

Practical Applications of the L1 penalty

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StatLearn, April 2022

Outline

Before we start

Background on the ℓ_1 penalty

- Sparse linear regression

- Properties of the Lasso

- Sparse linear classification

Extensions of the ℓ_1 penalty

- Other sparse penalties

- Optimality conditions and solvers

Applications of the ℓ_1 penalty

- Feature generation

- ℓ_1 penalty and Neural Networks

- Signal/Image processing

Concluding remarks

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Jobs in ML/AI



Source: Les Décodeuses du numérique

Before we start

Jobs in ML/AI

*"There is the **royal** way, getting an AI job in a **company**
and the **imperial** way, getting an AI job in **academia**"*

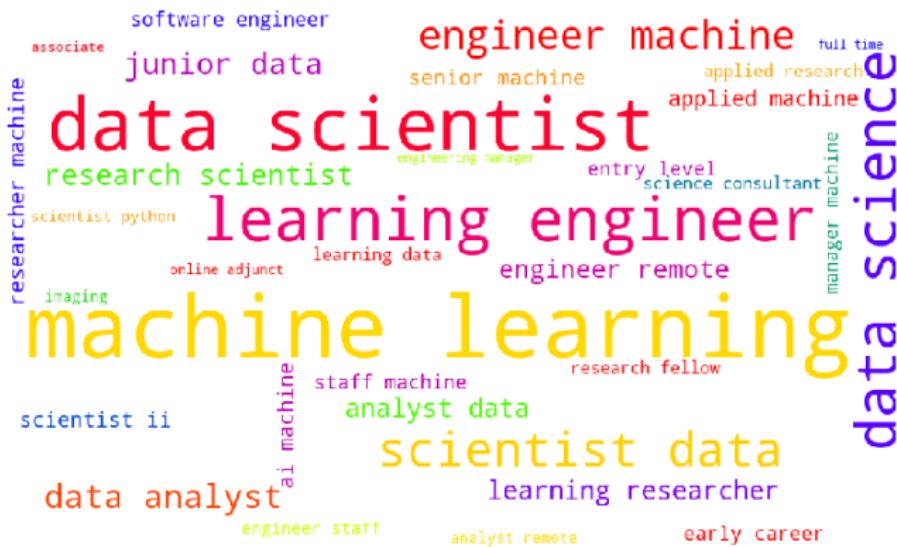
Stéphane Canu



Source: Les Décodeuses du numérique

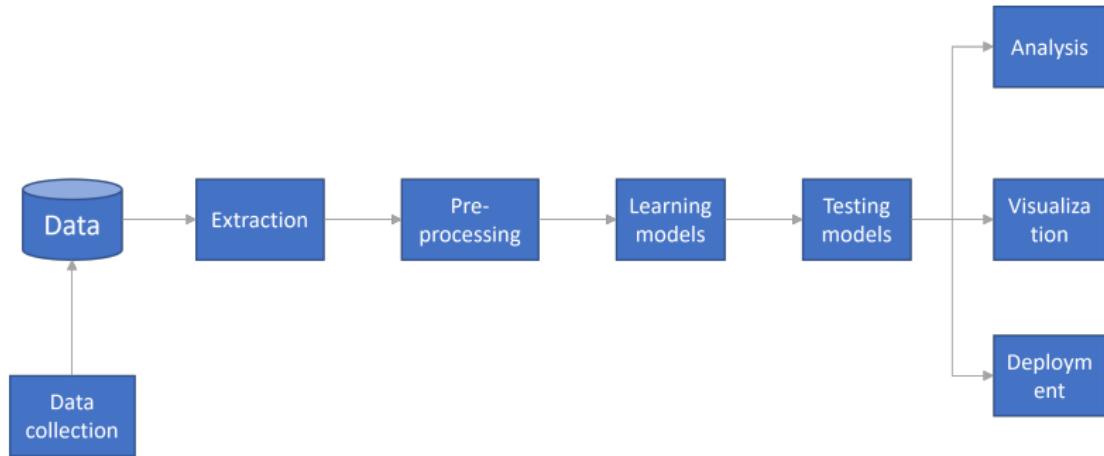
Before we start

Jobs in ML/AI



Before we start

Jobs in ML/AI



Data engineer

ML engineer

Data Scientist

AI researcher

Data analyst

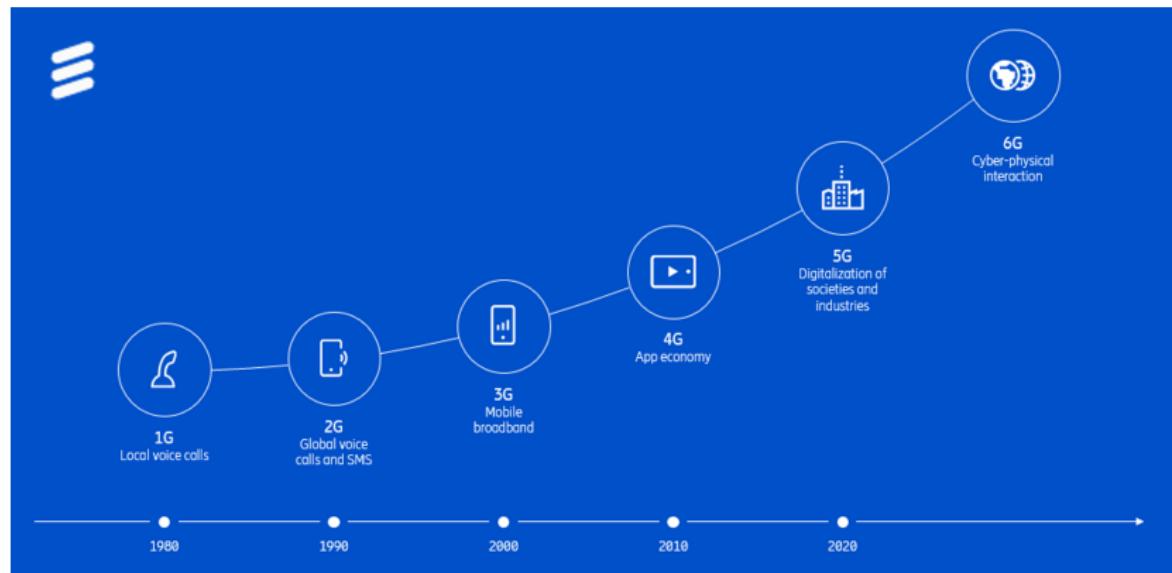
Before we start

My personal experience



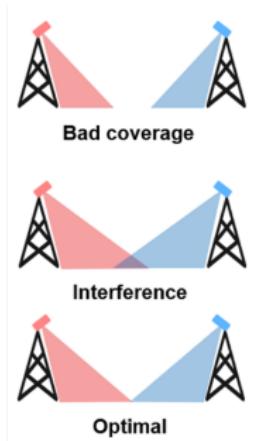
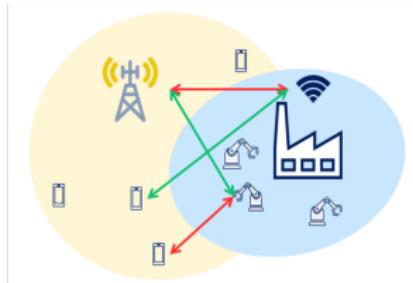
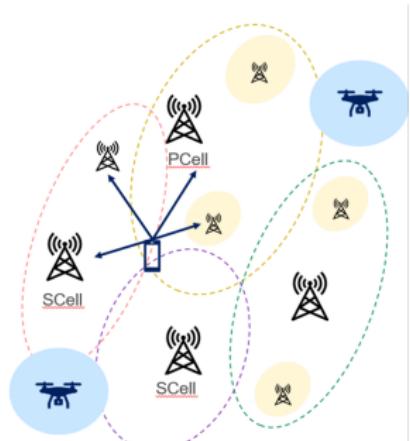
AI in telecom and at Ericsson

- AI is progressively being integrated into 5G and 6G networks



AI in telecom and at Ericsson

- ▶ AI is progressively being integrated into 5G and 6G networks
- ▶ AI & Systems team started in Paris area (near Saclay) in November
 - ▶ Main topics: reinforcement learning, transfer learning, sparse models



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Feature generation

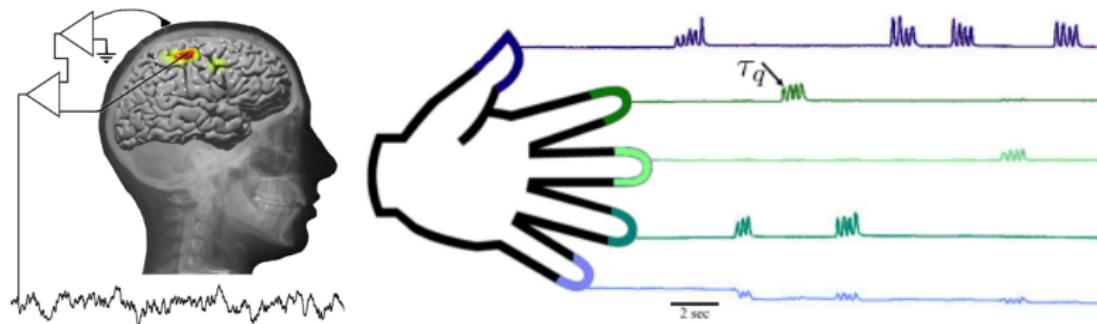
ℓ_1 penalty and Neural Networks

Signal/Image processing

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Motivational example: Brain Computer Interface (BCI)



