

# Model selection by penalization in mixture of experts models with a non-asymptotic approach

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# Outline and our contributions

- 1 Collection of GLoME models
  - Context and motivating example
  - Boundedness conditions
- 2 Model selection in GLoME and BLoME models
  - Asymptotic approach
  - Non-asymptotic approach with oracle inequalities
- 3 Main positive messages and perspectives

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- ✍ **We have:**  $n$  random samples  $(\mathbf{X}_i, \mathbf{Y}_i)_{i \in [n]} \in (\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y})^n$  with observed values  $(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i)_{i \in [n]}$ ,  $[n] = \{1, \dots, n\}$ , arising from an unknown conditional density  $s_0$ .
- ⚙ **Learning:** potentially **nonlinear regression models** for **high-dimensional heterogeneous data** between output  $\mathbf{Y}$  and input  $\mathbf{X}$ : **Regression analysis** + **Clustering** + **Model selection** (e.g., number of clusters, complexity in each cluster).
- 👤 **Our proposal:** using **mixture of experts (MoE<sup>1</sup>)** regression models due to their flexibility and effectiveness, e.g., several universal approximation theorems. <sup>2 3 4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Jacobs, R. A., Jordan, M. I., Nowlan, S. J., and Hinton, G. E. (1991). Adaptive mixtures of local experts. *Neural computation*.

<sup>2</sup> Nguyen, H. D., Chamroukhi, F., and Forbes, F. (2019). Approximation results regarding the multiple-output Gaussian gated mixture of linear experts model. *Neurocomputing*.

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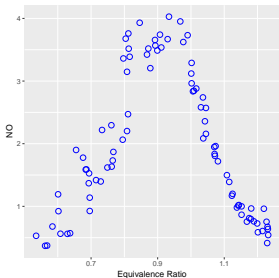
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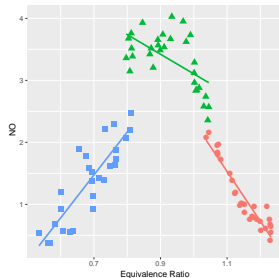
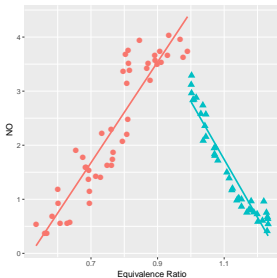
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# Motivating example: Ethanol data set 88 observations

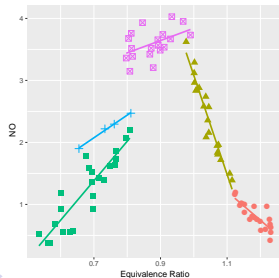
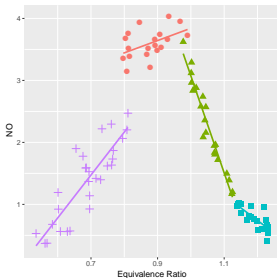
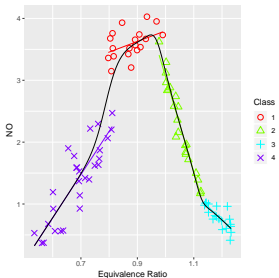
(a) Raw Ethanol data set



Collection of MoE models with linear mean functions characterized by 2-5 clusters



(b) Our best data-driven MoE model



## Definition: GLLiM and GLoME models

$$s_{\psi_{K,d}}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}) = \sum_{k=1}^K \underbrace{\frac{\pi_k \mathcal{N}_L(\mathbf{y}; \mathbf{c}_k, \mathbf{\Gamma}_k)}{\sum_{j=1}^K \pi_j \mathcal{N}_L(\mathbf{y}; \mathbf{c}_j, \mathbf{\Gamma}_j)}}_{\text{Gaussian gating network}} \underbrace{\mathcal{N}_D(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{v}_{k,d}(\mathbf{y}), \mathbf{\Sigma}_k)}_{\text{Gaussian expert}}.$$

- $\omega = (\pi, \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{\Gamma}) \in (\Pi_{K-1} \times \mathbf{C}_K \times \mathbf{V}'_K) = \Omega_K$ ,  $\Pi_{K-1}$ : probability simplex,  $K \in \mathbb{N}^*$ : number of mixture components.
- $d \in \mathbb{N}^*$ : mean functions' hyperparameter e.g., degree of polynomial.
- $\psi_{K,d} = (\omega, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{\Sigma}) \in \Omega_K \times \Upsilon_{K,d} \times \mathbf{V}_K$ : model parameter.

**High-dimensional data using inverse regression frameworks** (GLLiM models<sup>5</sup>):  $\mathbf{Y} \equiv \text{input}$ ,  $\mathbf{X} \equiv \text{output}$ ,  $\mathcal{X} \subset \mathbb{R}^D$ ,  $\mathcal{Y} \subset \mathbb{R}^L$ , with  $D \gg L$  and  $D, L \in \mathbb{N}^*$ .

