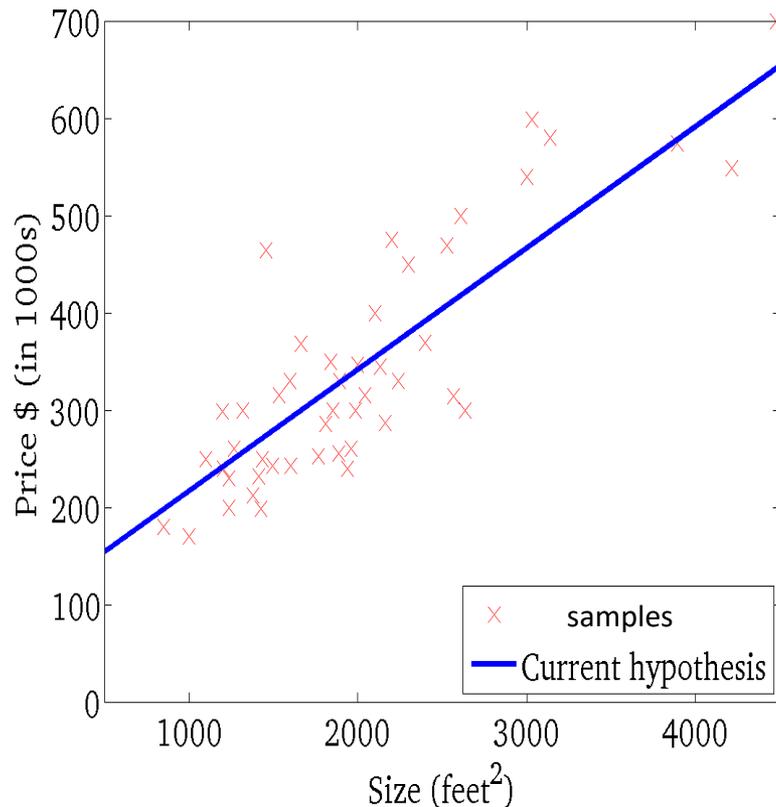
- Estimate the selling price of a home based on the value of size in square feet

- Simple linear regression finds a **linear model** of the problem

- $x$  = Size in feet<sup>2</sup>
- $y$  = Price (\$) in 1000's

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x$$

# Simple linear regression: example



- $\beta_0$ : The **intercept** represents the estimated value of  $y$  when  $x$  assumes 0
  - No house had 0 square feet, but  $\beta_0$  is the portion of house price not explained by square feet
- $\beta_1$ : the **slope** measures the estimated change in the  $y$  value as for every one-unit change in  $x$ 
  - The average value of a square foot of size

$$y = f(\mathbf{x}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \mathbf{x}_1 + \beta_2 \mathbf{x}_2 + \beta_3 \mathbf{x}_3 + \dots + \beta_n \mathbf{x}_n + \xi$$

- **Dependant variable** ( $y$ ): the single variable being explained/predicted by the regression model
- **Independent or explanatory variables** ( $x_i$ ): The variables used to predict/explain the dependant variable
- **Coefficients** ( $\beta_i$ ): values, computed by the regression task, reflecting explanatory to dependent variable relationships
- **Residuals** ( $\xi$ ): the portion of the dependent variable that is not explained by the model
  - The model performs under or over predictions

# Interpreting regression coefficients

- Uncorrelated predictors
  - Each coefficient can be estimated and tested separately
  - Interpretation: a unit change in  $x_i$  is associated with a  $\beta_i$  change in  $y$ , while all the other variables stay fixed
    - $\beta_i$  represents the average effect on  $y$  of a one unit increase in  $x_i$ , holding all other predictors fixed
- Correlation among predictors cause problems
  - The variance of all coefficients tends to increase, sometimes dramatically
  - Interpretations become complex: when  $x_j$  changes, everything else changes
- The claim of causality should be avoided for the observational data