BCI Competition IV, Dataset 4

- ▶ Data: Recordings of ECoG brain signals and of simultaneous finger flexion of a subject (using a glove)
- ▶ Objective: predict movement (angle) of the 5 fingers of the subject from its recorded ECoG
- ▶ Best performances (at the time!) were obtained using a linear model [Tangermann et al., 2012, Flamary and Rakotomamonjy, 2012]

Linear regression

Linear regression model

Find $\mathbf{w} = (w_1, \dots, w_d) \in \mathbb{R}^d$ such that

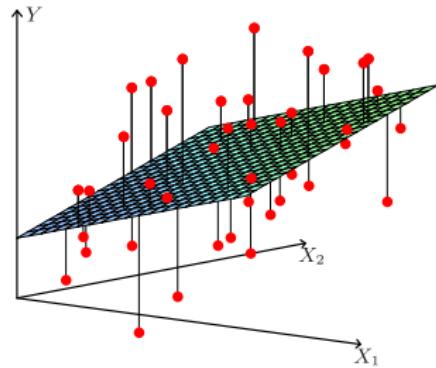
$$y_i = \sum_{j=1}^d w_j x_{i,j} + \sigma \varepsilon_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

$$\left| \begin{array}{l} y_i \in \mathbb{R} \\ \mathbf{x}_i = (x_{i,1}, \dots, x_{i,d}) \text{ fixed, } d < n \\ \varepsilon_i \in \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{E}[\varepsilon_i] = 0, \mathbb{E}[\varepsilon_i^2] = 1 \end{array} \right.$$

Predictions

Once we estimate the linear coefficient vector, the predictions for a new observation \mathbf{x}_{new} is given by:

$$\hat{y} = \sum_{j=1}^d \hat{w}_j x_{new,j} = \mathbf{x}_{new}^\top \hat{\mathbf{w}}$$



Source: [Hastie et al., 2008]

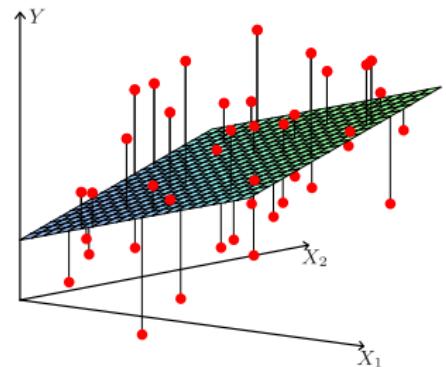
Linear regression

Linear regression model

Find $\mathbf{w} = (w_1, \dots, w_d) \in \mathbb{R}^d$ such that

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w} + \sigma\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$$

$$\left| \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ \mathbf{X} = (\mathbf{x}^1, \dots, \mathbf{x}^d) \text{ fixed, } d < n \\ \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = (\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{E}[\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}] = 0, \mathbb{E}[\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^\top \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}] = n. \end{array} \right.$$



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Predictions

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Notations

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_1 & 1 \\ \mathbf{x}_2 & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}_i & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}_n & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_{1,1} & x_{1,2} & \dots & x_{1,j} & \dots & x_{1,d} & 1 \\ x_{2,1} & x_{2,2} & \dots & x_{2,j} & \dots & x_{2,d} & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ x_{i,1} & x_{i,2} & \dots & x_{i,j} & \dots & x_{i,d} & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ x_{n,1} & x_{n,2} & \dots & x_{n,j} & \dots & x_{n,d} & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_i \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix}$$

- ▶ $\mathbf{x}_i = (x_{i,1}, x_{i,2}, \dots, x_{i,j}, \dots, x_{i,d})^\top$ denotes the features for sample i
- ▶ $\mathbf{x}^j = (x_{1,j}, x_{2,j}, \dots, x_{i,j}, \dots, x_{n,j})^\top$ denotes variable j

Least Squares solution

Optimization problem

We want to solve

$$\min_{\mathbf{w}} J(\mathbf{w}) \quad \text{with} \quad J(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}\|^2$$

where $J(\mathbf{w})$ is a convex function.

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⇒ Find the parameter \mathbf{w} that leads to a null gradient:

$$\nabla J(\hat{\mathbf{w}}) = 0 \Leftrightarrow -\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \hat{\mathbf{w}} = \mathbf{0}$$

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The solution for Least Squares is the vector $\hat{\mathbf{w}}^{ls}$ defined as

$$\hat{\mathbf{w}}^{ls} = (\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}$$

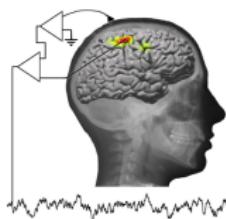
Assumptions

\mathbf{X} is a matrix of rank d (or $d+1$ if bias included) which means that $\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X}$ is invertible.

Sparse linear regression

Issue

What if only a small number of variables are relevant?



Problems

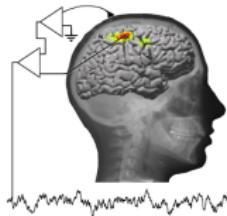
$$\hat{y} = f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{j \in J} w_j \mathbf{x}_j$$

- ▶ Find a set J of **relevant** variables
- ▶ Estimate the corresponding $\mathbf{w}_J = (w_j)_{j \in J}$

Sparse linear regression

Issue

What if only a small number of variables are relevant?



Problems

$$\hat{y} = f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{j \in J} w_j \mathbf{x}_j = \sum_{j=1}^d w_j \mathbf{x}_j$$

- ▶ Find a set J of **relevant** variables
- ▶ Estimate the corresponding $\mathbf{w}_J = (w_j)_{j \in J}$
- ▶ For the others: $w_j = 0 \quad \forall j \notin J$

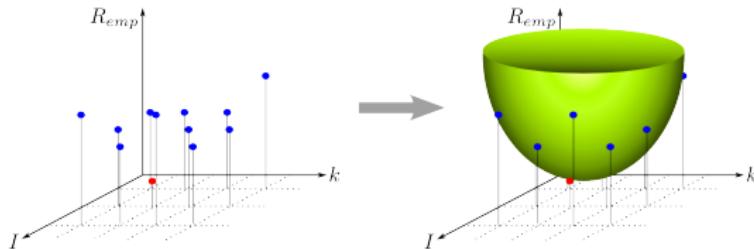
Sparse linear regression

What we would like to do:

$$\begin{cases} \min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{w})^2 \\ \text{s.t. } \#\{\mathbf{w}_j \neq 0\} \leq k \end{cases}$$

Issues

- ▶ NP-hard problem
- ▶ difficult¹ for $d > 40$



¹One way to avoid the computational burden is to use greedy algorithms

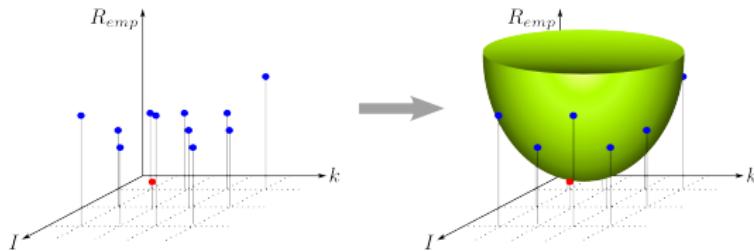
Sparse linear regression

What we would like to do:

$$\begin{cases} \min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}\|^2 \\ \text{s.t. } \|\mathbf{w}\|_0 = \#\{\mathbf{w}_j \neq 0\} \leq k \end{cases}$$

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Sparse linear regression

First approaches:

Best subset: Leaps and bounds (Furnival and Wilson, 1974), branch and bound

Statistical tests:

- ▶ Statistical tests for $\hat{w}_j = 0$ (Z-score)
- ▶ Statistical tests for J vs J' (F-tests)

Updating set I by adding/removing a variable:

- ▶ Forward/backward/stagewise selection [Efroymson, 1960]

Sparse linear regression

First approaches:

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Seminal works on ℓ_1 penalty

- ▶ Linear inversion for seismic data [Santosa and Symes, 1986]
- ▶ Soft-thresholding [Donoho, 1995]
- ▶ Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator (Lasso) [Tibshirani, 1996]

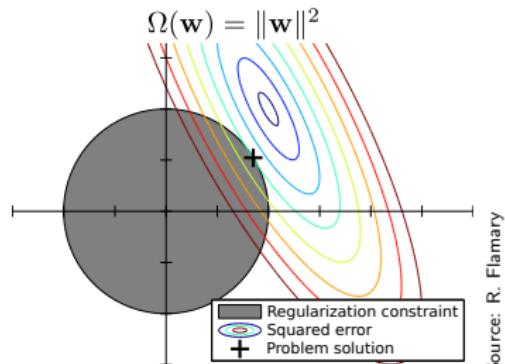
Regularization with the ℓ_2 penalty

Before the ℓ_1 penalty, interesting works had been obtained with the ℓ_2 penalty [Hoerl and Kennard, 1970]

Optimization problems

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{w})^2 \quad \text{s.t. } \sum_{j=1}^d w_j^2 \leq t$$

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \left\{ \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 \right\}$$



