

# Advanced Topics in Macro and Finance to Deal with Big Data

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## Road Map

- Models used for forecasting
- MATLAB Toolboxes
- ☐ Codes for:
- a) Factors Model
- b) Lasso Regression
- c) Ridge Regression
- d) Elastic Net Regression



## Empirical Framework

- In this lecture, we are going to use four models that deal with high dimensionality: Factor, Lasso, Ridge, and Elastic Net Regressions to forecast macro series.
- We rely on the FRED-MD monthly panel of US macroeconomic and financial variables from McCracken and Ng (2016).
- We forecast Inflation (Consumer Price Index).

## Classic Least Square Estimator

The classic estimator for  $\theta$  is the least squares estimator, defined as

$$\hat{\theta}^{LS} = \arg\min_{\theta} \sum_{i=1}^{T} (Y_t - \theta' X_t)^2$$
$$= (X'X)^{-1} X' Y$$



#### Factors Model

We add principal components («Factors») into the OLS estimation of the model

$$X_t = \Lambda^f F_t + \Lambda^y Y_t + v_t$$

 $X_t$  informational time series related to unobserved factors  $F_t$  and observed variables  $Y_t$ 



## Lasso Regression

The LASSO estimator of this model is defined as

$$\hat{\theta}_{\lambda}^{L} = \arg\min_{\theta} \sum_{t=1}^{T} (Y_{t} - \theta' X_{t})^{2} + \lambda \sum_{i=1}^{p} |\theta_{i}| \quad \lambda \geqslant 0$$

where  $\lambda$  is the LASSO tuning parameter



## Ridge Regression

The ridge estimator of this model is defined as

$$\hat{\theta}_{\lambda}^{R} = \arg\min_{\theta} \sum_{t=1}^{T} (Y_{t} - \theta' X_{t})^{2} + \lambda \sum_{i=1}^{p} |\theta_{i}|^{2} \quad \lambda \geqslant 0$$

where  $\lambda$  is the ridge tuning parameter



## Lasso vs. Ridge Regression

- The LASSO has a major advantage over RIDGE regression, in that it produces simpler and more interpretable models that involved only a subset of predictors.
- The LASSO leads to qualitatively similar behavior to RIDGE regression, in that as  $\lambda$  increases, the variance decreases and the bias increases.
- The LASSO can generate more accurate predictions compared to RIDGE regression.
- Cross-validation can be used in order to determine which approach is better on a particular data set.



#### Elastic Net

The elastic net estimator is defined as

$$\hat{\theta}_{\lambda}^{EN} = \arg\min_{\theta} \sum_{t=1}^{T} (Y_t - \theta' X_t)^2 + \lambda \sum_{i=1}^{p} (\alpha |\theta_i|^2 + (1 - \alpha) |\theta_i|)$$

where  $\alpha \in (0,1)$ ,  $\lambda \geqslant 0$ 



#### MATLAB Toolboxes

Users should also ensure that they have installed the Econometrics and Statistics and Machine Learning Toolboxes with MATLAB version R2021a+



#### General Setting

```
clear; close; clc;
addpath (genpath (pwd));
%% FORECASTING FRED-MD WITH FACTORS
%% READ IN AND PREPARE DATA
% read in fred-md stationary transformed series
data = readtable('fred md stationary.csv');
% read in pca factors
factors = readtable('fred md pca factors.csv');
factors = factors {:, 2:end};
% set dates
date = datetime(data.sasdate);
% set of forecasting targets
INDPRO = data.INDPRO;
                                        % industrial production
UNRATE = data.UNRATE;
                                        % unemployment rate
CPI = data.CPIAUCSL;
                                        % inflation as captured by cpi
SPREAD = data.GS10 - data.FEDFUNDS;
                                        % 10-year T rate - Fed funds rate
HOUST = data.HOUST;
                                        % housing starts
% split data in-sample (training), hyper-parameter tuning (validation), and
% out-of-sample (test) -- (1/3, 1/3, 1/3) split
len = ceil(length(date) / 3);
train ind = 1:len;
val ind = (len+1):(2*len);
test_ind = (2*len+1):length(date);
```