- In case of a high dimensional data set, in terms of number of dependent variables, **some of the variables** might provide **redundant information**.
- Feature selection and removal (correlation-based approach)
  - simplifying the model computation
  - improving the model performance
  - Enhancing the model interpretation (i.e., better explainability of the dependent variables)
- Variable/feature selection
  - Driven by the business understanding and domain knowledge
  - Feature selection based on correlation test
    - Features highly-correlated with other attributes could be discarded from the analysis
    - having dependence or association in any statistical relationship, whether causal or not

- The polynomial models can be used in those situations where the **relationship** between dependent and explanatory variables is **curvilinear**.
- Polynomial regression consists of:
  - Computing new **features** that are power functions of the input features
  - Applying **linear** regression on these new features

$$y = \beta + \beta_1 x + \beta_2 x^2 + \varepsilon$$

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \beta_{11} x_1^2 + \beta_{22} x_2^2 + \beta_{12} x_1 x_2 + \varepsilon$$

- The above models are also linear (i.e., A model is linear when it is linear in parameters)
  - They are the second order polynomials in one and two variables respectively.
- Sometimes a nonlinear relationship in a small range of explanatory variables can also be modeled by polynomials.

- The  $k^{\text{th}}$  order polynomial model in one variable is given by
$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \beta_2 x^2 + \cdots + \beta_k x^k + \varepsilon$$
- It is included in the linear regression model below
$$y = X\beta + \varepsilon$$
- Techniques for fitting linear model can be used for fitting the polynomial regression model
- For example,  $y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \beta_2 x^2$ 
  - Is a polynomial regression model in one variable and is called as **second order model** or **quadratic model**, where the coefficients
    - $\beta_1$  is the linear effect parameter
    - $\beta_2$  is the quadratic effect parameter
- The polynomial models can be used to approximate a complex nonlinear relationship

# Polynomial regression: considerations in case of one variable

- Order of the model
  - Keep the order of the polynomial model as low as possible
    - Up to the **second order** polynomial
    - If necessary, you should apply some **data transformations**
  - Arbitrary fitting of higher order polynomials can be a serious abuse of regression analysis.
    - Data overfitting issue
- Different model building strategies do not necessarily lead to the same model
  - **Forward selection procedure:** to successively fit the models in increasing order and test the significance of regression coefficients at each step of model fitting.
    - Keep the order increasing until t-test for the highest order term is nonsignificant
    - The significance of highest order term is tested through the null hypothesis
  - **Backward elimination:** to fit the appropriate highest order model and then delete terms one at a time starting with highest order. This is continued until the highest order remaining term has a significant t-test
- The first and second order polynomials are mostly used in practice.

# Polynomial models in two or more variables

- The techniques of fitting of polynomial model in one variable can be extended to fitting of polynomial models in two or more variables.
- A second order polynomial is more used in practice and its model is specified by

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \beta_{11} x_1^2 + \beta_{22} x_2^2 + \beta_{12} x_1 x_2 + \varepsilon$$

- This is also called **response surface**.

# Strong and weak points of Polynomial Regression

- Advantages of using Polynomial Regression:
  - **Broad range of function** can be fit under it.
  - Polynomial basically fits **wide range of curvature**.
  - Polynomial usually provides the **best approximation** of the relationship between dependent and independent variable.
- Disadvantages of using Polynomial Regression
  - They are **too sensitive to the outliers**.
    - The presence of a few outliers in the data can seriously affect the results of a nonlinear analysis.
  - Higher polynomial degree means **higher flexibility** of your model, but also **data overfitting**
    - Overfitting occurs in those cases when you have a few samples and a model that has high flexibility
    - It is always possible for a polynomial of order  $(n-1)$  to pass through  $n$  points so that a polynomial of sufficiently high degree can always be found that provides a “good” fit to the data.
    - Those models **never enhance the understanding** of the unknown function and they are **never good predictors**.