- ▶ Reduce variance by adding bias

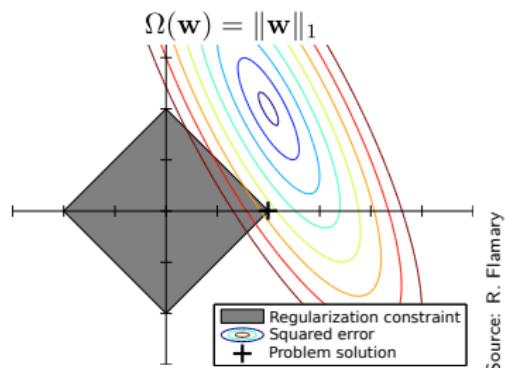
Regularization with the ℓ_1 penalty

Optimization problems

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{w})^2 \quad s.t. \quad \sum_{j=1}^d |w_j| \leq t$$

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \left\{ \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{w}\|_1 \right\}$$

- ▶ Convex relaxation of the ℓ_0 norm
- ▶ Simultaneous selection of variables and estimation
- ▶ The ℓ_1 norm promotes **sparsity**



Source: R. Flamary

Diabetes example (sklearn)

Data

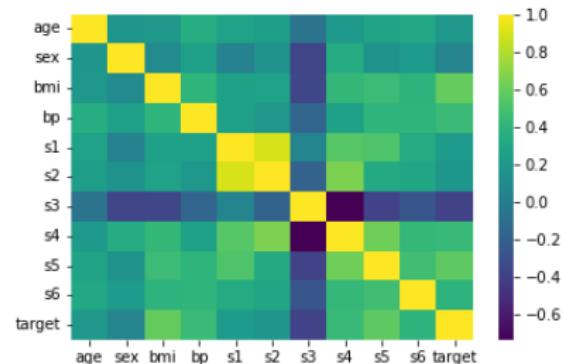
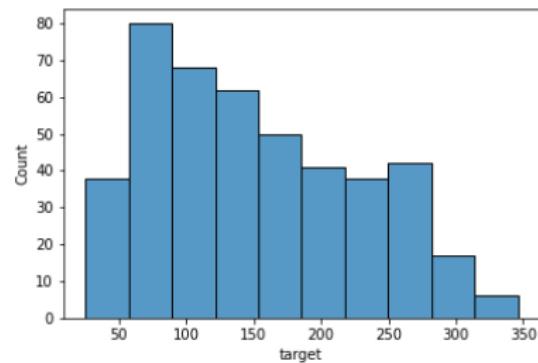
- ▶ $n = 442$ diabetes patients
- ▶ target = quantitative measure of disease progression one year after baseline
- ▶ $d = 10$ input variables: age, sex, body mass index, average blood pressure, and six blood serum measurements

```
from sklearn.datasets import load_diabetes
data = load_diabetes()
X = data.data
y = data.target
features = data.feature_names
```

Diabetes example (sklearn)

Data

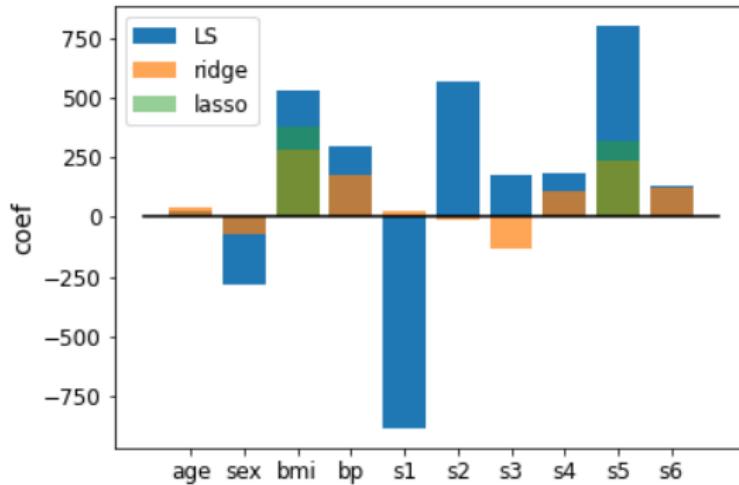
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Diabetes example (sklearn)

Estimation of the disease progression

```
from sklearn.linear_model import Lasso  
lasso = Lasso(alpha=1) # default value  
lasso.fit(Xtrain, ytrain)  
y_pred_lasso = lasso.predict(Xtest)
```



Properties of the Lasso

Google Scholar search results for "lasso".

Articles Environ 462 000 résultats (0,04 s)

Date indifférente
Depuis 2022
Depuis 2021
Depuis 2018
Période spécifique...

Trier par pertinence
Trier par date

Toutes les langues
Rechercher les pages en Français

Tous les types
Articles de revue

inclure les brevets
 inclure les citations

Créer l'alerte

The bayesian lasso
T Park, G Casella - Journal of the American Statistical Association, 2008 - Taylor & Francis
The **Lasso** estimate for linear regression parameters can be interpreted as a Bayesian posterior mode estimate when the regression parameters have independent Laplace (ie, double-...
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[PDF] Stagewise lasso
P Zhao, B Yu - The Journal of Machine Learning Research, 2007 - jmlr.org
Many statistical machine learning algorithms minimize either an empirical loss function as in AdaBoost, or a penalized empirical loss as in **Lasso** or SVM. A single regularization tuning ...
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LASSO regression
J Ranstam, JA Cook - Journal of British Surgery, 2018 - academic.oup.com
... the **LASSO** approach trades off potential bias in estimating individual parameters for a better expected overall prediction. A corresponding important disadvantage of the **LASSO** ... **LASSO** ...
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On the lasso and its dual
MR Osborne, B Presnell, BA Turlach - Journal of Computational ..., 2000 - Taylor & Francis
... (**LASSO**) estimates a vector of regression coefficients by minimizing the residual sum of squares subject to a constraint on the ℓ_1 -norm of the coefficient vector. The **LASSO** ... the **LASSO** as ...
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Properties of the Lasso

Special case: \mathbf{X} orthogonal

When \mathbf{X} is orthogonal, we have: $\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} = I_d$, that is $\mathbf{x}_j^\top \mathbf{x}_j = 1$ and $\mathbf{x}_j^\top \mathbf{x}_l = 0$ for $l \neq j$

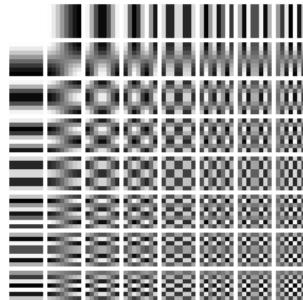
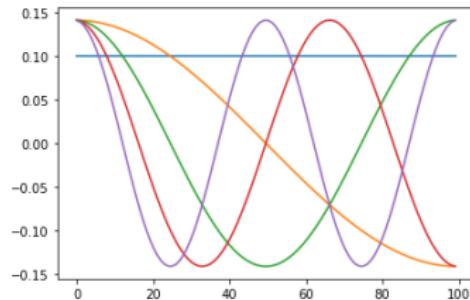
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Example: Basis of discrete cosine

$$\cos\left[\frac{\pi}{N}\left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right)\left(k + \frac{1}{2}\right)\right]$$

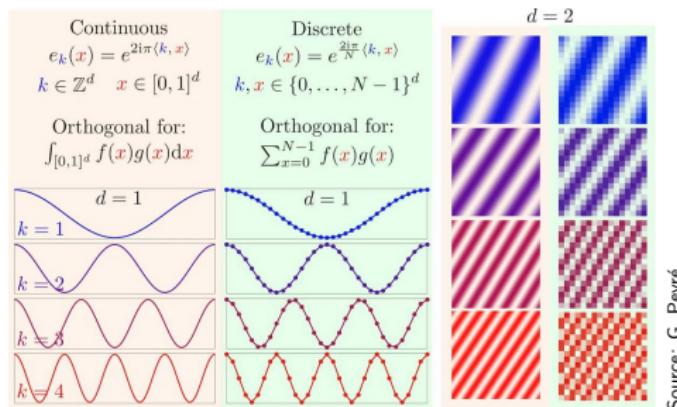


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Example: Basis of discrete Fourier

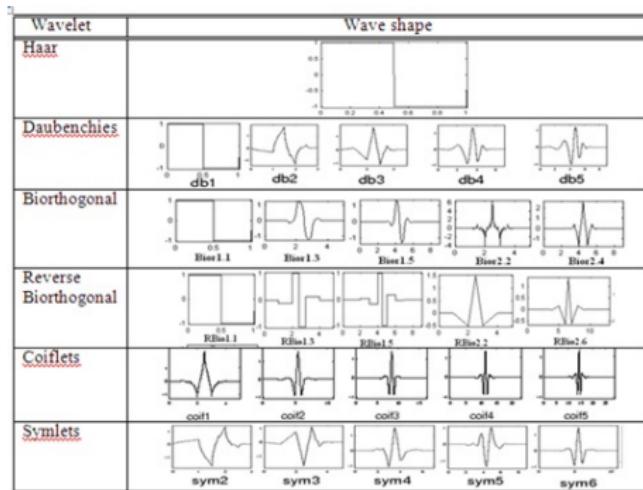


Properties of the Lasso

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Example: basis of wavelets



Source: [Tarique, 2016]

