

1

## Regularization: An Overview

The idea of regularization revolves around modifying the loss function  $L$ ; in particular, we add a regularization term that penalizes some specified properties of the model parameters

$$L_{reg}(\beta) = L(\beta) + \lambda R(\beta),$$

where  $\lambda$  is a scalar that gives the weight (or importance) of the regularization term.

Fitting the model using the modified loss function  $L_{reg}$  would result in model parameters with desirable properties (specified by  $R$ ).

2

## LASSO Regression (Least absolute shrinkage and selection operator)

Since we wish to discourage extreme values in model parameter, we need to choose a regularization term that penalizes parameter magnitudes. For our loss function, we will again use MSE.

Together our regularized loss function is:

$$L_{LASSO}(\beta) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |y_i - \beta^\top \mathbf{x}_i|^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^J |\beta_j|.$$

Note that  $\sum_{j=1}^J |\beta_j|$  is the  $l_1$  norm of the vector  $\beta$

$$\sum_{j=1}^J |\beta_j| = \|\beta\|_1$$

3

## Ridge Regression

Alternatively, we can choose a regularization term that penalizes the squares of the parameter magnitudes. Then, our regularized loss function is:

$$L_{Ridge}(\beta) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |y_i - \beta^\top \mathbf{x}_i|^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^J \beta_j^2.$$

Note that  $\sum_{j=1}^J |\beta_j|^2$  is the square of the  $l_2$  norm of the vector  $\beta$

$$\sum_{j=1}^J \beta_j^2 = \|\beta\|_2^2$$

4

## Choosing $\lambda$

In both ridge and LASSO regression, we see that the larger our choice of the **regularization parameter**  $\lambda$ , the more heavily we penalize large values in  $\beta$ ,

- If  $\lambda$  is close to zero, we recover the MSE, i.e. ridge and LASSO regression is just ordinary regression.
- If  $\lambda$  is sufficiently large, the MSE term in the regularized loss function will be insignificant and the regularization term will force  $\beta_{\text{ridge}}$  and  $\beta_{\text{LASSO}}$  to be close to zero.

To avoid ad-hoc choices, we should select  $\lambda$  using cross-validation.

5

## Regularization Parameter with a Validation Set

The solution of the Ridge/Lasso regression involves three steps:

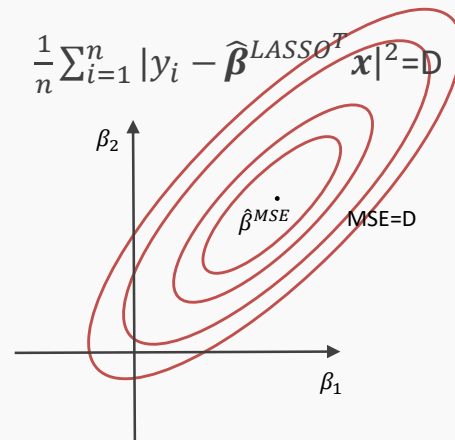
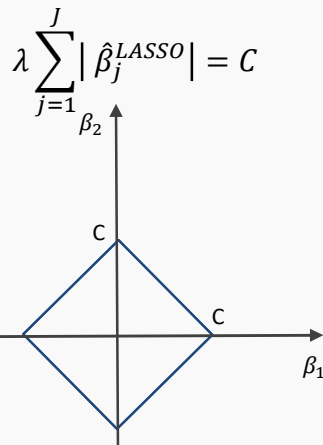
- Select  $\lambda$
- Find the minimum of the ridge/Lasso regression loss function (using the formula for ridge) and record the ***MSE* on the validation set.**
- Find the  $\lambda$  that gives the smallest *MSE*

6

## The Geometry of Regularization (LASSO)

$$L_{LASSO}(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |y_i - \boldsymbol{\beta}^T \mathbf{x}|^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^J |\beta_j|$$

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{LASSO} = \operatorname{argmin} L_{LASSO}(\boldsymbol{\beta})$$



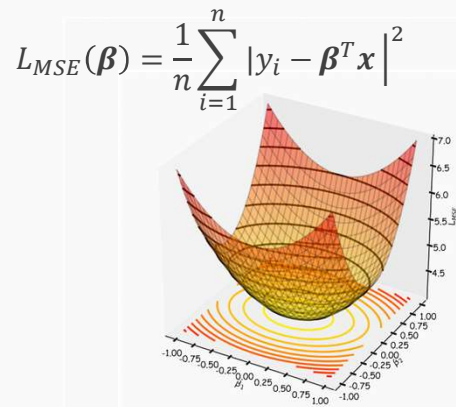
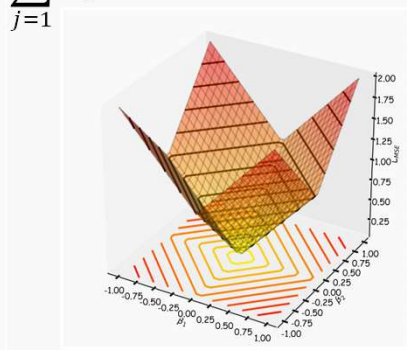
7

