

Statistical Foundations of Data Science

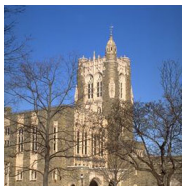
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4. Feature Screening and Selection

4.1. Independence Screening (§8.1)

4.2. Iteratively Independent Learning (§8.3)

4.1 Sure Independence Screening

Available in  package: **SIS**

Independence Screening

Regression: Feature ranking by **marginal corr** $\{|\widehat{\text{corr}}(X_j, Y)|\}$.

★ Easily to implement

★ Scalable to Big Data

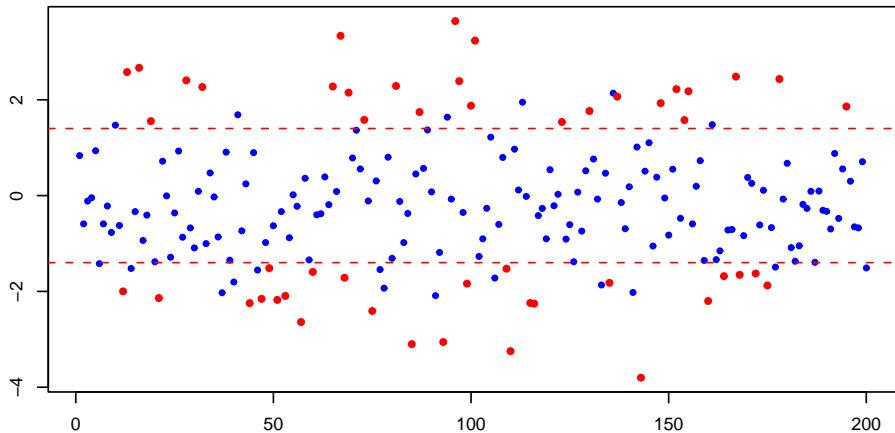
Classification ($Y = \pm 1$): Feature ranking by two-sample t-tests or other tests.

(Applications: Sentiment analysis — selecting a bag of words related to financial returns (*Ke, Kelly, Xiu, 2019*))

Sure Screening: Selected $\hat{\mathcal{S}}$ contains all important variables \mathcal{S} .

Sure Independent Screening (SIS): Correlation learning has sure screening property (*Fan and Lv, 2008, JRSS-B*): $P(\mathcal{S} \subset \hat{\mathcal{S}}) \rightarrow 1$.

An illustration



x-axis: label of variables

y-axis: correlation with Y ,

red: \mathcal{S} blue: \mathcal{S}^c

A Framework for Independence Screening

Marginal utility: Letting $\widehat{L}_0 = \min_{\beta_0} n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n L(Y_i, \beta_0)$, define

$$\widehat{L}_j = \widehat{L}_0 - \min_{\beta_0, \beta_j} n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n L(Y_i, \beta_0 + X_{ij}\beta_j) \quad \text{Wilks.}$$

or marginal minimizer (QMLE) $\widehat{\beta}_j^M$ (**Wald**), assuming $EX_j^2 = 1$.

Feature ranking: Select features w/ **largest marginal utilities**:

$$\widehat{\mathcal{M}}_{v_n} = \{j : \widehat{L}_j \geq v_n\}, \quad \widehat{\mathcal{M}}_{\gamma_n}^w = \{j : |\widehat{\beta}_j^M| \geq \gamma_n\}$$

Dim. reduction: From high to moderate dimensions



Square-loss

When $L(Y, \mathbf{X}^T \beta) = (Y - \mathbf{X}^T \beta)^2$, we have

(homework)

$$\hat{L}_j = \hat{r}_j^2 \hat{L}_0, \quad \hat{\beta}_j = \hat{r}_j \hat{L}_0^{1/2}$$

Both reduce to the correlation ranking (Fan and Lv, 2008).

Generalized correlation: Use multiple R^2 based on univariate polynomial regression (Hall and Miller, 09).

Nonparametric screening: Use multiple R^2 based on univariate spline regression (NIS, Fan, Feng, Song, 10).

Extensions and Questions

- ★ **Marginal LR** (*Fan, Samworth & Wu, 09*);
- ★ **MMLE** (*Fan and Song, 10*); ★ **MPLE** (*Zhao & Li, 12*); ★ **D-corr** (*Li, Zhong, Zhu, 12*);
- ★ **Rank-corr** (*Li, et. al, 12*);
- ★ **Nonparametric learning** (*Fan, Feng, Song, 10*)

- 1 Can we have model selection consistency?
- 2 Can we have sure screening property? In what capacity?
- 3 How to choose a thresholding parameter?