Properties of the Lasso

Special case: \mathbf{X} orthogonal

- Least squares solution:

$$\hat{\mathbf{w}}^{ls} = (\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y} \quad \hat{w}_j^{ls} = \mathbf{x}_j^\top \mathbf{y} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \hat{y}^{ls} = \mathbf{x}_{new} \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{y}$$

Properties of the Lasso

Special case: \mathbf{X} orthogonal

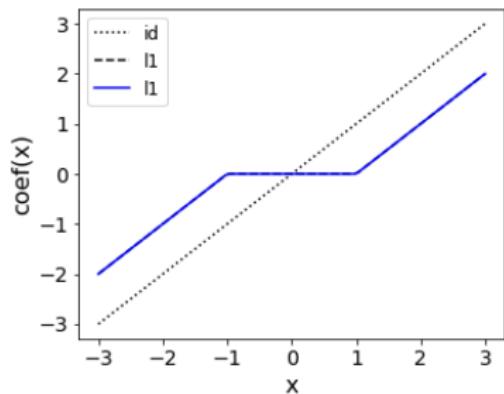
- Least squares solution:

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- Lasso solution:

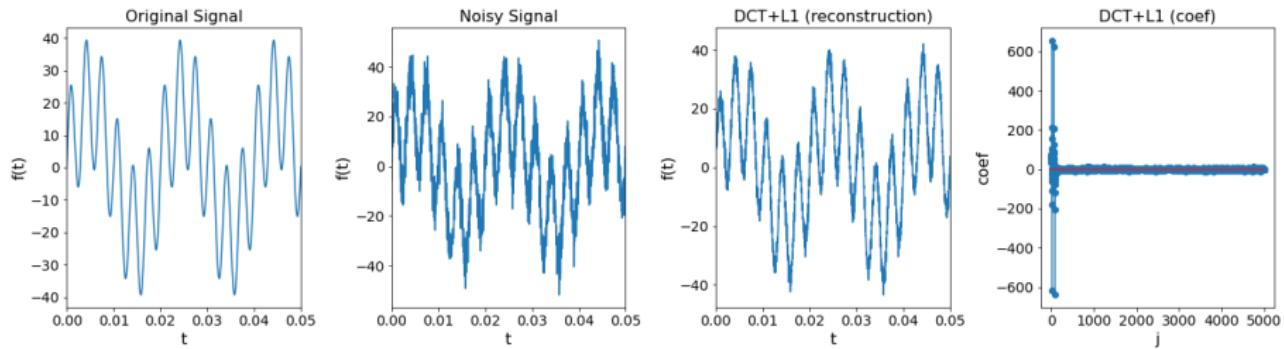
$$\begin{aligned}\hat{w}_j^{lasso} &= (\hat{w}_j^{ls} - \lambda \text{sgn}(\hat{w}_j^{ls})) \mathbb{1}_{\{|\hat{w}_j^{ls}| > \lambda\}} \\ &= \text{sgn}(\hat{w}_j^{ls}) \max(|\hat{w}_j^{ls}| - \lambda, 0)\end{aligned}$$

$$\hat{y}^{lasso} = \mathbf{x}_{new}^\top \hat{\mathbf{w}}^{lasso}$$



Example with DCT

- ▶ data = periodic signal with 2 frequencies (e.g. temperature, tides)
- ▶ $n = 5000$ measurements
- ▶ noise can come from measurements or external conditions



Solving the Lasso (\mathbf{X} general)

Solving a **differentiable** and **convex** optimization problem is usually performed in 2 steps:

- ▶ derive the function to optimize (e.g. in Lagrangian form)
- ▶ finding its root by closed form or iteratively e.g. with gradient descent

Solving the Lasso (\mathbf{X} general)

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Convexity of the Lasso

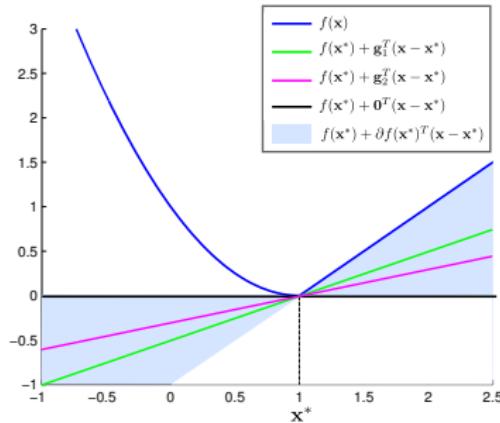
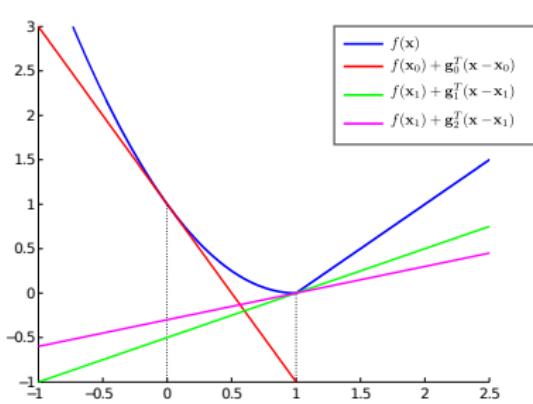
$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \left\{ J_{Lasso} = \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{w}\|_1 \right\}$$

- ▶ Sum of 2 convex functions = convex function
- ▶ $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d$: convex domain
- ⇒ The problem is therefore convex (but not strictly convex)
- ⇒ Any local minimum is also a global minimum

Nondifferentiability of the Lasso

- ▶ The absolute value is nondifferentiable in 0

Subgradients and subdifferential

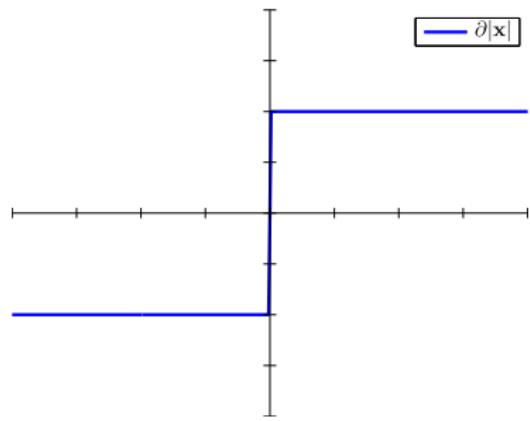
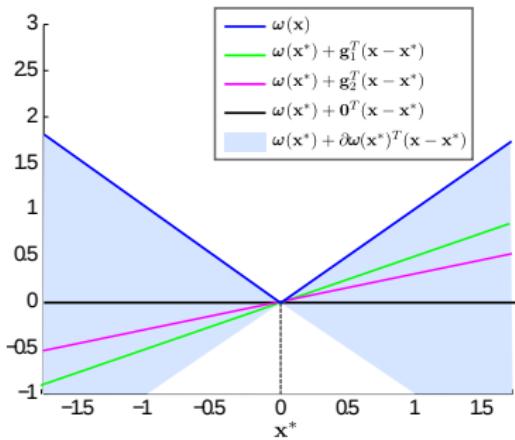


- ▶ The notion of gradient can be extended for nondifferentiable functions
- ▶ For a convex function $f(\mathbf{x})$, \mathbf{g} is a subgradient of f in \mathbf{x}_0 if

$$f(\mathbf{x}) \geq f(\mathbf{x}_0) + \mathbf{g}^\top (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0)$$

- ▶ The set of all subgradients at \mathbf{x}_0 is the subdifferential $\partial f(\mathbf{x}_0)$
- ▶ \mathbf{x}_0 is a **minimum** of the convex function f if $\mathbf{0} \in \partial f(\mathbf{x}_0)$

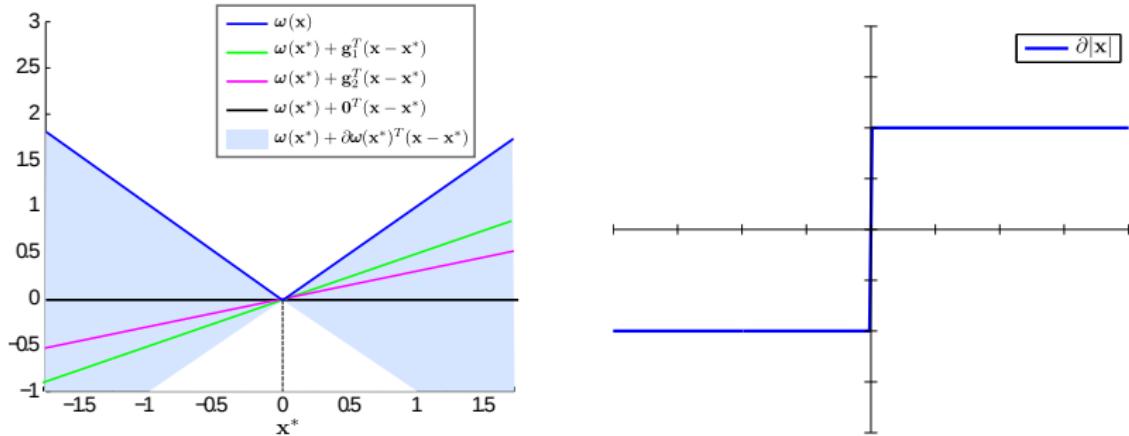
Subdifferential for the ℓ_1 penalty



The subdifferential of the absolute value is of the form

$$\partial|x| = \begin{cases} \alpha \in]-1, 1[& \text{if } x = 0 \\ sign(x) & \text{if } x \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

