





# An Automatic Finite-Data Robustness Check for Bayes and Beyond: Can Dropping a Little Data Change Conclusions?

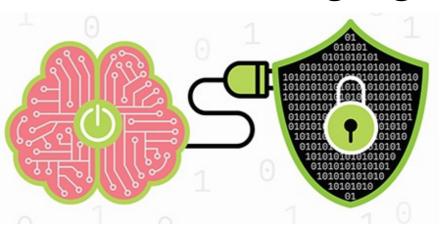
Tamara Broderick
Associate Professor,
MIT

With Ryan Giordano, Rachael Meager









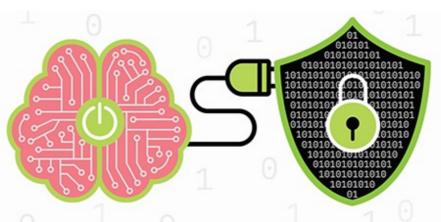


 More data & better computation → data analyses increasingly drive life-changing decisions



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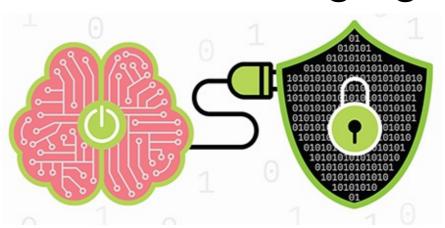






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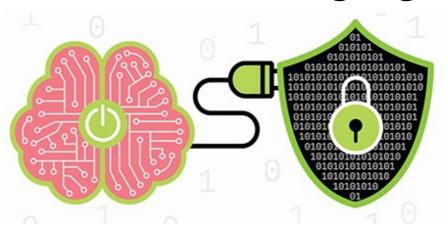






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- Challenge: Impossibly costly to check every data subset
- Our Solution: a fast, automated, accurate approximation

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- Even if doesn't bother you, should be up front about it

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  - Still sensitive like the ordinary least squares analyses

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parameters  $\theta, d_n$  datum; e.g.  $(x_n, y_n)$ 

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 $f(\theta, d_n)$ 

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loss parameters

Setup & the Approximation loss parameters

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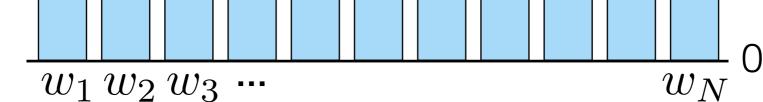
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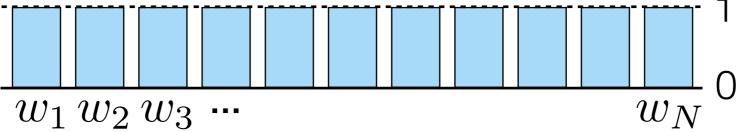
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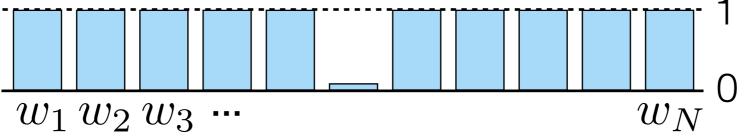


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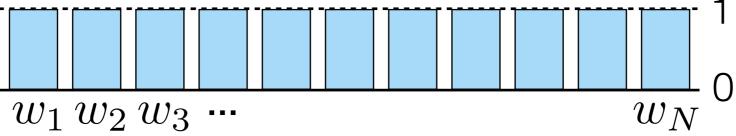


• Dropping a data point:  $w = (1, \dots, 1, 0, 1, \dots, 1)$ 

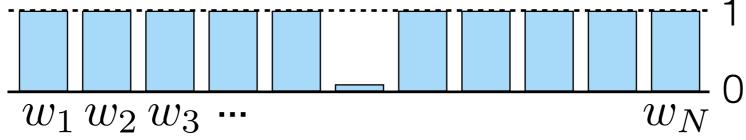


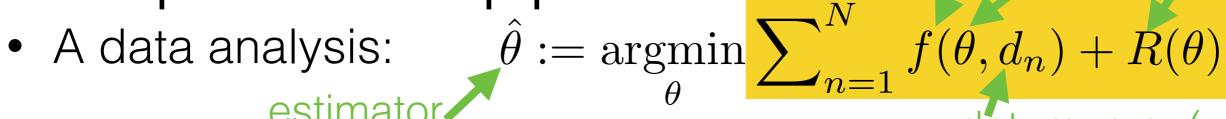
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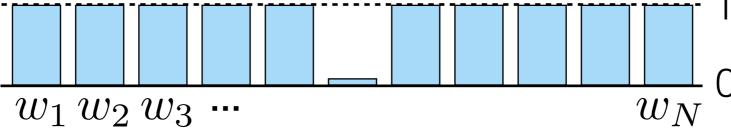


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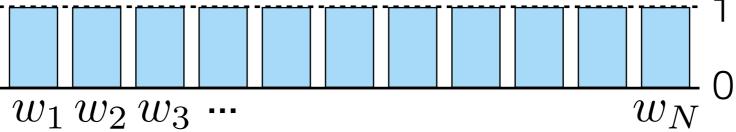