<sup>5</sup>Deleforge, A., Forbes, F., and Horaud, R. (2015). High-dimensional regression with gaussian mixtures and partially-latent response variables. Statistics and Computing.



## Definition: Gaussian gating networks

$$\mathbf{g}_k(\mathbf{y}; \boldsymbol{\omega}) = \frac{\pi_k \mathcal{N}_L(\mathbf{y}; \mathbf{c}_k, \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_k)}{\sum_{j=1}^K \pi_j \mathcal{N}_L(\mathbf{y}; \mathbf{c}_j, \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_j)}, \text{ for every } k \in [K],$$

- $\boldsymbol{\omega} = (\boldsymbol{\pi}, \mathbf{c}, \boldsymbol{\Gamma}) \in (\boldsymbol{\Pi}_{K-1} \times \mathbf{C}_K \times \mathbf{V}'_K) = \boldsymbol{\Omega}_K$ ,
- $\boldsymbol{\Pi}_{K-1} = \left\{ (\pi_k)_{k \in [K]} \in (\mathbb{R}^+)^K, \sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k = 1 \right\}$ ,
- $\mathbf{C}_K$ :  $K$ -tuples of mean vectors of size  $L \times 1$ ,
- $\mathbf{V}'_K$ :  $K$ -tuples of elements in  $\mathcal{S}_L^{++}$ ,
- $\mathcal{S}_L^{++}$ : collection of symmetric positive definite matrices on  $\mathbb{R}^L$ .

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## Mild assumption: Boundedness conditions

- **Gaussian gating parameters:** there exist positive constants  $a_\pi, A_c, a_\Gamma, A_\Gamma$  s.t.

$$\tilde{\Omega}_K = \{\omega \in \Omega_K : \forall k \in [K], \|\mathbf{c}_k\|_\infty \leq A_c, \\ a_\Gamma \leq m(\Gamma_k) \leq M(\Gamma_k) \leq A_\Gamma, a_\pi \leq \pi_k\}.$$

- **Gaussian experts linear combination of bounded functions means:**  
 $\mathbf{v} = (\mathbf{v}_{k,d})_{k \in [K]} \in \Upsilon_{K,d} = \otimes_{k \in [K]} \Upsilon_{k,d} = \Upsilon_{k,d}^K$ , where  $\forall k \in [K]$ ,

$$\Upsilon_{k,d} = \Upsilon_{Bo,d} = \left\{ \mathbf{y} \mapsto \left( \sum_{i=1}^d \alpha_i^{(j)} \theta_{\Upsilon,i}(\mathbf{y}) \right)_{j \in [D]} : \|\alpha\|_\infty \leq T_\Upsilon \right\},$$

Collection of bounded basis functions:  $\mathbf{y} \mapsto (\theta_{\Upsilon,i}(\mathbf{y}))_{i \in [d_\Upsilon]}$ ,  $d \in \mathbb{N}^*$ ,  
 $T_\Upsilon \in \mathbb{R}^+$ .

## Boundedness conditions on Gaussian expert covariance matrices

$$\mathbf{V}_K = \left\{ (\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k)_{k \in [K]} \equiv \left( B_k \mathbf{P}_k \mathbf{A}_k \mathbf{P}_k^\top \right)_{k \in [K]} : B_- \leq B_k \leq B_+, \right. \\ \left. \mathbf{P}_k \in SO(D), \mathbf{A}_k \in \mathcal{A}(\lambda_-, \lambda_+) \right\} :$$

- $B_k = |\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k|^{1/D}$ : volume,  $B_- \in \mathbb{R}^+, B_+ \in \mathbb{R}^+$ ,
- $\mathbf{P}_k$ : eigenvectors of  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k$ ,  $SO(D)$ : special orthogonal group of dimension  $D$ ,
- $\mathbf{A}_k$ : diagonal matrix of normalized eigenvalues of  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k$ ,  $\mathcal{A}(\lambda_-, \lambda_+)$ : diagonal matrices  $\mathbf{A}_k$ , such that  $|\mathbf{A}_k| = 1$  and  $\forall i \in [D], \lambda_- \leq (\mathbf{A}_k)_{i,i} \leq \lambda_+$ , where  $\lambda_-, \lambda_+ \in \mathbb{R}$ .

<sup>6</sup>Celeux, G. and Govaert, G. (1995). Gaussian parsimonious clustering models. *Pattern Recognition*. 