Subdifferential for the ℓ_1 penalty



The subdifferential of the ℓ_1 penalty is of the form

$$\partial\|\mathbf{w}\|_1 = (\partial|w_j|)_{j=1}^d = \begin{pmatrix} sign(w_j) \\ \alpha_{J^c} \end{pmatrix}$$

with J^c the complement pf J (assuming we know J and the coefficients are reordered)

Optimality conditions of the Lasso

\mathbf{w}^* is a solution of the optimization problem if

$$\mathbf{0} \in \partial J_{\text{Lasso}}(\mathbf{w}^*) \quad \text{with} \quad J_{\text{Lasso}}(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}\|^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{w}\|_1$$

This can be reformulated as the following condition

$$-\mathbf{X}^\top (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}^*) + \lambda \mathbf{g} = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbf{g} \in \partial \|\mathbf{w}^*\|_1$$

Conditions on the components of \mathbf{w}^*

$$\begin{aligned} w_j^* \neq 0 &\Rightarrow -\mathbf{x}_j^\top (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}^*) + \lambda \text{sign}(w_j^*) = 0 \\ w_j^* = 0 &\Rightarrow |\mathbf{x}_j^\top (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}^*)| \leq \lambda \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ \mathbf{x}_j is the j th column of \mathbf{X} (feature j).

Lasso with Python

Scikit-Learn

- ▶ `sklearn.linear_model.Lasso`: coordinate descent algorithm
- ▶ `sklearn.linear_model.SGDRegressor`: stochastic gradient descent
- ▶ `sklearn.linear_model.Lars`: least angle regression

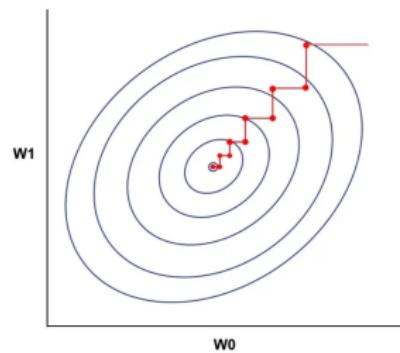
Other Python toolboxes

- ▶ `pylops`: ISTA, FISTA and others
- ▶ `spams`, `cyanure`: stochastic gradient descent
- ▶ `celer.Lasso`, `celer.celer_path`: dual extrapolation

Solvers for Lasso

Coordinate descent (CD)

- ▶ Optimize each component of w independently until convergence
- ▶ Very fast for sparse solutions



```
from sklearn.linear_model import Lasso
lasso = Lasso(alpha=1) # default value
lasso.fit(Xtrain, ytrain)
ypred_lasso = lasso.predict(Xtest)
```

Solvers for Lasso

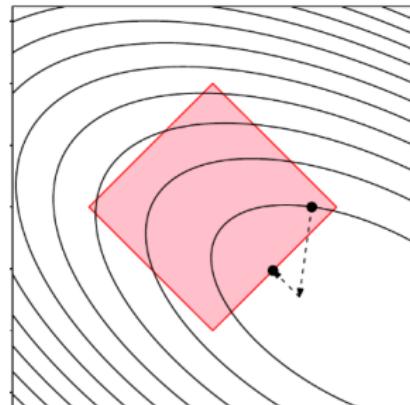
Proximal gradient descent (PGD)

- ▶ Each iteration is a simple soft thresholding of the parameter

$$\mathbf{w}^{(l+1)} = S_\lambda(\mathbf{w}^{(l)} - \gamma \nabla L(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}^{(l)}))$$

where $S_\lambda(x) = (x - \lambda)_+$ is the soft-thresholding operator

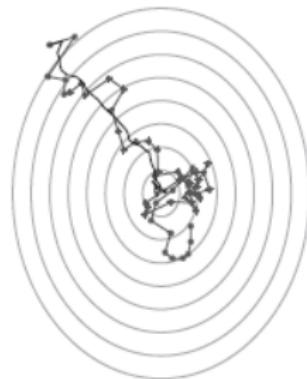
- ▶ (F)ISTA: (Fast) Iterative Soft-Thresholding Algorithm [Daubechies et al., 2010, Beck and Teboulle, 2009]
- ▶ Can be coupled with active sets to speedup sparse solutions



Solvers for Lasso

Stochastic gradient descent (SGD)

- ▶ Based on proximal algorithms
- ▶ Compute the gradient for one sample and optimize for the whole dataset
- ▶ Very efficient



```
from sklearn.linear_model import SGDRegressor
lassoSGD = SGDRegressor(penalty='l1', alpha=1)
lassoSGD.fit(Xtrain, ytrain)
y_pred_lassoSGD = lassoSGD.predict(Xtest)
```

Regularization path

Aim: find the solution to Lasso for all λ

- ▶ Compressed sensing: Basis pursuit denoising [Chen and Donoho, 1994]
- ▶ Statistics: Least Angle Regression (LAR) [Efron et al., 2004]

Recall the optimality condition for nonzero coefficients:

$$-\mathbf{X}_J^\top(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}_J\mathbf{w}_J^*) + \lambda \text{sign}(\mathbf{w}_J^*) = 0$$

Then, assuming we know J and $\text{sign}(\mathbf{w}_J)$ (and we can easily compute the inverse matrix):

$$\mathbf{w}_J^* = (\mathbf{X}_J^\top \mathbf{X}_J)^{-1} (\mathbf{X}_J^\top \mathbf{y} - \lambda \text{sign}(\mathbf{w}_J^*))$$

\mathbf{w}^* is actually linear by parts with respect to λ : we only need to compute it for transition points λ

Regularization path

Aim: find the solution to Lasso for all λ

- ▶ Compressed sensing: Basis pursuit denoising [Chen and Donoho, 1994]
- ▶ Statistics: Least Angle Regression (LAR) [Efron et al., 2004]

Algorithm

Start: $\mathbf{w}^{(0)} = \mathbf{0}$, $J^{(0)} = \emptyset$, $\lambda^{(0)} = \max_j |\mathbf{x}_j^\top \mathbf{y}|$

Repeat

1. Find vector \mathbf{x}_j most correlated with residual

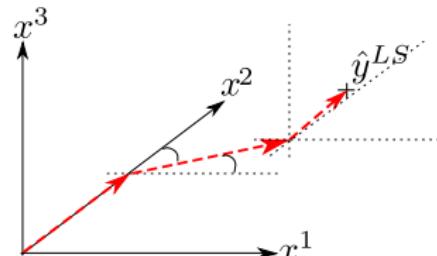
$$\arg \max |\mathbf{x}_j^\top (\mathbf{y} - X_{J^{(l)}} \mathbf{w}_{J^{(l)}}^{(l)})|$$

2. Add it to the set of relevant features

$$J^{(l+1)} \leftarrow J^{(l)} \cup \{j\}$$

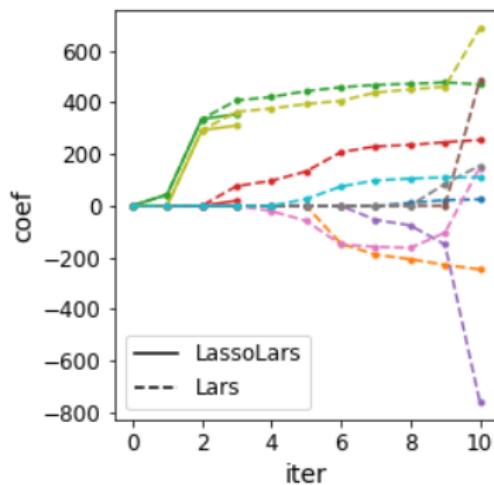
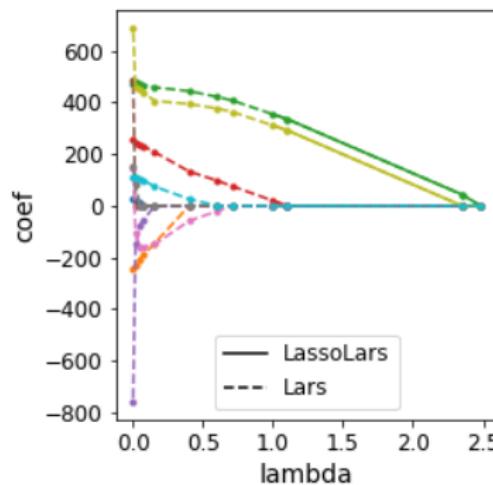
3. Update the coefficients $\mathbf{w}_{J^{(l+1)}}^{(l+1)}$ and $\lambda^{(l+1)}$

until stopping rule.