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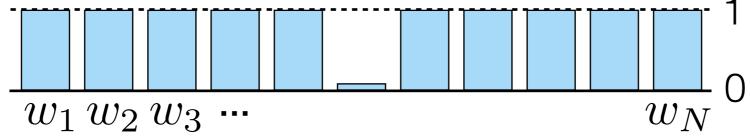


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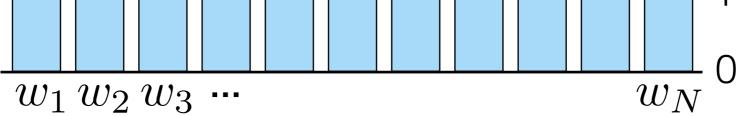


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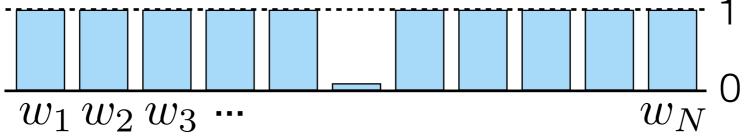


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$$\hat{\theta} := \operatorname*{argmin}_{\theta} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \textcolor{red}{w_n} f(\theta, d_n) + R(\theta)$$

- Actually any Z-estimator works (e.g. MAP, VB, multistage)
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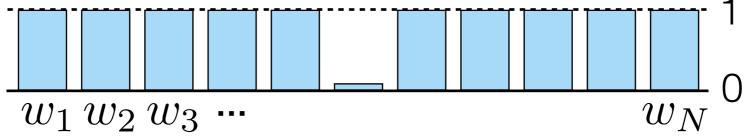


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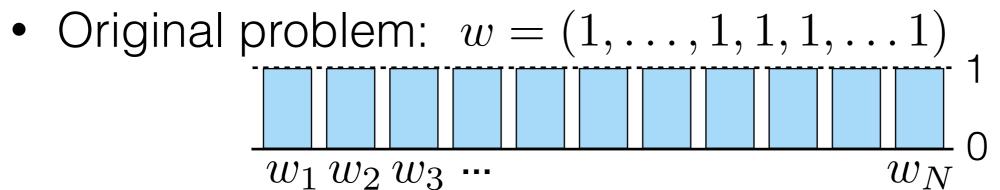
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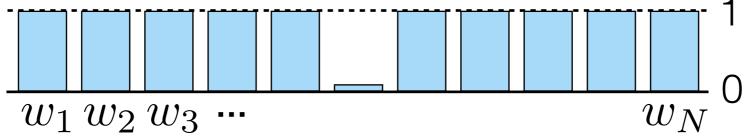
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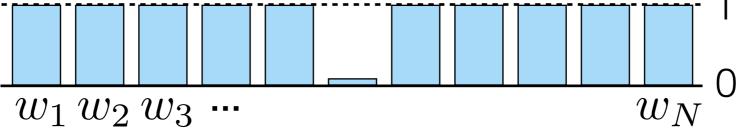
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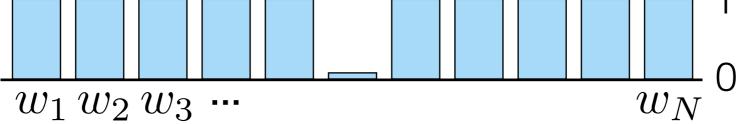
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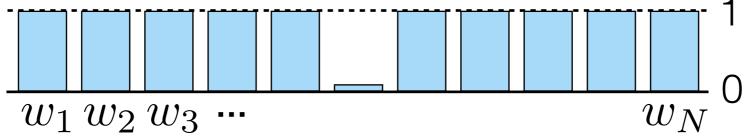


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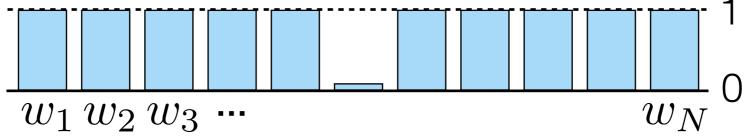
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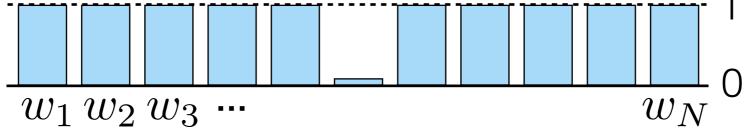
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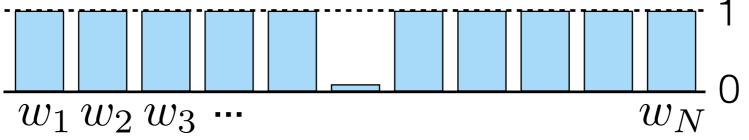
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 We run Gaussian linear model simulations & find both robust/non-robust cases; issue is signal-to-noise

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arxiv.org/abs/2011.14999

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- Variational Bayes covariance correction:
  - Giordano, Broderick, Jordan. Covariances, Robustness, and Variational Bayes, JMLR 2018. (Also Giordano, Broderick, Jordan, NeurIPS 2015.)