## The Geometry of Regularization (LASSO)

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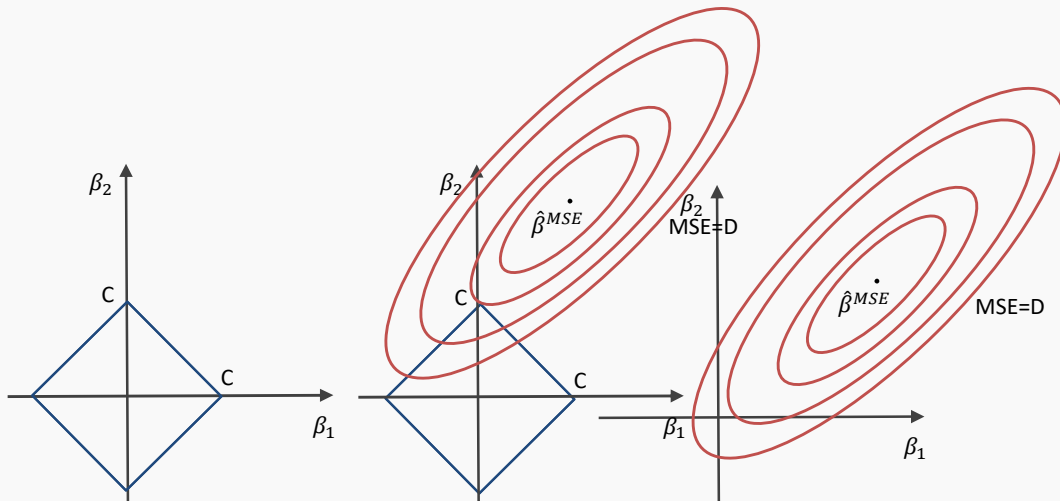
$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{LASSO} = \operatorname{argmin} L_{LASSO}(\boldsymbol{\beta})$$

$$L_1 = \lambda \sum_{j=1}^J |\hat{\beta}_j^{LASSO}|$$



8

## The Geometry of Regularization (LASSO)

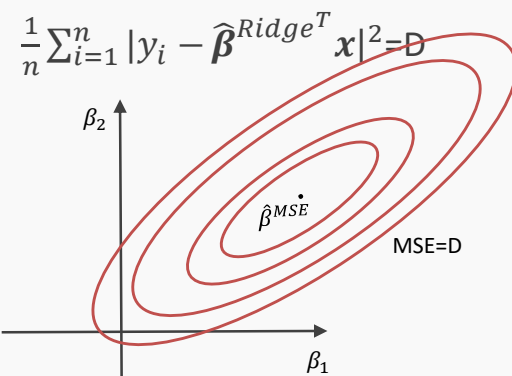
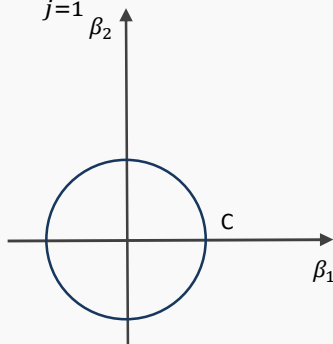


9

## The Geometry of Regularization (Ridge)

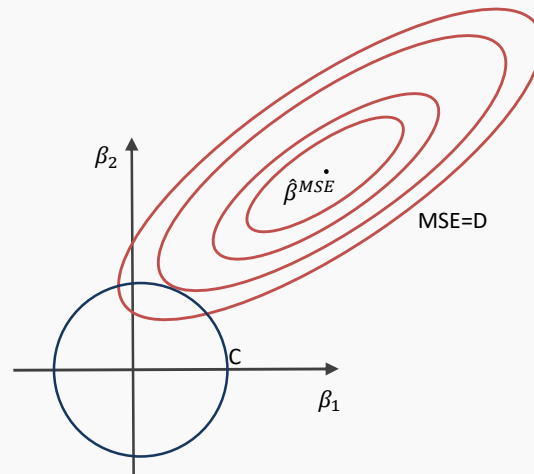
$$L_{Ridge}(\beta) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |y_i - \beta^T x|^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^J (\beta_j)^2 \quad \hat{\beta}^{Ridge} = \operatorname{argmin} L_{Ridge}(\beta)$$