Diabetes example (sklearn)

```
from sklearn.linear_model import LassoLars, Lars
# Different variants of Lasso regularization path
lasso_lars = LassoLars() # for full path: set alpha=0
lasso_lars.fit(Xtrain, ytrain)
lars = Lars()
lars.fit(Xtrain, ytrain)
```



Choosing λ

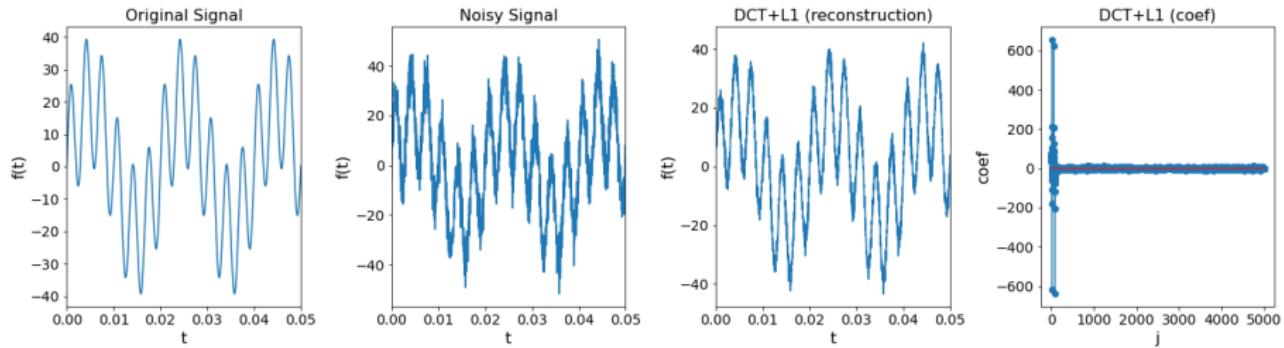
λ tunes the sparsity level:

- ▶ $\lambda = 0 \Rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{w}}^{\text{lasso}} = \hat{\mathbf{w}}^{\text{ls}}$ (all variables are selected)
- ▶ $\lambda \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{w}}^{\text{lasso}} = 0$ (no variable is selected)

Choosing λ

λ tunes the sparsity level:

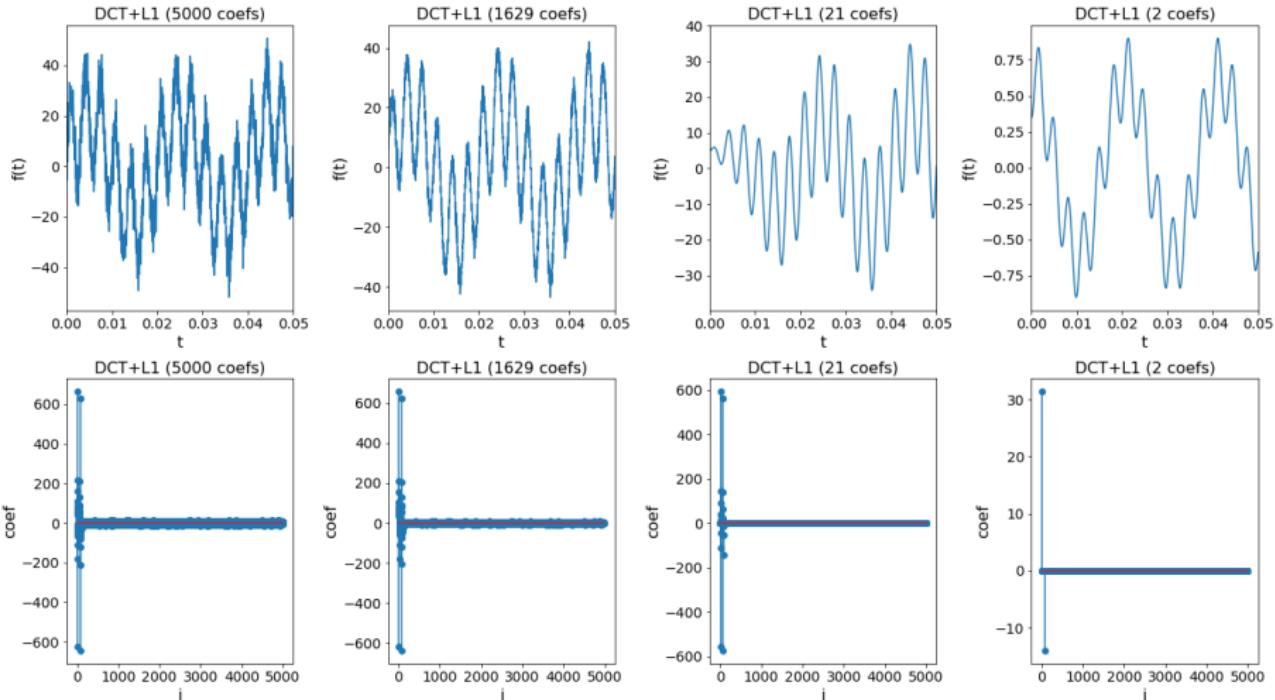
- ▶ $\lambda = 0 \Rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{w}}^{\text{Lasso}} = \hat{\mathbf{w}}^{\text{ls}}$ (all variables are selected)
- ▶ $\lambda \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{w}}^{\text{Lasso}} = 0$ (no variable is selected)



Choosing λ

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Choosing λ

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Measuring the MSE on a different subset

- ▶ **Validation:** estimate $\hat{\mathbf{w}}_\lambda$ on train set I_t , find λ minimizing MSE on validation set I_v

$$\lambda^* = \arg \min_{\lambda \geq 0} \frac{1}{n_v} \sum_{i \in I_v} (y_i - \mathbf{x}_i^\top \hat{\mathbf{w}}_\lambda)^2$$

- ▶ **Cross-validation:** repeat on K different train/valid partitions

$$\lambda^* = \arg \min_{\lambda \geq 0} \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{1}{n_v} \sum_{i \in I_v^{(k)}} (y_i - \mathbf{x}_i^\top \hat{\mathbf{w}}_\lambda)^2$$

Choosing λ

λ tunes the sparsity level:

- ▶ $\lambda = 0 \Rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{w}}^{\text{lasso}} = \hat{\mathbf{w}}^{\text{ls}}$ (all variables are selected)
- ▶ $\lambda \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{w}}^{\text{lasso}} = 0$ (no variable is selected)

Information Criteria

Use the same set for both $\hat{\mathbf{w}}_\lambda$ and λ

- ▶ **Mallow's C_p /Akaike Information Criterion (AIC)**

$$\lambda^* = \arg \min_{\lambda \geq 0} \frac{1}{n_t} \sum_{i \in I_t} (y_i - \mathbf{x}_i^\top \hat{\mathbf{w}}_\lambda)^2 + 2k_\lambda \hat{\sigma}^2$$

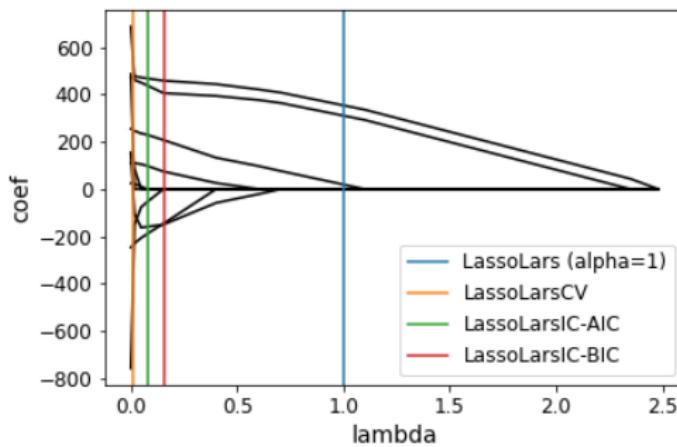
- ▶ **Bayes Information Criterion (BIC)**

$$\lambda^* = \arg \min_{\lambda \geq 0} \frac{1}{n_t} \sum_{i \in I_t} (y_i - \mathbf{x}_i^\top \hat{\mathbf{w}}_\lambda)^2 + \log(n_t) k_\lambda \hat{\sigma}^2$$

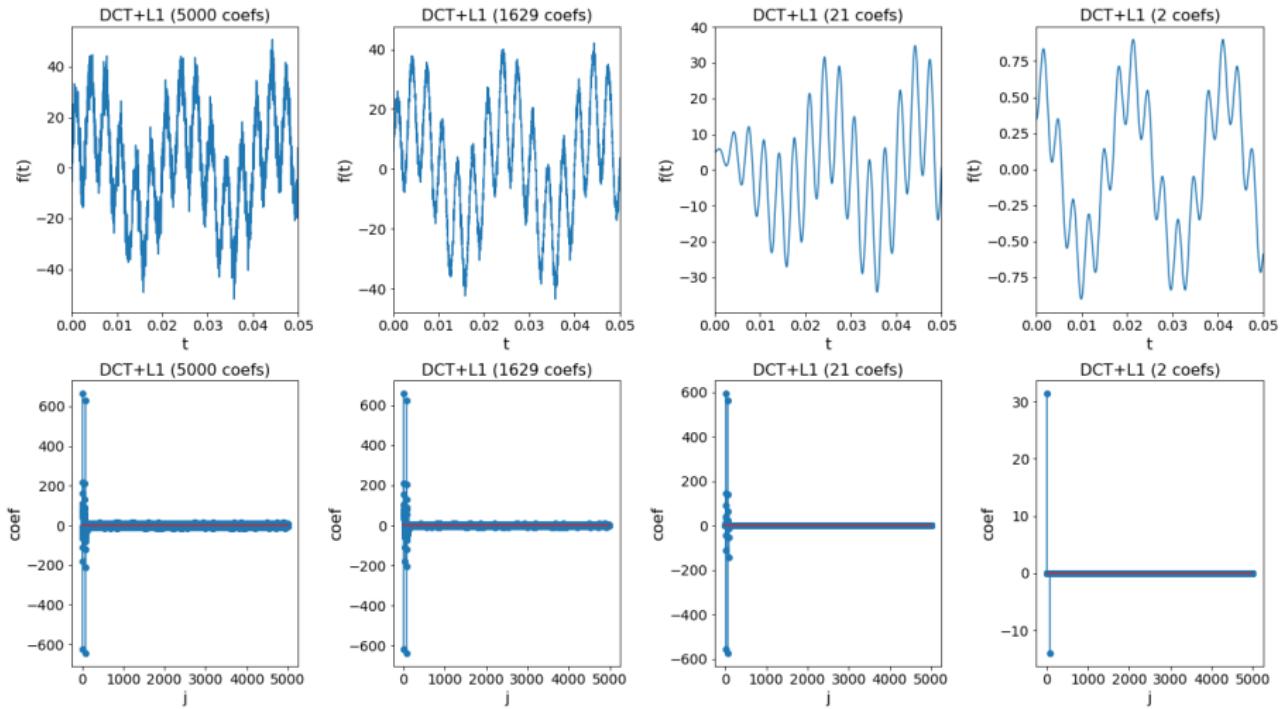
Note: true here because we consider Gaussian errors