- We upload data and factors
- We set the data line and select the target variables



```
%% SETTINGS
% pick the forecasting target
% pick the forecasting horizon
h = 1: % 3.9.12.24
% pick the maximum number of lags
p max = 12;
% model selection method
     ictr = in-sample information criteria on training sample
      icval = in-sample information criteria on validation sample
     pooscv = pseudo oos cross-validation with expanding window (takes longer)
      kfcv = K-fold cross-validation
model selection = 'icval';
% pick the in-sample information criterion for in-sample model selection
% (only matters when model selection is icval or ictr)
     Akaike (AIC) = 1
     Bayesian (BIC) = 2
     Hannan-Quinn (HQ) = 3
% pick K if model selection method is K-Fold (default is 5)
```

```
= 5;
% rolling window indicator for pseudo-oos (default is expanding)
roll = 0:
% rolling window length (if roll=1);
wL = 36:
% specify benchmark for out-of-sample performance comparison (random walk
% (RW) or prevailing mean (PM)
benchmark = 'RW';
% max lag order in predictor
py max
         = 12;
% max lag order in factors
pf max
          = 12;
% max number of principal components
nf max
          = size(factors, 2);
% index all possible combinations of hyperparameters
[a,b,c] = ndgrid(1:py max,1:pf max,1:nf max);
combinations = [reshape(a,[],1), reshape(b,[],1), reshape(c,[],1)];
```

```
%% AR with Factors MODEL - OPTIMIZE OVER HYPERPARAMETERS
% preallocate for in-sample model (lag-length) selection
insampIC = NaN(size(combinations, 1), 3);
val_err = NaN(size(combinations,1),1);
% implement autoregressive model with in-sample lag length selection
for i = 1:size(combinations,1)
    tic;
    % hyperparams
             = combinations(i,1);
             = combinations(i,2);
             = combinations(i,3);
    % model evaluation
    switch model_selection
        case 'icval'
            % initialize target and predictors
            [Xtr,Ytr] = add_lags(YY(train_ind), factors(train_ind, 1:nf), pf, h, 0, py);
            % estimate OLS
            s = OLS(Xtr, Ytr);
            % evaluate on validation set
            [Xval, Yval] = add_lags(YY(val_ind), factors(val_ind, 1:nf), pf, h, 0, py);
            vhat = Xval * S.Beta;
            % store information criterial
            insampIC(i,:) = IC(Yval, yhat, length(Yval), size(Xval,2));
        case 'ictr'
            % initialize target and predictors
            [Xtr,Ytr] = add_lags(YY(train_ind), factors(train_ind, 1:nf), pf, h, 0, py);
            % estimate OLS
            s = OLS(Xtr, Ytr);
```



```
% in-sample evaluation on training set
    yhat = Xtr * S.Beta;
    insampIC(i,:) = IC(Ytr, yhat, length(Ytr), size(Xtr,2));
case 'pooscv'
    % pseudo-oos evaluation (using last 25% of in-sample data)
    yhat = NaN(length(val_ind), 1);
    for t = 1:length(val ind)
        % initialize data up to t in test set
       endInd = val ind(t) - h;
       temp ind = 1: (endInd-1);
        [Xtr,Ytr] = add lags(YY(temp ind), factors(temp ind,1:nf),pf,h,0,py);
        % estimate OLS