$$\lambda \sum_{j=1}^J |\hat{\beta}_j^{Ridge}|^2 = C$$



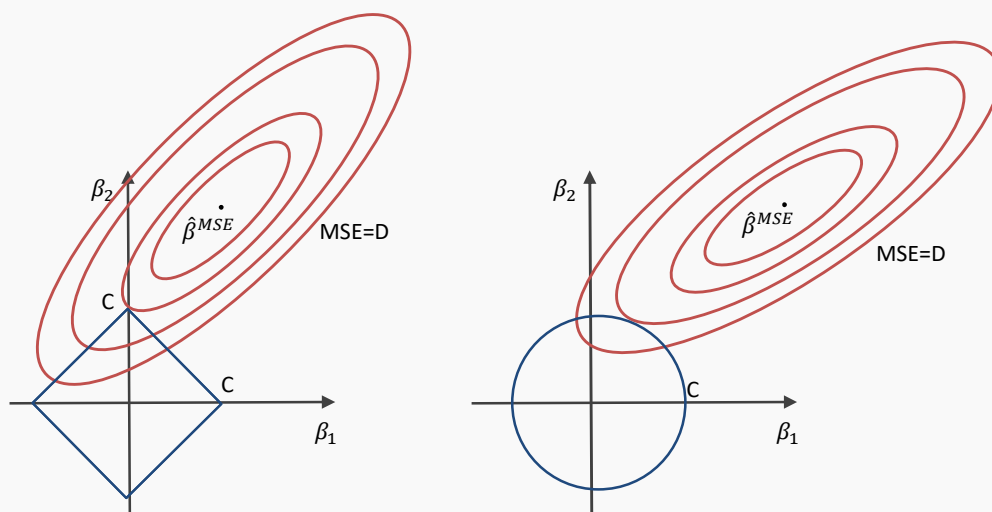
10

## The Geometry of Regularization (Ridge)



11

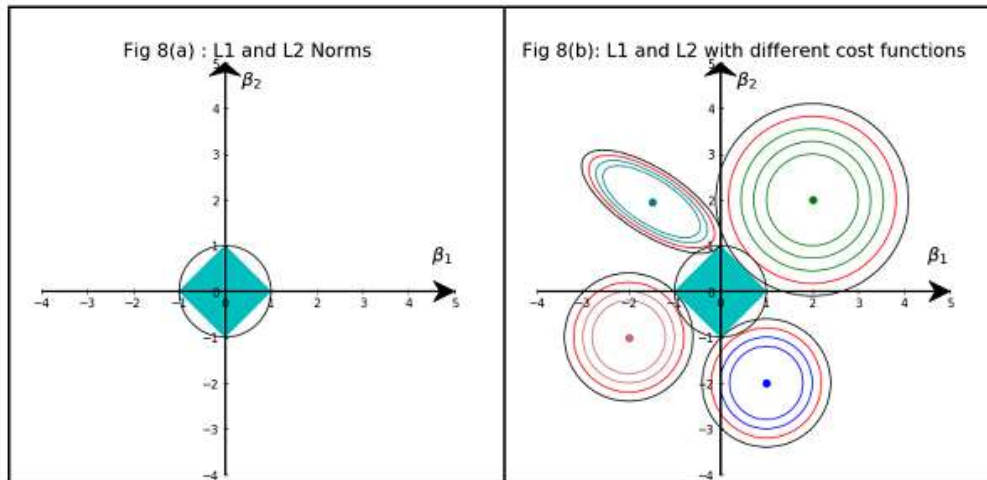
## The Geometry of Regularization



12

## The Geometry of Regularization

**LASSO:** Coefficient estimates that are exactly equal to zero



13

## Comparison of Lasso and Ridge Regression

Feature	Lasso Regression	Ridge Regression
Penalty Term	<b>L1 norm</b> (sum of absolute values of coefficients)	<b>L2 norm</b> (sum of squared coefficients)
Impact on Coefficients	Shrinks some coefficients to exactly <b>zero</b> , effectively selecting key features.	Shrinks coefficients <b>towards zero</b> but does not eliminate any features.
Feature Selection	Yes, Lasso performs <b>automatic feature selection</b> , resulting in a sparse model.	No, Ridge retains all features but reduces their impact by shrinking coefficients.
Best Suited For	Situations where some features are irrelevant, and reducing dimensionality is beneficial.	Cases with multicollinearity where all features contribute but need controlled influence.
Computational Complexity	Can be computationally demanding due to the non-differentiability of the L1 norm.	Computationally efficient as the L2 norm is differentiable.
Bias-Variance Tradeoff	Introduces <b>higher bias</b> but reduces variance, making the model simpler.	Results in <b>lower bias</b> but maintains some variance, preserving more information.

14