Choice of thresholding parameter

Threshold parameter: maximum marginal utility under **null model**, estimated by random decoupling, called Principled SIS (*Zhao and Li, 12*).

- Obtain the decoupled synthetic data $\{(\mathbf{X}_{\pi(i)}, Y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$ — Marginal distributions are untouched;
- Compute $a_n^* = \max_j \hat{L}_j^*$ based on decoupled data.
For correlation learning, this becomes $\text{corr}^2(\{(X_{\pi(i)j}, Y_i)\})$.
- Choose the top α -quantile of a_n^* as v_n .

Remark: We can take a_n^* based on one permutation.

Theoretical Basis

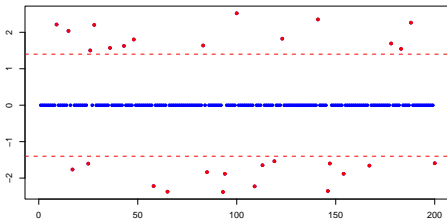
Marginal utility: $L_j^* = EL(Y, \beta_0^M) - \min EL(Y, \beta_0 + \beta_j X_j)$. **Likelihood-ratio** (Fan and

Song, 10)

True model: $\mathcal{M}_\star = \{j : \beta_j^* \neq 0\}$.

Theorem 4.1: If $|\text{cov}(Y, X_j)| \geq c_1 n^{-\kappa}$ for $j \in \mathcal{M}_\star$, then

$$\min_{j \in \mathcal{M}_\star} |\beta_j^M| \geq c_1 n^{-\kappa}, \quad \min_{j \in \mathcal{M}_\star} |L_j^*| \geq c_2 n^{-2\kappa}.$$



■ If **active** $\mathbf{X}_{\mathcal{M}_\star}$ indep of **inactive** $\mathbf{X}_{\mathcal{M}_\star^c}$, then $L_j^* = 0, j \notin \mathcal{M}_\star$

\implies model sel consistency, if gap is wide enough.

Sure independence screening

Thm 4.2: If $v_n = cn^{-2\kappa}$ for $\kappa < 1/2$, and $\log s_n = o(n^{1-2\kappa})$, then

$$P\left(\mathcal{M}_\star \subset \widehat{\mathcal{M}}_{v_n}\right) \rightarrow 1 \quad \text{exponentially fast.}$$

No conditions on covariance matrix!

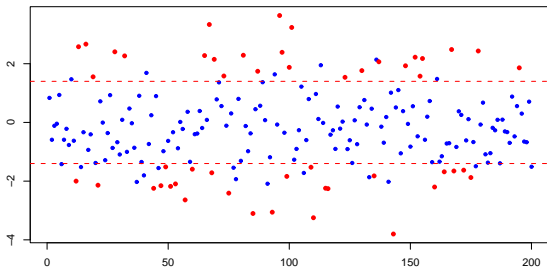
- Screening using **Wald stat** $\widehat{\beta}_j^M$ has also SS property.

Controlling number of features

Theorem 4.3: If $\log p_n = o(n^{1-2\kappa})$

$$\mathbb{P}[\widehat{|\mathcal{M}_{V_n}|} \leq O\{n^{2\kappa} \lambda_{\max}(\Sigma)\}] \rightarrow 1.$$

When $\lambda_{\max}(\Sigma) = O(n^\tau)$, model size = $O(n^{2\kappa+\tau})$ (Fan and Lv, 08).



Performance of Independence Screening

■ Compare **minimum model size** for sure screening w/ LASSO.

■ Consistent cond for Lasso is stringent: $\|(\mathbf{X}_1^T \mathbf{X}_1)^{-1} \mathbf{X}_1^T \mathbf{X}_{2,j}\|_1 < 1$.

Design 1: $\{X_j = \frac{\varepsilon_j + a_j \varepsilon}{\sqrt{1+a_j^2}}\}_{j=1}^q$, w/ correlation $\frac{a_j^2}{1+a_j^2}$, rest indep.

a_j generated from $N(a, 1)$ with $\rho = \frac{a^2}{1+a^2}$

Logistic regression, $p = 5,000$, $q = 15$

ρ	n	SIS-MLR	SIS-MMLE	LASSO	SCAD
$s = 6, \beta^* = (1, 1.3, 1, 1.3, 1, 1.3)^T$					
0.4	200	51(77)	64.5(76)	20(10)	16.5(6)
0.6	300	77.5(139)	77.5(132)	20(13)	19(9)
0.8	400	306.5(347)	313(336)	86(40)	70.5(35)
$s = 12, \beta^* = (1, 1.3, \dots)^T$					
0.4	300	14(1)	14(1)	14(1861)	13(1865)
0.6	300	14(1)	14(1)	2552(85)	12(3721)
0.8	300	14(1)	14(1)	2556(10)	12(3722)
$s = 15, \beta^* = (3, 4, \dots)^T$					
0.4	300	15(0)	15(0)	38(3719)	15(3720)
0.6	300	15(0)	15(0)	2555(87)	15(1472)
0.8	300	15(0)	15(0)	2552(8)	15(1322)