# To avoid data overfitting

- Use more training data (if possible)
- Use lower model complexity
- Use regularization techniques
  - e.g., Ridge and Lasso

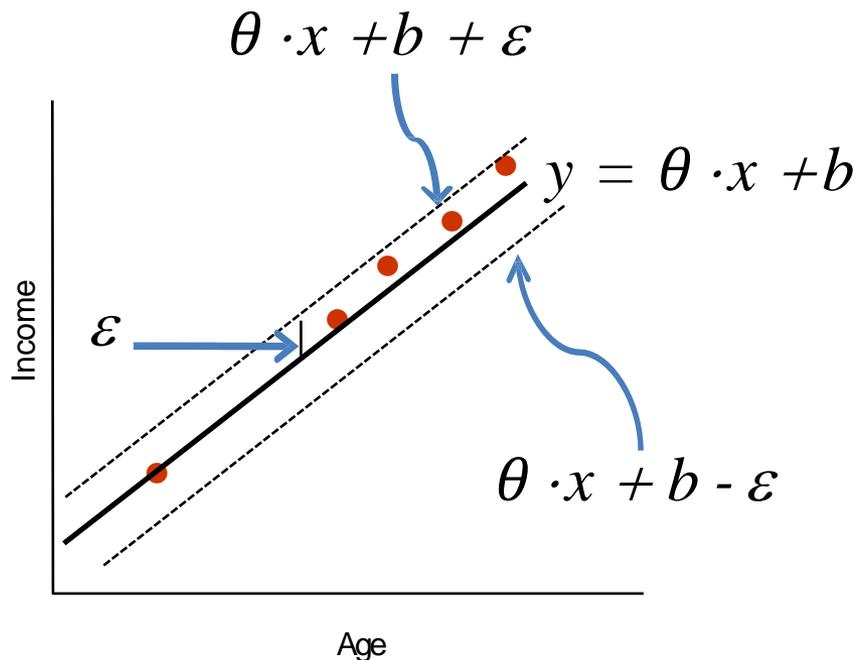
- Regression analysis methods that perform both **variable selection** and **regularization** in order to enhance the prediction **accuracy** and **interpretability** of the statistical model it produces.
- Useful **to reduce model complexity** and **prevent overfitting** when
  - The number of variables describing each observation exceeds the number of observations
  - The number of variables does not exceed the number of observations, but the learned model suffers from poor generalization.
- Techniques of training a linear regression (or a linear regression with polynomial features)
  - They try to assign values **closer to zero (RIDGE) or zero (LASSO)** to the coefficients assigned to features that are not useful for the regression
  - The effect is the **decreasing of the complexity of the model**

- LASSO means **Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator**
- Term coined by Robert Tibshirani in 1996, but it was originally introduced in geophysics literature 10 years before
- Lasso **regularization** was originally defined for **least squares**, but it is easily extended to a wide variety of statistical models in a straightforward fashion
  - E.g., generalized linear models
- The Lasso's **variable selection** relies on the form of the **constraint**
  - It forces the sum of the absolute value of the regression coefficients to be less than a fixed constraint, which forces some coefficients to be set to zero
  - The selected model is simpler since it does not include coefficients set to zero.
- It is similar to RIDGE regression but usually identifier a simpler model
  - **RIDGE** simplifies the model **by shrinking the size of some coefficients**, while **LASSO sets some coefficients to zero**.

# Support Vector Machine - Regression

- Find a function,  $f(x)$ , that performs a prediction of the target attribute  $y$  with a maximum error equal to  $\varepsilon$

We do not care about errors as long as they are less than  $\varepsilon$



# Support Vector Regression: linear model

- The (training) problem can be formulated as a convex optimization problem

$$\min \frac{1}{2} \|\theta\|^2$$

$$s.t. \quad y^i - \theta \cdot x^i - b \leq \varepsilon;$$
$$\theta \cdot x^i + b - y^i \leq \varepsilon$$

$y^i$  = value of the target attribute of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  training object

$x^i$  = value of the predictive attributes of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  training object

