

# Initialization of Constrained LASSO path

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Constrained lasso problem with only equality constraints:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && L(\boldsymbol{\beta}) + \rho \|\boldsymbol{\beta}\|_1 \\ & \text{subject to} && \mathbf{A}\boldsymbol{\beta} = \mathbf{0} \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

(We could think of  $L(\boldsymbol{\beta})$  as  $\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}\|_2^2$ .)

Since we perform path following in the decreasing direction, an initializing value for the parameter  $\rho$  is needed.

$(\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n, \mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}, \boldsymbol{\beta} \in \mathbb{R}^p, \mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times p})$

As  $\rho \rightarrow \infty$ , the solution  $\beta$  to the original problem is given by

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & ||\beta||_1 \\ \text{subject to} & \mathbf{A}\beta = 0 \end{array} \quad (2)$$

And obviously, the solution  $\hat{\beta}$  for the above problem is  $0_p$ .

The stationarity condition of KKT conditions is as follows:

$$\nabla L(\beta) + \rho \text{sign}(\beta) + \mathbf{A}^T \lambda = 0_p$$

, where  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^m$  is lagrangian multiplier and  $\text{sign}(\beta)$  means the subgradient of  $\|\beta\|_1$ . And  $|\text{sign}(\beta)| \leq 1_p$ , we can transform above condition as follows:

$$|\nabla L(\beta) + \mathbf{A}^T \lambda| \leq \rho 1_p$$

## Lemma

For fixed  $\rho$ ,  $\beta$ , let  $\mathcal{E}_\rho(\beta) = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^m : |\nabla L(\beta) + \mathbf{A}^T \lambda| \leq \rho \mathbf{1}_\rho\}$ , and let  $\rho_{\max} = \inf\{\rho \in \mathbb{R} : \mathcal{E}_\rho(\beta) \neq \emptyset\}$ . Then for  $\rho < \rho_{\max}$ ,  $\beta = 0_\rho$  is not solution of (1).

## Corollary

The minimizer of (1) for a  $\rho$  is  $\beta = 0_p$  if and only if  $\rho \geq \rho_{\max}$ , where  $\rho_{\max}$  is the solution of (3). And also, we can get the solution  $\lambda_{\max}$  corresponding to  $\rho_{\max}$  by (3).

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && \rho \\ & \text{subject to} && z = \mathbf{A}^T \lambda \\ & && z \leq -X^T y + \rho \mathbf{1} \\ & && z \geq -X^T y - \rho \mathbf{1} \\ & && \rho \geq 0 \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

So, we can initialize active set  $\mathcal{A}$  as follows:

$$\mathcal{A} = \{j : |\nabla L(\beta)_j + a_j^T \lambda_{\max}| = \rho_{\max}\}$$

where  $\mathbf{A} = [a_1, \dots, a_p]$ .

Because If  $\rho$  is decreased very little as  $\rho < \rho_{\max}$ ,  $\hat{\beta}_j = 0$  cannot be the coefficient of solution (1) for predictor  $x_j$ . So, predictor  $x_j$  must be activated.

# Uniqueness of $\lambda$

$\lambda_{max}$  is the unique solution to (3) if the solution for  $\mathbf{A}_{\mathcal{A}}^T \tilde{\lambda} = 0$  is only  $\tilde{\lambda} = 0$ . ( $\Leftrightarrow \mathbf{A}_{\mathcal{A}}^T$  is full column).

Because we can formulate an equation for predictors which are set on boundaries of the stationarity condition (which are also included in active set  $\mathcal{A}$ ) as follows:

$$|\nabla L(\beta)_{\mathcal{A}} + \mathbf{A}_{\mathcal{A}}^T(\lambda_{max} + \tilde{\lambda})| = \rho_{max} \mathbf{1}_{\mathcal{A}}$$



# What if...?

**Q) What happens if do NOT activate all the violated predictors( $\mathcal{A}$ )?**

Let  $L(\beta) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\beta\|_2^2$ . Given  $\rho_{max}, \lambda_{max}$ , we want  $\mathcal{B} \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ ,  $\Delta\rho, \frac{d}{d\rho}\beta_{\mathcal{B}}, \frac{d}{d\rho}\lambda_{\mathcal{B}}$  such that satisfy following conditions(stationarity condition from KKT conditions, equality constraint):

$$\begin{aligned} & -\mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}}(\beta^{(0)} + \Delta\rho \frac{d}{d\rho}\beta_{\mathcal{B}})) + \\ & (\rho_{max} - \Delta\rho) \text{sign}(\beta^{(0)} + \Delta\rho \frac{d}{d\rho}\beta_{\mathcal{B}}) + \mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T(\lambda_{max} + \Delta\rho \frac{d}{d\rho}\lambda) = 0 \\ & |-\mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}^c}^T(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}}(\beta^{(0)} + \Delta\rho \frac{d}{d\rho}\beta_{\mathcal{B}})) + \mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}^c}^T(\lambda_{max} + \Delta\rho \frac{d}{d\rho}\lambda)| \\ & \leq (\rho_{max} - \Delta\rho) \\ & \mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}}(\beta^{(0)} + \Delta\rho \frac{d}{d\rho}\beta_{\mathcal{B}}) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