Linear regression, $p = 2000$, $n = 600$

Design 2: $\{X_k\}_{k=1}^{p-50} \sim i.i.d. N(0, 1)$.

$$X_k = \sum_{j=1}^s X_j (-1)^{j+1} / 5 + \sqrt{25-s} / 5 \varepsilon_k, \quad k \geq p-49$$

Regression Coefs: $\beta^* = (1, -1, 1, -1, \dots)^T$

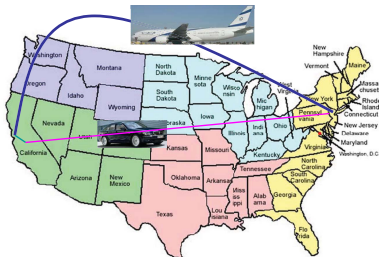
(RSD = $\frac{IQR}{1.35}$)

s	$M\text{-}\lambda_{\max}(\text{RSD})$	SIS-MLR	SIS-MMLE	LASSO	SCAD
3	8.47(0.17)	3(0)	3(0)	3(0)	3(0)
6	10.36(0.26)	56(0)	56(0)	47(4)	45(3)
12	14.69(0.39)	62(0)	62(0)	1610(10)	1304(2)
24	23.70(0.14)	81(19)	81(23)	1637(14)	1303(1)

4.2 Iteratively SIS Method

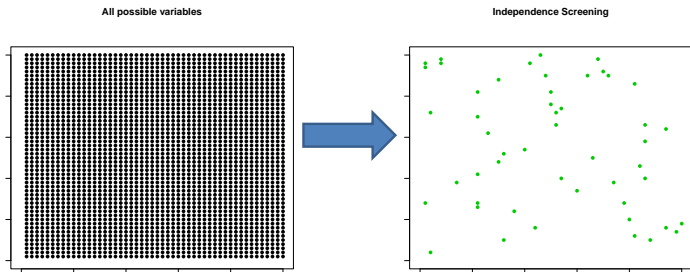
a two-scale framework

(Fan, Samworth, Wu, 2009, JMLR)



Large scale-screening

Indep Screening: Feature ranking by **Marginal** correlation (*Fan & Lv, 08*) or generalized correlation (*Hall & Miller, 09*);



Potential Drawbacks

- ◆ **False Negative:** What if X_1 marginally uncorrelated with Y , but jointly correlated with Y ?

$$Y = \beta_1 X_1 + X_2 + X_3 + X_4 + X_5 + \varepsilon \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \text{cov}(Y, X_1) = 0.$$

★ e.g. $\text{corr}(X_i, X_j) = 0.8$ for all $i, j < p$. $\text{cov}(Y, X_1) = \beta_1 + 4 * .8$. With $\beta = -3.2$, X_1 can not survive screening.

- ◆ **False Positive:** What if variables highly correlated with important ones, but weakly correlated with Y conditionally? e.g. X_{100} indep of X_i for $i < 99$

$$Y = X_1 + 0.2X_{100} + \varepsilon$$

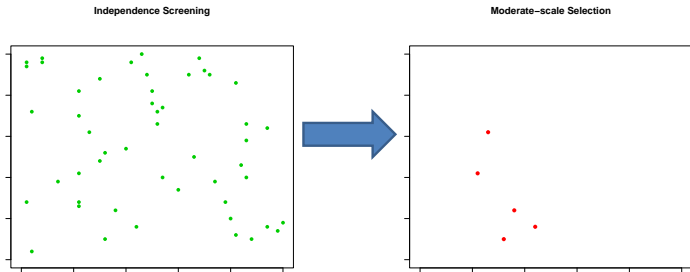
$\text{cov}(X_j, Y) = 0.8, 2 \leq j \leq 99$ whereas $\text{cov}(X_j, Y) = 0.2$.

Moderate scale selection

Penalized likelihood estimation on survived variables after screening

$$Q(\beta) = n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n L(Y_i, \mathbf{x}_{i,d}^T \beta) + \sum_{j=1}^p p_{\lambda}(|\beta_j|)$$

■ Simultaneously estimate coefs and choose variables.



Iterative application of

large-scale conditional **screening** and

moderate-scale **selection**.