       S = OLS(Xtr, Ytr);
       % forecast for t+h
       temp ind = 1:endInd;
        [Xte,Yte] = add_lags(YY(temp_ind), factors(temp_ind,1:nf),pf,h,0,py);
       Xte = Xte(end,:);
       ythat = Xte * S.Beta;
       yhat(t) = ythat;
    ytrue = YY (val_ind);
    eval cv = MSPE(ytrue, yhat);
    val err(i) = eval cv.MSPE;
case 'kfcv'
    % default is 5-Fold CV
    try K; catch; K=5; end
    split = floor(linspace(1, val_ind(end), K+2));
    tmp errs = NaN(K,1);
```

```
% in-sample evaluation on training set
    yhat = Xtr * S.Beta;
    insampIC(i,:) = IC(Ytr,yhat, length(Ytr), size(Xtr,2));
case 'pooscv'
    % pseudo-oos evaluation (using last 25% of in-sample data)
    yhat = NaN(length(val_ind), 1);
    for t = 1:length(val_ind)
        % initialize data up to t in test set
        endInd = val ind(t) - h;
        temp_ind = 1:(endInd-1);
        [Xtr,Ytr] = add_lags(YY(temp_ind), factors(temp_ind, 1:nf), pf, h, 0, py);
        % estimate OLS
        s = OLS(Xtr, Ytr);
        % forecast for t+h
        temp_ind = 1:endInd;
        [Xte, Yte] = add_lags(YY(temp_ind), factors(temp_ind, 1:nf), pf, h, 0, py);
        Xte = Xte(end,:);
        ythat = Xte * S.Beta;
        yhat(t) = ythat;
    ytrue = YY(val_ind);
    eval_cv = MSPE(ytrue, yhat);
    val_err(i) = eval_cv.MSPE;
case 'kfcv'
    % default is 5-Fold CV
    try K; catch; K=5; end
    split = floor(linspace(1, val_ind(end), K+2));
    tmp_errs = NaN(R,1);
```



```
[~,best_i] = min(val_err);
% AR with Factors MODEL - IN-SAMPLE CRITERIA, PSEUDO-OOS FIT
              = combinations(best_i,1);
            = combinations(best_i,2);
= combinations(best_i,3);
            = max(pf,py);
9 preallocate oos forecast
yhat = NaN(length(test_ind),1);
     for t = 1:length(test_ind)
          % initialize data up to t in test set
endInd = test_ind(t) - h
temp_ind = (endInd-wL-p-h):(endInd-1);
          [Xtr,Ytr] = add_lags(YY(temp_ind),factors(temp_ind,1:nf),pf,h,0,py);
          % estimate OLS
          s = OLS(Xtr,Ytr);
          * torecast for ten
temp_ind = (endInd-wL-p-h):endInd;
(Xte,Yte) = add_lags(YY(temp_ind),factors(temp_ind,l:nf),pf,h,0,py);
Xte = Xte(end,:);
ythat = Xte * 3.8eta;
           yhat(t) = ythat;
else
          % initialize data up to t in test set
```



```
[~,best_i] = min(val_err);
%% AR with Factors MODEL - IN-SAMPLE CRITERIA, PSEUDO-OOS FIT
             = combinations(best_i,1);
            = combinations(best_i,2);
= combinations(best_i,3);
            = max(pf,py);
* preallocate oos forecast
yhat = NaN(length(test_ind),1);
     for t = 1:length(test_ind)
          % initialize data up to t in test set
endInd = test_ind(t) - h
temp_ind = (endInd-wL-p-h):(endInd-1);
          [Xtr,Ytr] = add_lags(YY(temp_ind),factors(temp_ind,1:nf),pf,h,0,py);
          s = ols(Xtr,Ytr);
          % rorecast for the temp ind = (endInd-wL-p-h):endInd; 
[Xte, Yte] = add_lags(YY(temp_ind), factors(temp_ind, 1:nf), pf, h, 0, py);
Xte = Xte(end,:);
          yhat(t) = ythat;
else
     for t = 1:length(test_ind)
          % initialize data up to t in test set
```