## What if...?

$\rho$  is in decreasing direction, so  $\Delta\rho > 0$ . And the moving direction of  $\beta$  is must be maintained. So,

$$\text{sign}(\beta^{(0)} + \Delta\rho \frac{d}{d\rho} \beta_B) = \text{sign}(\beta^{(0)})$$

. From corollary, we have following:

$$\begin{aligned} -\mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}}\beta^{(0)}) + \rho_{\max}\text{sign}(\beta^{(0)}) + \mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T(\lambda_{\max}) &= 0 \\ |-\mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}^c}^T(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}}\beta^{(0)}) + \mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}^c}^T\lambda_{\max}| &\leq \rho_{\max}1_{|\mathcal{B}^c|} \\ \mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}}\beta^{(0)} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

# What if...?

Finally, we get

$$\mathbf{X}_{:B}^T \mathbf{X}_{:B} \Delta \rho \frac{d}{d\rho} \beta_B - \Delta \rho \text{sign}(\beta^{(0)}) + \mathbf{A}_{:B}^T \Delta \rho \frac{d}{d\rho} \lambda = 0$$

$$\mathbf{A}_{:B} \Delta \rho \frac{d}{d\rho} \beta_B = 0$$

$$|\mathbf{X}_{:B^c}^T \mathbf{X}_{:B} \Delta \rho \frac{d}{d\rho} \beta_B + \mathbf{A}_{:B^c}^T \Delta \rho \frac{d}{d\rho} \lambda| \leq \Delta \rho 1_{|B^c|}$$

# What if...?

Let's focus on first two equations:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T \mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}} & \mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T \\ \mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{d}{d\rho} \boldsymbol{\beta}_{\mathcal{B}} \\ \frac{d}{d\rho} \lambda \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \text{sign}(\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(0)}) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

And,

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{d}{d\rho} \boldsymbol{\beta}_{\mathcal{B}} \\ \frac{d}{d\rho} \lambda \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T \mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}} & \mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T \\ \mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}} & 0 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \text{sign}(\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(0)}) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Answer

$\mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}^c}^T \mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}}$  is invertible.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{d}{d\rho} \beta_{\mathcal{B}} \\ \frac{d}{d\rho} \lambda \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (\mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T \mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}})^{-1} - (\mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T \mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}})^{-1} \mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T M \mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}} (\mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T \mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}})^{-1} & (\mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T \mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}})^{-1} \mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T M \\ M \mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}} (\mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T \mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}})^{-1} & -M \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{sign}(\beta^{(0)}) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $M = (\mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}} (\mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T \mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}})^{-1} \mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T)^{-1}$ .

Therefore,

$$\frac{d}{d\rho} \beta_{\mathcal{B}} = ((\mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T \mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}})^{-1} - (\mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T \mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}})^{-1} \mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T M \mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}} (\mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T \mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}})^{-1}) \text{sign}(\beta^{(0)})$$

# Answer

If  $\frac{d}{d\rho}\beta_{\mathcal{B}} \approx 0$ , for new active set  $\mathcal{B}$ , there is no direction to move  $\beta_{\mathcal{B}}$  that satisfies KKT conditions.

If not, we check  $\frac{d}{d\rho}\beta_{\mathcal{B}}$  and  $\frac{d}{d\rho}\lambda$  for following condition:

$$|\mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}^c}^T \mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}} \frac{d}{d\rho}\beta_{\mathcal{B}} + \mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}^c}^T \frac{d}{d\rho}\lambda| \leq 1_{|\mathcal{B}^c|}$$

(Trivial: If  $\mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}}$  is invertible,

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T \mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}} & \mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T \\ \mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}} & 0 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}}^{-1} \\ (\mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T)^{-1} & -(\mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T)^{-1} \mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}}^T \mathbf{X}_{:\mathcal{B}} \mathbf{A}_{:\mathcal{B}}^{-1} \end{bmatrix}.$$

So,  $\frac{d}{d\rho}\beta_{\mathcal{B}} = 0$  and there is no direction to move.)