Diabetes example (sklearn)

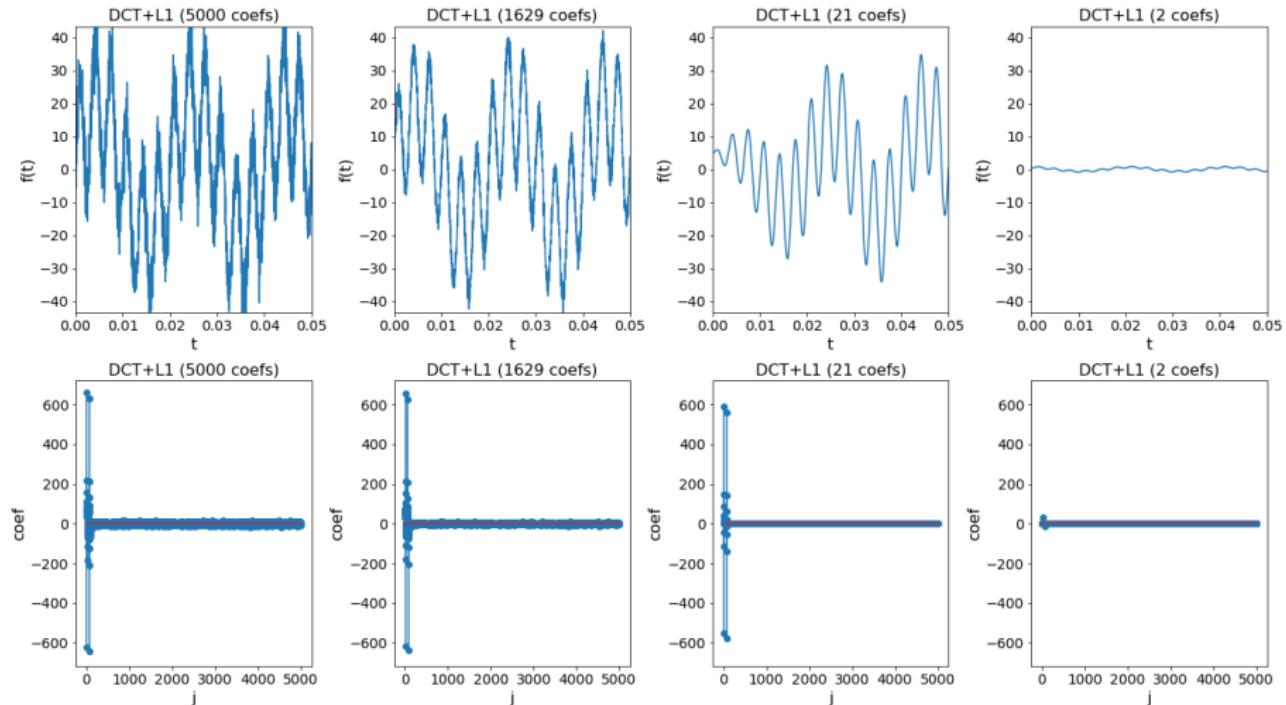
```
from sklearn.linear_model import LassoLars, LassoLarsCV, LassoLarsIC
lasso_lars = LassoLars()
lasso_lars.fit(Xtrain, ytrain)
lasso_larsCV = LassoLarsCV()    # with cross-validation
lasso_larsCV.fit(Xtrain, ytrain)
lasso_larsAIC = LassoLarsIC()   # with AIC or BIC
lasso_larsAIC.fit(Xtrain, ytrain)
lasso_larsBIC = LassoLarsIC(criterion='bic')
lasso_larsBIC.fit(Xtrain, ytrain)
```



Choosing λ



Choosing λ



Issue: Lasso's bias increases with λ

Sparse linear classification

The ℓ_1 penalty can also be applied to classification with other loss functions

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n L(y_i, \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{w}) + \lambda \|\mathbf{w}\|_1$$

Binary classification

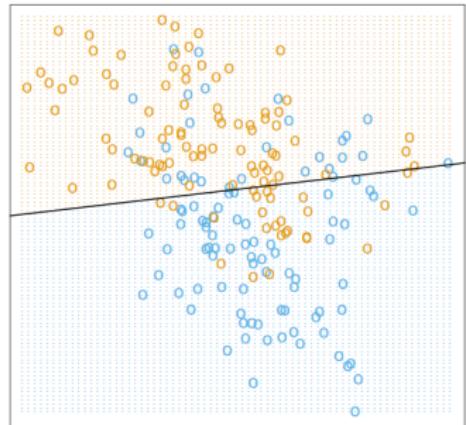
Target takes values: $y_i \in \{-1, 1\}$

- ▶ Logistic loss

$$L(y, \mathbf{x}\mathbf{w}) = \log(1 + \exp(-y\mathbf{x}\mathbf{w}))$$

- ▶ Squared hinge loss (SVM type)

$$L(y, \mathbf{x}\mathbf{w}) = \max(0, 1 - y\mathbf{x}\mathbf{w})^2$$



Source: [Hastie et al., 2008]

Sparse linear classification

The ℓ_1 penalty can also be applied to classification with other loss functions

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n L(y_i, \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{w}) + \lambda \|\mathbf{w}\|_1$$

Multiclass classification

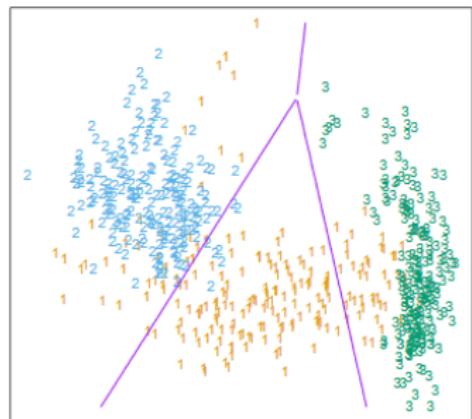
Target takes values: $y_i \in \{1, \dots, K\}$,

$K = \text{no. classes}$

$\mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times K}$

- Multinomial logistic regression

$$L(y, \mathbf{x}\mathbf{W}) = -\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \log \sum_{k=1}^K e^{\mathbf{x}_i^\top (\mathbf{w}^k - \mathbf{w}^{y_i})}$$



Source: [Hastie et al., 2008]

Breast cancer example (sklearn)

Data

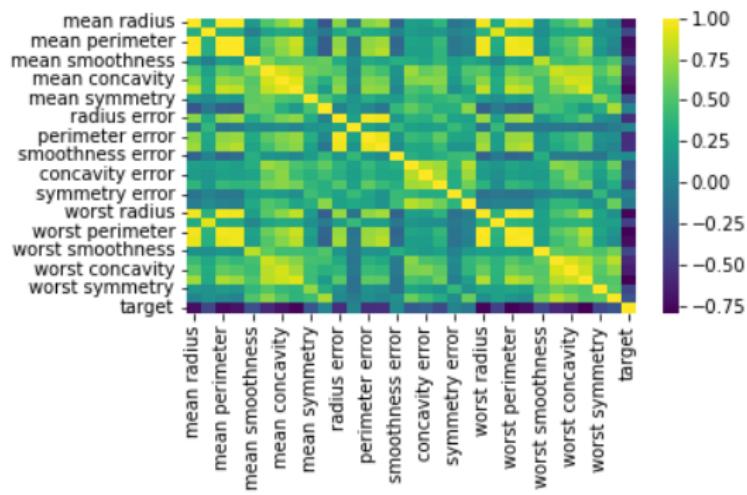
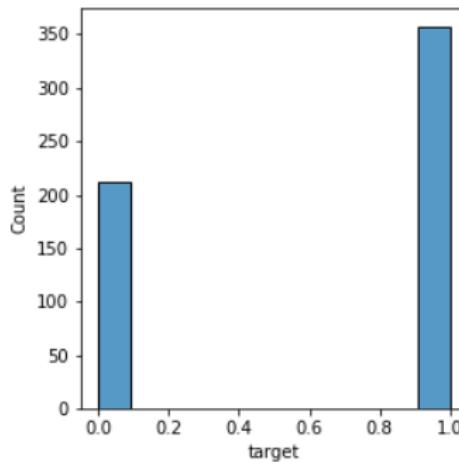
- ▶ $n = 569$ patients
- ▶ target = detect if mass is malignant or benign
- ▶ $d = 30$ input variables: mean, std, and “worst” or largest of features (radius, area, texture, perimeter, ...) extracted from images

```
from sklearn.datasets import load_breast_cancer
data = load_breast_cancer()
X = data.data
y = data.target
features = data.feature_names
```