# Code for Forecasting

```
%% EVALUATE OOS PERFORMANCE
Y = YY(test_ind);
 9 plot forecast vs. true
plot_ts(date(test_ind), [Y, yhat], '', '',1, {'True', 'Forecast'}, 0)
% MSPE calculations
% 3 year window for rolling rmse
wL = 36;
 switch benchmark
     case 'RW'
          ytemp = forecast_RW(YY);
    bench eval = MSPE(YY(test_ind), ytemp(test_ind), wL);
case 'PM'
          ytemp = forecast_PM(YY);
bench_eval = MSPE(YY(test_ind), ytemp(test_ind),wL);
eval = MSPE(Y,yhat,wL);
disp(join(['Out-of-sample total MSPE is: ', num2str(eval.MSPE, "%.4f")]))
plot ts (date (test_ind), [eval.CUM_MSPE, bench_eval.CUM_MSPE], ...
'', 'Cumulative PMSE',2, ('ARDI', benchmark), 0)
plot_ts(date(test_ind((1+wL):end)),[eval.ROLL_RMSPE, bench_eval.ROLL_RMSPE],...
'', 'Rolling RMSE',3, ('ARDI', benchmark), 0 )
 %% OOS PERFORMANCE TESTS
 el = eval.errors;
e2 = bench_eval.errors;
[DM,pval_L,pval_LR,pval_R] = dmtest(e1, e2, h);
```

```
% Mincer and Jarnowitz test(1969)
[Mistat, Mipral]=Mincest(Y,yhat);
% White and Hansen P-vals : c = consistent, u = upper, l = lower
[c,u,l]=bads(e2,e1,1000,12,'STUDENTINED','STATIONARY');
% model confidence set
[includedR,pvalsR,excludedR,includedSQ,pvalsSQ,excludedSQ]=mcs([e1,e2],0.05,1000,12,'STATIONARY');
%% SAVE OOS ERROR FOR LATER ANALYSIS
ARDI_errors = e1;
if isfile('FORECAST_ERRORS.mat'), save('FORECAST_ERRORS.mat', 'ARDI_errors','-append'); end
```



```
% lasso hyperparameters
% lambda = regularization parameter
lambda_max = le-4;
lambda_vec = linspace(0,lambda_max,5);
% index all possible combinations of hyperparameters
[a,b,c,d] = ndgrid(lilength(lambda yec),lipy_max,lipf_max,nf_maxinf_max);
combinations = [reshape(a,[],1), reshape(b,[],1), reshape(c,[],1), ...
disp(join(['Testing ', num2str(size(combinations,1), "%.0f"), ' combinations of hyperparameters.']))
%% LASSO MODEL - OPTIMIZE OVER HYPERPARAMETERS
insampIC = NaN(size(combinations,1),3);
val_err = NaN(size(combinations,1),1);
for i = 1:size(combinations,1)
     $ set hyperparameters
lambda = lambda_vec(combinations(i,1));
py = combinations(i,2);
pf = combinations(i,3);
nf = combinations(i,4);
      5 model evaluation
      switch model_selection
            case 'icval'
                 % estimate model on in-sample part
[Xtr,Ytr] = add_lags(YY(train_ind),factors(train_ind,l:nf),pf,h,0,py);
B_lasso = lasso(Xtr,Ytr,'Lambda', lambda);
                  % evaluate the model on the validation set
[Xval,Yval] = add_lage(YY(val_ind), factors(val_ind,1:nf),pf,h,0,py);
yhat = Xval*B_lasso;
                  insampIC(i,:) = IC(Yval, yhat, length(Yval), size(Xval,2));
            case 'ictr'
```



```
[Xtr,Ytr] = add_lags(YY(train_ind), factors(train_ind, 1:nf), pf, h, 0, py);
    B_lasso = lasso(Xtr,Ytr,'Lambda', lambda);
    % in-sample evaluation on training set
    yhat = Xtr*B lasso;
insampIC(i,:) = IC(Ytr, yhat, length(Ytr), size(Xtr,2));
case 'pooscv'
    % pseudo-oos evaluation (using last 25% of in-sample data)
    yhat = NaN(length(val_ind), 1);
        % initialize data up to t in test set
        endInd = val_ind(t) - h;
        temp_ind = 1:(endInd-1);
        % estimate KRR on expanding window
[Xtr,Ytr] = add_lags(YY(temp_ind),factors(temp_ind,l:nf),pf,h,0,py);
        B_lasso = lasso(Xtr,Ytr,'Lambda', lambda);
        % forecast for t+h
        temp_ind = 1: (endInd);
        [Xte,Yte] = add_lags(YY(temp_ind), factors(temp_ind,1:nf),pf,h,0,py);
        ythat = Xte'B_lasso;
   yhat(t) = ythat;
end
    ytrue = YY(val_ind);
eval_cv = MSPE(ytrue, yhat);
    val_err(i) = eval_cv.MSPE;
case 'kfcv'
    % default is 5-Fold CV
    try K; catch; K=5; end
    split = floor(linspace(1, val_ind(end), K+2));
    tmp_errs = NaN(K, 1);
    for k = 1:K
```





```
# LASSO MODEL: IN-SAMPLE CRITERIA, PSEUDO-OOS FIT AND EVALUATION

* set hyperparameters based on best validation performance
lambda = lambda we(combinations (best_i,l));

py = combinations (best_i,l);

pf = combinations (best_i,l);

p = max(pf,py);

* preallocate oos forecast
yMat = NaN(length(test_ind),l);

if roll

for t = l:length(test_ind),l);

* initialize data up to t in test set
endInd = test_ind(t) - h;
temp_ind = (endInd=wl-p-h):(endInd=l);

* estimate leaso on rolling window
[Xrr,Yrr] = add_lags(YY(temp_ind), factors(temp_ind, lnf),pf,h,0,py);

B_lasso = lasso(Xtr,Ytr,'Lambda', lambda);

* forecast for t+h
temp_ind = (endInd=wl-p-h):(endInd];
[Xte,Yte] = add_lags(YY(temp_ind), factors(temp_ind, lnf),pf,h,0,py);
ythat = Xte * B_lasso;

yMat(t) = ythat;

end

else

for t = l:length(test_ind)

* initialize data up to t in test set
endInd = test_ind(t) - h;
temp_ind = [:endInd=l);

* estimate lasso on expanding window
```

```
[Xtr,Ytr] = add_lags(YY(temp_ind), factors(temp_ind, 1:nf), pf, h, 0, py);
B_lasso = lasso(Xtr,Ytr, 'lambda', lambda);

% forecast for tth
   temp_ind = l:(endInd);
   [Xte,Yte) = add_lags(YY(temp_ind), factors(temp_ind, 1:nf), pf, h, 0, py);
   Xte = Xte(end,:);
   ythat = Xte * B_lasso;
   yMat(t) = ythat;
end
end
```



