EECS 16A Designing Information Devices and Systems I
Spring 2021 Discussion 13A

1. Polynomial Fitting

Let's try an example. Say we know that the output, y, is a quartic polynomial in x. This means that we know that y and x are related as follows:

$$y = a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + a_3 x^3 + a_4 x^4$$

We're also given the following observations:

x	y
0.0	24.0
0.5	6.61
1.0	0.0
1.5	−0.95
2.0	0.07
2.5	0.73
3.0	−0.12
3.5	−0.83
4.0	−0.04
4.5	6.42

(a) What are the unknowns in this question? What are we trying to solve for?

(b) Can you write an equation corresponding to the first observation (x_0, y_0), in terms of a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3, and a_4? What does this equation look like? Is it linear in the unknowns?

(c) Now, write a system of equations in terms of a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3, and a_4 using *all of the observations*.

(d) Finally, solve for a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3, and a_4 using IPython. You have now found the quartic polynomial that best fits the data!

2. Orthogonal Subspaces

Two vectors are $\vec{x}$ and $\vec{y}$ are said to be orthogonal if their inner product is zero. That is $\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle = 0$.

Two subspaces $\mathbb{S}_1$ and $\mathbb{S}_2$ of $\mathbb{R}^N$ are said to be orthogonal if all vectors in $\mathbb{S}_1$ are orthogonal to all vectors in $\mathbb{S}_2$. That is,

$$\langle \vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2 \rangle = 0 \; \forall \vec{v}_1 \in \mathbb{S}_1, \vec{v}_2 \in \mathbb{S}_2.$$

(a) Recall that the *column space* of an $M \times N$ matrix $\mathbf{A}$ is the subspace spanned by the columns of $\mathbf{A}$ and that the *null space* of $\mathbf{A}$ is the subspace of all vectors $\vec{v}$ such that $\mathbf{A}\vec{v} = \vec{0}$.
Prove that the column space of $\mathbf{A}^T$ and null space of any matrix $\mathbf{A}$ are orthogonal subspaces. This can be denoted by $\text{Col}(\mathbf{A}^T) \perp \text{Null}(\mathbf{A}) \; \forall \mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$.

Hint: Use the row interpretation of matrix multiplication.

(b) Now prove that the column space and null space of $\mathbf{A}^T$ of any matrix $\mathbf{A}$ are orthogonal subspaces. This can be denoted by $\text{Col}(\mathbf{A}) \perp \text{Null}(\mathbf{A}^T) \; \forall \mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$.