## Definition: Collection of GLLiM and GLoME models

$$S_{\mathbf{m}} = \left\{ (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \mapsto s_{\psi_{K,d}}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}) = s_{\mathbf{m}}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}) : \mathbf{m} = (K, d), \right. \\ \left. \psi_{K,d} = (\omega, \mathbf{v}, \Sigma) \in \tilde{\Omega}_K \times \Upsilon_{K,d} \times \mathbf{V}_K = \tilde{\Psi}_{K,d} \right\}.$$

- $\mathbf{m} \in \mathcal{M} = [K_{\max}] \times [d_{\max}], K_{\max}, d_{\max} \in \mathbb{N}^*.$

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# Model selection in standard MoE regression models

⚙️ **Best data-driven model**: selecting from a collection of MoE models characterized by hyperparameters  $\mathbf{m} = (K, d)$ .

→ **Penalized maximum likelihood estimator (PMLE)**:

- **MLE is not sufficient**: underestimation of the risk of the estimate  $\Rightarrow$  choosing models too complex.
- **PMLE via adding  $\text{pen}(\mathbf{m})$** : compensate bias (too simple model) and variance (too complex model).

⚙️ **Our contributions**: establishing non-asymptotic risk bounds that take the form of weak oracle inequalities, provided that lower bounds on the penalties hold true.

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## Definition: Penalized maximum likelihood estimator (PMLE)

An  $\eta'$ -PMLE  $\hat{s}_{\hat{m}}$  (corresponding **the selected model or best data-driven model**  $S_{\hat{m}}$  among  $(S_m)_{m \in \mathcal{M}}$ ), defined by

$$\sum_{i=1}^n -\ln(\hat{s}_{\hat{m}}(\mathbf{x}_i|\mathbf{y}_i)) + \text{pen}(\hat{m}) \leq \inf_{m \in \mathcal{M}} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n -\ln(\hat{s}_m(\mathbf{x}_i|\mathbf{y}_i)) + \text{pen}(m) \right) + \eta',$$

- $\hat{s}_{\hat{m}}$  is an  $\eta$ -minimizer of the negative log-likelihood (infimum may not be unique or reached) is defined by

$$\sum_{i=1}^n -\ln(\hat{s}_{\hat{m}}(\mathbf{x}_i|\mathbf{y}_i)) \leq \inf_{s_m \in S_m} \sum_{i=1}^n -\ln(s_m(\mathbf{x}_i|\mathbf{y}_i)) + \eta,$$

- $\text{pen}(m)$ : penalty function  $\leftarrow$  choosing it is tricky but obviously necessary to compensate variance and bias.

## Definition: Loss functions for conditional densities

- **Tensorized Kullback-Leibler divergence  $\text{KL}^{\otimes n}$  (conditional densities and random covariate variables):**

$$\text{KL}^{\otimes n}(s, t) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{Y}_{[n]}} \left[ \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \text{KL}(s(\cdot | \mathbf{Y}_i), t(\cdot | \mathbf{Y}_i)) \right],$$

if  $sdy \ll tdy$ ,  $+\infty$  otherwise. Fixed predictors  $\Rightarrow$  no  $\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{Y}_{[n]}}[\cdot]$ .

- **Tensorized Jensen-Kullback-Leibler divergence  $\text{JKL}_{\rho}^{\otimes n}$  (technical difficulties with conditional densities), given  $\rho \in (0, 1)$ ,**

$$\text{JKL}_{\rho}^{\otimes n}(s, t) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{Y}_{[n]}} \left[ \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\rho} \text{KL}(s(\cdot | \mathbf{Y}_i), (1 - \rho)s(\cdot | \mathbf{Y}_i) + \rho t(\cdot | \mathbf{Y}_i)) \right].$$

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## Some asymptotic approaches for model selection in MoE models

- Akaike information criterion (AIC) [Akaike, 1974], Bayesian information criterion (BIC) [Schwarz et al., 1978] and BIC-like approximation of integrated classification likelihood (ICL-BIC) [Biernacki et al., 2000] criteria:

$$\text{pen}_{\text{AIC}}(\mathbf{m}) = \dim(S_{\mathbf{m}}), \quad \text{pen}_{\text{BIC}}(\mathbf{m}) = \frac{\ln(n) \dim(S_{\mathbf{m}})}{2}.$$

$$\text{pen}_{\text{ICL-BIC}}(\mathbf{m}) = \text{pen}_{\text{BIC}}(\mathbf{m}) + \text{ENT}(\mathbf{m}) \leftarrow \text{estimated mean entropy}.$$

- AIC (based on asymptotic theory), BIC, ICL-BIC (based on Bayesian approach):
  - May be wrong in a non-asymptotic context:  $\dim(S_{\mathbf{m}})$  and  $\text{card}(\mathcal{M})$  depend on and can be much larger than  $n$ .
  - No finite sample guarantees.
- Obtain an upper bound on  $\mathbb{E}[\text{KL}^{\otimes n}(s_0, \hat{s}_{\mathbf{m}})]$ :
  - ✓ Finite sample guarantee.
  - ✗ Strong regularity assumptions of [White, 1982].