## Code for Ridge Regression

```
%% KRR MODEL - OPTIMIZE OVER HYPERPARAMETERS
insampIC = NaN(size(combinations,1),3);
val_err = NaN(size(combinations,1),1);
for i = 1:size(combinations,1)

    tic;
    % set hyperparameters
    lambda = lambda_vec(combinations(i,1));
    sigma = sigma_vec(combinations(i,2));
    py = combinations(i,3);
    pf = combinations(i,4);
    nf = combinations(i,5);
    % model evaluation
    switch model_selection
    case 'icval'
    % estimate model on in-sample part
```



## Code for Ridge Regression



## Code for Elastic Net Regression

```
% elastic net hyperparameters
      lambda = regularization parameter
       alpha = weight of lasso versus ridge optimization (0 = ridge, 1 = lasso)
lambda_max = 1e-4;
alpha_max = 1;
lambda_vec = linspace(0,lambda_max,5);
alpha_vec = linspace(0.01,alpha_max,5);
% index all possible combinations of hyperparameters
[a,b,c,d,e] = ndgrid(1:length(lambda_vec),1:length(alpha_vec),1:py_max,1:pf_max,nf_max:nf_max);
combinations = [reshape(a,[],1), reshape(b,[],1), reshape(c,[],1), ...
     reshape(d,[],1), reshape(e,[],1)];
disp(join(['Testing ', num2str(size(combinations,1), "%.0f"), ' combinations of hyperparameters.']))
%% ELASTIC NET MODEL - OPTIMIZE OVER HYPERPARAMETERS
insampIC = NaN(size(combinations,1),3);
val_err = NaN(size(combinations,1),1);
for i = 1:size(combinations,1)
     % set hyperparameters
     lambda = lambda_vec(combinations(i,1));
     alpha = alpha_vec(combinations(i,2));
     py = combinations (i, 3);
pf = combinations (i, 4);
nf = combinations (i, 5);
     % model evaluation
     switch model_selection
          case 'icval'
               % estimate model on in-sample part
               [Xtr,Ytr] = add_lags(YY(train_ind), factors(train_ind, 1:nf), pf, h, 0, py);
               B_lasso = lasso(Xtr, Ytr, 'Lambda', lambda, 'Alpha', alpha);
               % evaluate the model on the validation set
               [Xval, Yval] = add_lags(YY(val_ind), factors(val_ind, 1:nf), pf, h, 0, py);
```