■ Iter-SIS (*Fan & Lv, 08; Fan, Samworth & Wu, 09*), **available in R**.

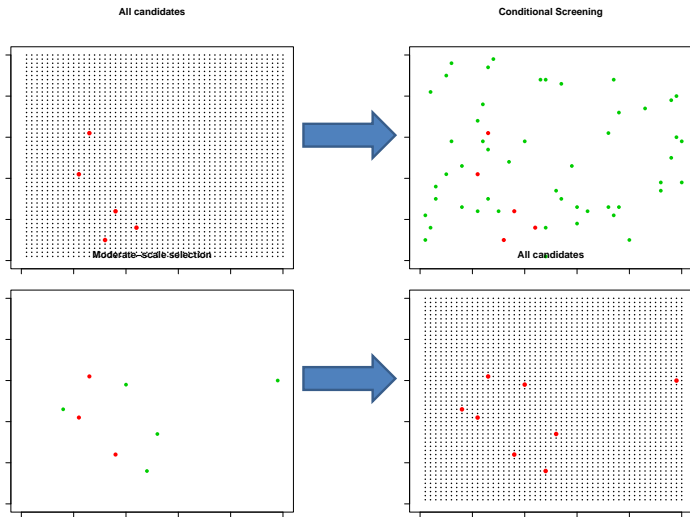
Iterative feature selection

- 1 ■ **(Large-scale screening)**: Apply SIS to pick a set \mathcal{A}_1 ;
■ **(Moderate-scale selection)**: Employ a penalized likelihood to select a subset \mathcal{M}_1 of these indices.
- 2 **(Large-scale screening)**: Rank features according to the additional **(conditional)** contribution:

$$L_j^{(2)} = \min_{\beta_0, \beta_{\mathcal{M}_1}, \beta_j} n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n L(Y_i, \beta_0 + \mathbf{x}_{i, \mathcal{M}_1}^T \beta_{\mathcal{M}_1} + x_{ij} \beta_j),$$

resulting in \mathcal{A}_2 .

Illustration of Iter-SIS



Iterative feature selection (II)

- 3 (Moderate-scale selection): Minimize wrt $\beta_{\mathcal{M}_1}, \beta_{\mathcal{A}_2}$


$$\sum_{i=1}^n L(Y_i, \beta_0 + \mathbf{x}_{i,\mathcal{M}_1}^T \beta_{\mathcal{M}_1} + \mathbf{x}_{i,\mathcal{A}_2}^T \beta_{\mathcal{A}_2}) + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{M}_1 \cup \mathcal{A}_2} p_\lambda(|\beta_j|),$$

resulting in \mathcal{M}_2 —Allow deletion.

- 4 Repeat Steps 1–3 until $|\mathcal{M}_L| = d$ (prescribed) or $\mathcal{M}_L = \mathcal{M}_{L-1}$.

Applicability of Iter-SIS idea

The idea of Iter-SIS is widely applicable. It can be applied to

- Classification (*Fan, Samworth, & Wu, 09*).
- Survival analysis (*Fan, Feng, & Wu, 10; Zhao & Li, 12*).
- Nonparametric learning (*Fan, Feng, & Song, 10*).
- Robust and quantile regression (*Bradic, Fan, & Wang, 11*)
- Available in  package: **SIS**

Logistic, a difficult case

★ $\mathbf{X}_i \sim N(0, 1)$, $\text{cov}(X_i, X_j) = 1/\sqrt{2}$, $i \neq j < p$, indep of X_p .

★ $\beta_1 = 4$, $\beta_2 = 4$, $\beta_3 = 4$, $\beta_4 = -6\sqrt{2}$, $\beta_p = 4/3$, $\text{cov}(X_4, \mathbf{X}^T \beta^*) = 0$.

★ Bayes error: 0.1040.

$n = 400$, $p = 1000$, $N_{\text{sim}} = 100$

	Van-SIS	Iter-SIS	Iter-SIS2	LASSO	NSC
$\text{med}(\ \hat{\beta} - \beta\ _1)$	20.6	2.69	3.24	23.2	N/A
$\text{med}(\ \hat{\beta} - \beta\ _2^2)$	9.46	1.36	1.59	9.11	N/A
True Positive	0.00	0.90	0.98	0.00	0.17
Med. model size	16	5	5	102	10
$2Q(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta})$ (training)	269	188	188	109	N/A
AIC	289	198	199	311	N/A
BIC	337	218	219	714	N/A
$2Q(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta})$ (test)	361	225	226	276	N/A
0-1 test error	.193	.112	.112	.146	.387