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# Non-asymptotic upper bound of a single model

➤ **Initial target:**

$$\mathbb{E} [\text{KL}^{\otimes n}(s_0, \hat{s}_m)] \leq \left( \inf_{\psi_m \in \Psi_m} \text{KL}^{\otimes n}(s_0, s_{\psi_m}) + \frac{1}{2n} \dim(S_m) \right) + C_2 \frac{1}{n}.$$

➤ **Our contribution:**

$$\mathbb{E} [\text{JKL}_{\rho}^{\otimes n}(s_0, \hat{s}_m)] \leq C_1 \left( \inf_{\psi_m \in \Psi_m} \text{KL}^{\otimes n}(s_0, s_{\psi_m}) + \frac{\kappa}{n} \mathfrak{D}_m \right) + C_2 \frac{1}{n}.$$

- ① Different divergences:  $\text{JKL}_{\rho}^{\otimes n}(s_0, \hat{s}_m) \leq \text{KL}^{\otimes n}(s_0, \hat{s}_m)$ .
- ②  $C_1 > 1$ ,  $\kappa$  is a constant that depends on  $C_1$ ,  $\mathfrak{D}_m \propto \dim(S_m)$ .

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## Theorem: Non-asymptotic oracle inequality<sup>7</sup>

 **Assumptions:** given a deterministic collection  $(S_m)_{m \in \mathcal{M}}$  of MoE models,  $\rho \in (0, 1)$ ,  $C_1 > 1$ ,  
 $\Xi = \sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} e^{-z_m} < \infty, z_m \in \mathbb{R}^+, \forall m \in \mathcal{M}$ .

 **Conclusion:** there exist constants  $C$  and  $\kappa(\rho, C_1) > 0$  such that whenever for all  $m \in \mathcal{M}$ ,


$$\text{pen}(m) \geq \kappa(\rho, C_1) [(C + \ln n) \dim(S_m) + z_m],$$


the  $\eta'$ -PMLE  $\hat{s}_m$  satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[ \text{JKL}_{\rho}^{\otimes n}(s_0, \hat{s}_m) \right] &\leq C_1 \inf_{m \in \mathcal{M}} \left( \inf_{s_m \in S_m} \text{KL}^{\otimes n}(s_0, s_m) + \frac{\text{pen}(m)}{n} \right) \\ &\quad + \frac{\kappa(\rho, C_1) C_1 \Xi}{n} + \frac{\eta + \eta'}{n}. \end{aligned}$$

<sup>7</sup> **Nguyen, T.**, Nguyen, H.D., Chamroukhi, F., and Forbes, F. (2022). A non-asymptotic approach for model selection via penalization in high-dimensional mixture of experts. arXiv 2104.02640. Under revision, [Electronic Journal of Statistics](#).

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# Main positive messages and perspectives

- ☺ **Our risk assessments are non-asymptotic.**
- ☺ If  $\text{pen}(\mathbf{m})$  is properly chosen, then our PMLE behaves in a comparable manner compared to **the best (oracle) model  $S_{\mathbf{m}^*}$  in the collection.**
- ☺ **Partially answer** the two following important questions raised in the area of MoE regression models:
  - ① **Which value of  $K$**  should be chosen, given the sample size  $n$ ,
  - ② Whether it is better to use a **few complex experts** or **combine many simple experts**, given the total number of parameters.
- ☺ **Minimax lower bounds** for MoE regression models, which is only known for mixture models<sup>8</sup>.

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# My Coauthors $\in$ Mixture of French and Australian Experts



Faïcel Chamroukhi



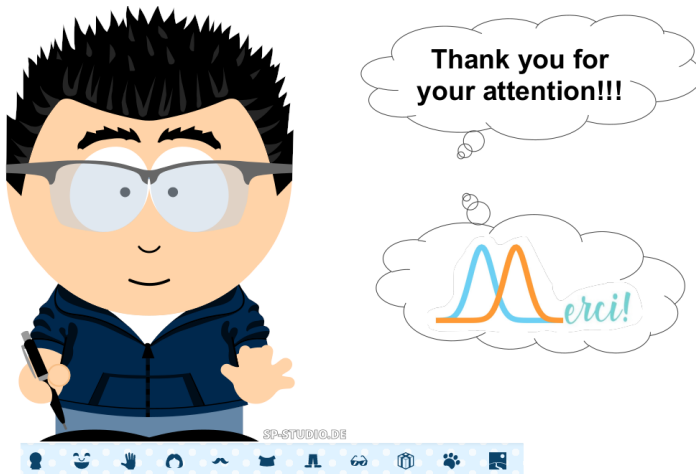
Hien Duy Nguyen



Florence Forbes



“Essentially, all models are wrong, but some are useful”. George E.P. Box (1987).



↑ This is my best data-driven model to approximate myself.