$\theta$  and  $b$  = parameter of the regression model

# Support Vector Regression: Soft margin

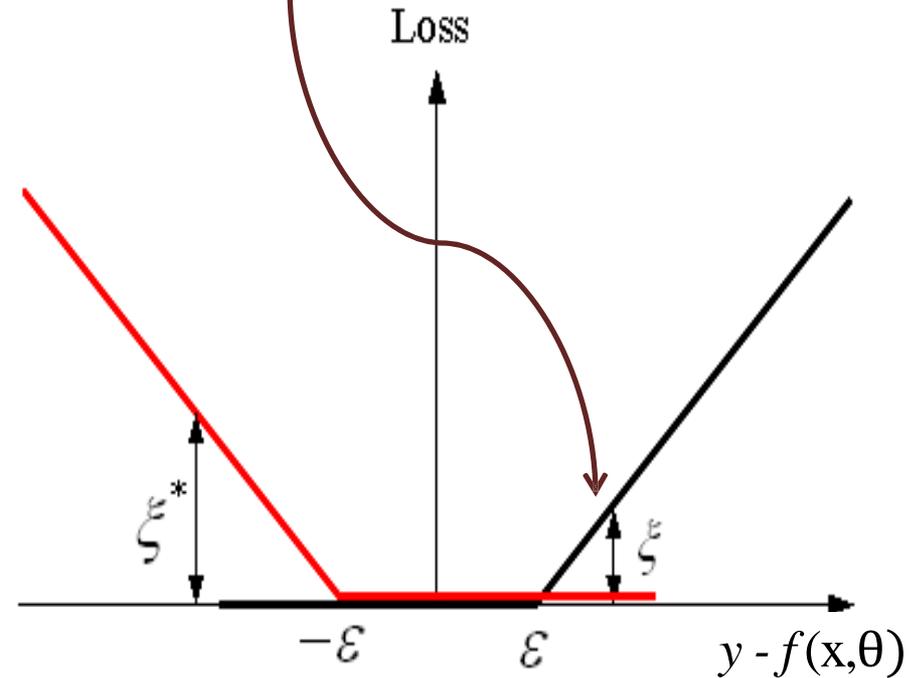
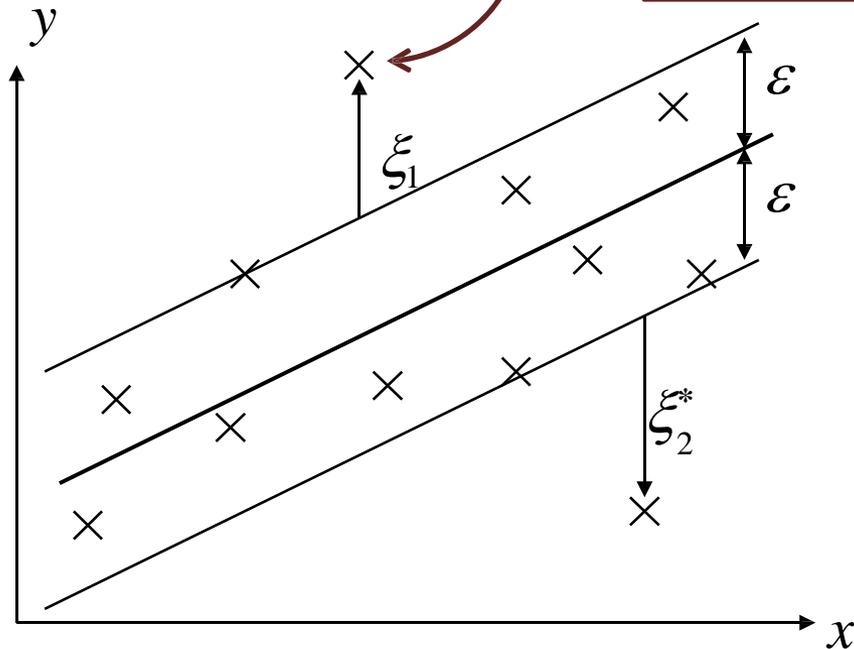
- Given a specific value of  $\varepsilon$ , the problem is not always feasible
- **Soft margin**
  - Reformulate the problem by considering the errors related to the predictions that do not satisfy the  $\varepsilon$  **maximum distance**