## Code for Elastic Net Regression

```
insampIC(i,:) = IC(Yval, yhat, length(Yval), size(Xval,2));
case 'ictr'
   % estimate model on in-sample part
    [Xtr,Ytr] = add_lags(YY(train_ind), factors(train_ind, 1:nf), pf, h, 0, py);
    B lasso = lasso(Xtr, Ytr, 'Lambda', lambda, 'Alpha', alpha);
   % in-sample evaluation on training set
   yhat = Xtr*B lasso;
   insampIC(i,:) = IC(Ytr,yhat, length(Ytr), size(Xtr,2));
   % pseudo-oos evaluation (using last 25% of in-sample data)
   yhat = NaN(length(val_ind), 1);
    for t = 1:length(val_ind)
       % initialize data up to t in test set
       endInd = val ind(t) - h;
       temp_ind = 1: (endInd-1);
       % estimate ENET on expanding window
       [Xtr,Ytr] = add_lags(YY(temp_ind),factors(temp_ind,1:nf),pf,h,0,py);
       B_lasso = lasso(Xtr,Ytr,'Lambda', lambda,'Alpha', alpha);
       % forecast for t+h
       temp_ind = 1: (endInd);
       [Xte, Yte] = add lags(YY(temp ind), factors(temp ind, 1:nf), pf, h, 0, py);
       ythat = Xte'B lasso;
       yhat(t) = ythat;
   ytrue = YY(val_ind);
   eval_cv = MSPE(ytrue, yhat);
   val_err(i) = eval_cv.MSPE;
case 'kfcv'
   % default is 5-Fold CV
   try K; catch; K=5; end
   split = floor(linspace(1,val_ind(end),R+2));
```

```
tmp_errs = NaN(K,1);
for k = 1:K

    cvidxtr = split(1):split(k+1);
    cvidxte = split(k+1):split(k+2);

    * train up to fold k
    [Xtr,Ytr] = add_lags(YY(cvidxtr), factors(cvidxtr,1:nf),pf,h,0,py);
    B_lasso = lasso(Xtr,Ytr,'Lambda', lambda,'Alpha', alpha);
```



## Code for Elastic Net Regression

```
insampIC(i,:) = IC(Yval, yhat, length(Yval), size(Xval,2));
% estimate model on in-sample part
[Xtr,Ytr] = add_lags(YY(train_ind), factors(train_ind,1:nf),pf,h,0,py);
B_lasso = lasso(Xtr,Ytr,'Lambda', lambda,'Alpha', alpha);
% in-sample evaluation on training set
yhat = Xtr*B_lasso;
insampIC(i,:) = IC(Ytr,yhat, length(Ytr), size(Xtr,2));
% pseudo-oos evaluation (using last 25% of in-sample data)
yhat = NaN(length(val_ind), 1);
for t = 1:length(val_ind)
    % initialize data up to t in test set
    endInd = val_ind(t) - h;
    temp_ind = 1: (endInd-1);
    % estimate ENET on expanding window
    [Xtr,Ytr] = add lags(YY(temp ind), factors(temp ind,1:nf),pf,h,0,py);
    B lasso = lasso(Xtr, Ytr, 'Lambda', lambda, 'Alpha', alpha);
    % forecast for t+h
    temp_ind = 1: (endInd);
    [Xte,Yte] = add_lags(YY(temp_ind), factors(temp_ind,1:nf),pf,h,0,py);
    Xte = Xte(end,:);
    ythat = Xte*B lasso;
    yhat(t) = ythat;
ytrue = YY (val ind);
eval cv = MSPE(ytrue, yhat);
val_err(i) = eval_cv.MSPE;
% default is 5-Fold CV
try K; catch; K=5; end
split = floor(linspace(1, val_ind(end), K+2));
```



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