# Support Vector Regression: Soft margin

Assume linear model

$$f(x, \theta) = \theta \cdot x + b$$

Only the point outside the  $\varepsilon$ -region contribute to the final cost



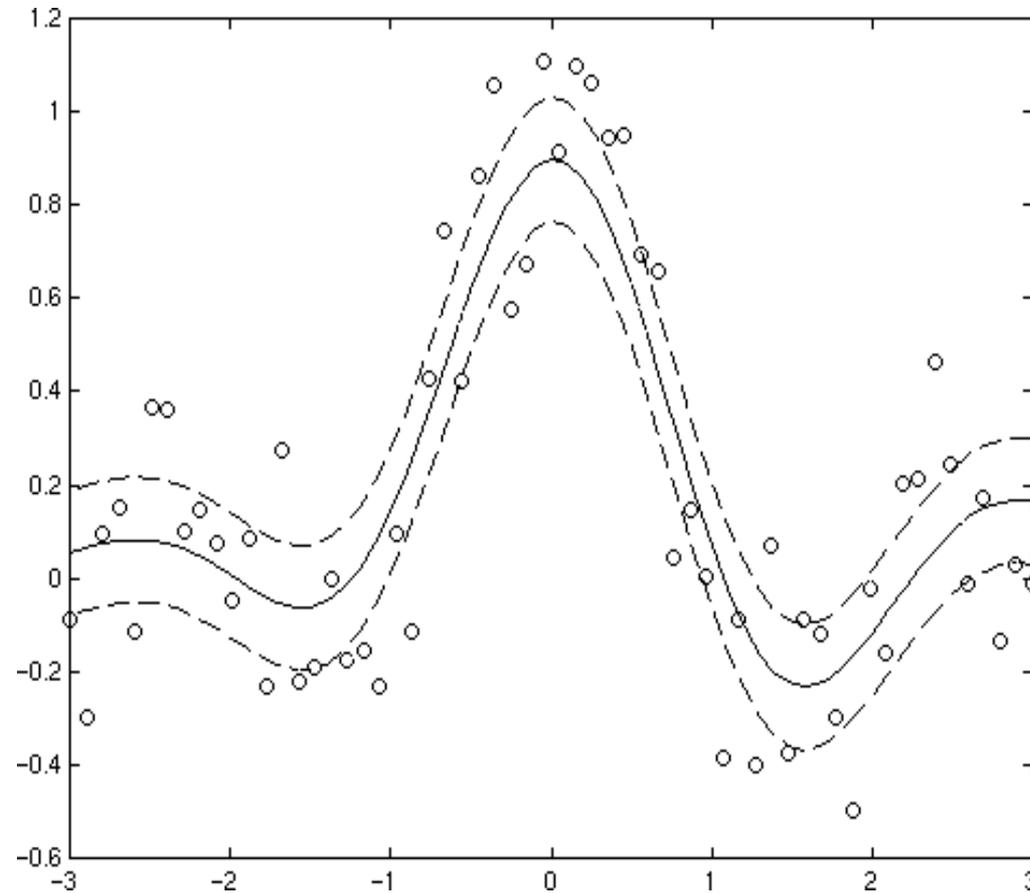
# Support Vector Regression: Soft margin

- The (training) problem can be formulated as a convex optimization problem

$$\min \frac{1}{2} \|\theta\|^2 + C \sum_{i=1}^m (\xi_i + \xi_i^*)$$

$$\begin{aligned} s.t. \quad & y^i - \theta \cdot x^i - b \leq \varepsilon + \xi_i; \\ & \theta \cdot x^i + b - y^i \leq \varepsilon + \xi_i^* \\ & \xi_i, \xi_i^* \geq 0, i = 1, \dots, m \end{aligned}$$

# How about a non-linear case?



- Map the original features into a higher order dimensional space
- Apply a kernel transformation
  - Polynomial
  - Gaussian radial
  - ...
- Transform the input data by means of the kernel function  $\varphi$  and then solve the previous problem

- $\phi$  maps the input data into a new dimensional space

$$\min \frac{1}{2} \|\theta\|^2 + C \sum_{i=1}^m (\xi_i + \xi_i^*)$$

$$s.t. \quad y^i - \theta \cdot \phi(x^i) - b \leq \varepsilon + \xi_i;$$

$$\theta \cdot \phi(x^i) + b - y^i \leq \varepsilon + \xi_i^*$$

$$\xi_i, \xi_i^* \geq 0, i = 1, \dots, m$$

- Evaluation metrics for regression:
  - MAE (Mean Absolute Error)
  - MSE (Mean Squared Error)
  - RSE: Residual Standard Error
  - $R^2$
  - Adjusted  $R^2$
  
- The evaluation is performed by comparing
  - $y$ : the actual value (**ground truth**)
  - $\hat{y}$ : the predicted value through the regression model

- MAE (Mean Absolute Error)
  - the average vertical distance between each real value and the predicted one

$$MAE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i |y_i - \hat{y}_i|$$

- MSE (Mean Squared Error)
  - the average of the squares of the errors
  - the average squared difference between the estimated values and the actual value.
  - MSE tends to penalize less errors close to 0

$$MSE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$$

- MAE and MSE always  $> 0$ 
  - The lower the values of MAE and MSE the better the model
  - It is mainly affected by the domains of data sample

- Overall accuracy of the model

- RSE: Residual Standard Error

$$RSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n-2} RSS} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n-2} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2}$$

- $n$  is the number of samples
    - RSS is the residual sum of squares
  - RSE is always greater than 0
    - The lower the RSE value the better the regression model

- $R^2$ : R-squared measures the goodness of fit of a model
  - how well the regression predictions approximate the real data points.
  - It estimates a normalized error

$$R^2 = \frac{TSS - RSS}{TSS} = 1 - \frac{RSS}{TSS}$$

- RSS is the residual sum of squares  $RSS = \sum_i (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$
- TSS is the total sum of squares  $TSS = \sum_i (y_i - \bar{y})^2$   
with  $\bar{y} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i y_i$

$$R^2 = 1 - \frac{RSS}{TSS} = 1 - FVU$$

$$= 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y}_i)^2} = 1 - \frac{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2}{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y}_i)^2} = 1 - \frac{MSE}{\sigma^2}$$

- $R^2$  represents the proportion of variance of  $y$  explained by variation in  $x$ 
  - FVU means the fraction of variance unexplained
    - Ratio between the unexplained variance (variance of the model's errors) and the total variance

# Evaluating regression: $R^2$

- $R^2$  value
  - $R^2 = 1$ 
    - A perfect linear relationship between  $x$  and  $y$
    - 100% of the  $Y$  variation is explained by variation in  $x$
  - $R^2$  close to 1
    - A very good linear relationship between  $x$  and  $y$
    - Good predictions
  - $0 < R^2 \ll 1$ 
    - Weaker linear relationship between  $x$  and  $y$
    - A portion of the variation in  $y$  is not explained by variation in  $x$
  - $R^2 = 0$ 
    - No linear relationship between  $x$  and  $y$
    - The value of  $y$  does not depend on the value of  $x$

# Evaluating regression: $R^2$ adjusted

- Drawback of  $R^2$ 
  - In the context of multiple linear regression, if new predictors ( $X_i$ ) are added to the model,  $R^2$  only increases or remains constant but it never decreases.
  - However, it is not always true that by increasing the complexity of regression model, the latter will be more accurate
- The Adjusted R-Squared is the modified form of R-Squared that has been adjusted to incorporate model's degree of freedom.
- It should be used to evaluate the quality of a multiple linear regression model

$$\bar{R}^2 = 1 - (1 - R^2) \frac{n-1}{n-p-1}$$

- $p$  = number of explanatory variables
- $n$  = number of samples
- The adjusted R-Squared only increases if the new term improves the model accuracy.