Breast cancer example (sklearn)

Data

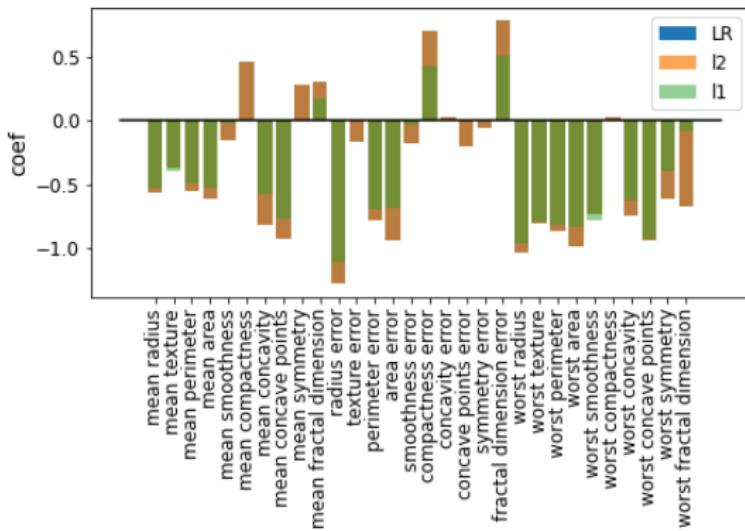
- ▶ $n = 569$ patients
- ▶ target = detect if mass is malign or benign
- ▶ $d = 30$ input variables: mean, std, and “worst” or largest of features (radius, area, texture, perimeter, ...) extracted from images



Breast cancer example (sklearn)

Estimation of malignity the mass

```
from sklearn.linear_model import LogisticRegression
l1 = LogisticRegression(penalty='l1', solver='saga', C=1)
l1.fit(Xtrain, ytrain)
yprob_l1 = l1.predict_proba(Xtest)
```



L1 classification with Python

Scikit-Learn

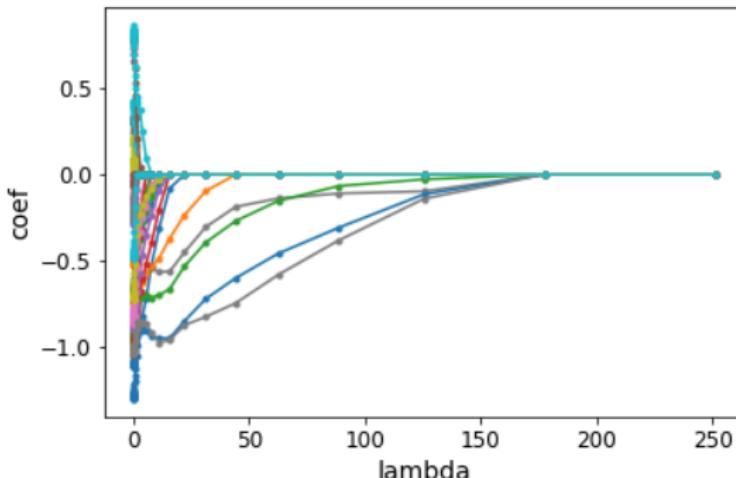
- ▶ `sklearn.linear_model.LogisticRegression`: SAGA/liblinear solver
- ▶ `sklearn.linear_model.SGDClassifier`: stochastic gradient descent
- ▶ `sklearn.svm.LinearSVC(penalty='l1', dual=False)`:
- ✗ regularization path algorithms do not work well here (not piecewise linear):
need to compute on a grid

Other Python toolboxes

- ▶ `cyanure`: stochastic gradient descent
- ▶ `celer.LogisticRegression`, `celer.celer_path`: dual extrapolation

Regularization path

```
from sklearn.linear_model import LogisticRegression
alpha_grid = np.logspace(-5, 2.4, num=50) # Define a grid
l1_grid = LogisticRegression(penalty='l1', solver='saga', C=1)
coefs_grid = np.zeros((len(l1_grid.coef_[0]), len(alpha_grid)))
for i in range(len(alpha_grid)):
    l1_grid.set_params(C=1/alpha_grid[i])
    l1_grid.fit(Xtrain, ytrain)
    coefs_grid[:, i] = l1_grid.coef_[0]
```



Outline

Before we start

Background on the ℓ_1 penalty

- Sparse linear regression

- Properties of the Lasso

- Sparse linear classification

Extensions of the ℓ_1 penalty

- Other sparse penalties

- Optimality conditions and solvers

Applications of the ℓ_1 penalty

- Feature generation

- ℓ_1 penalty and Neural Networks

- Signal/Image processing

Concluding remarks

References

Sparse penalties

Issue

Lasso is biased, especially for high values of λ (thus very sparse models)

- ▶ Can we find better penalties?

Sparse optimization problem

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \left\{ \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^d h(|w_j|) \right\}$$

- ▶ $h : \mathbb{R}_+ \mapsto \mathbb{R}_+$ is monotonously increasing
- ▶ $h(|w_j|)$ is nondifferentiable in 0 and assures sparsity
- ▶ $h(\cdot)$ does not need to be convex

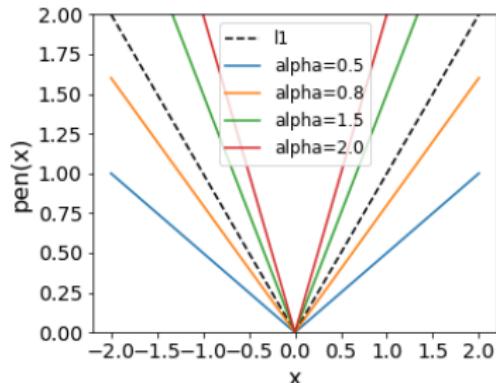
Adaptive Lasso

Convex for fixed weights [Zou, 2006]

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^d \alpha_j |w_j|$$

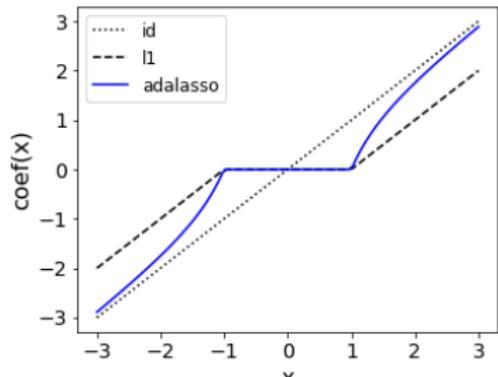
Penalty shape

$$h_j(x) = \alpha_j x \quad \text{with e.g. } \alpha_j = |\hat{w}_j^{ls}|^{-a}$$



Thresholding

$$\hat{w}_j^{adalasso} = \max \left(\hat{w}_j^{ls} - \frac{\lambda \operatorname{sgn}(\hat{w}_j^{ls})}{|\hat{w}_j^{ls}|^a}, 0 \right)$$



Reweighted ℓ_1

Weights are not fixed: nonconvex [Candes et al., 2008]

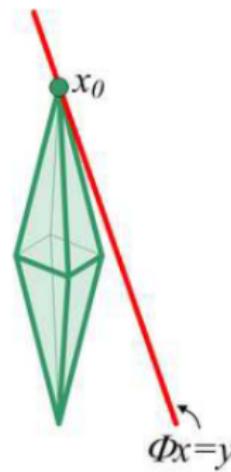
$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^d \alpha_j |w_j|$$

Algorithm

Iterate between solving a weighted lasso and updating the weights

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\mathbf{w}}^{(l)} &= \min_{\mathbf{w}} \|\hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}^{(l)} \mathbf{w}\|_1 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w} \\ \hat{\alpha}_j^{(l+1)} &= \frac{1}{|\hat{w}_j^{(l)}| + \epsilon}, \quad \epsilon > 0\end{aligned}$$

- ϵ ensures stability



Source: [Candes et al., 2008]

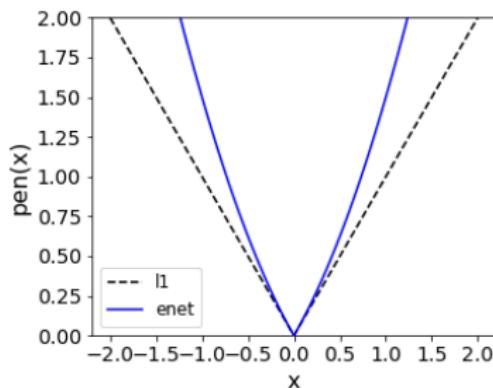
Elastic net ($\ell_1 - \ell_2$)

Strictly convex [Zou and Hastie, 2005]

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \lambda_1 \sum_{j=1}^d |w_j| + \lambda_2 \sum_{j=1}^d w_j^2$$

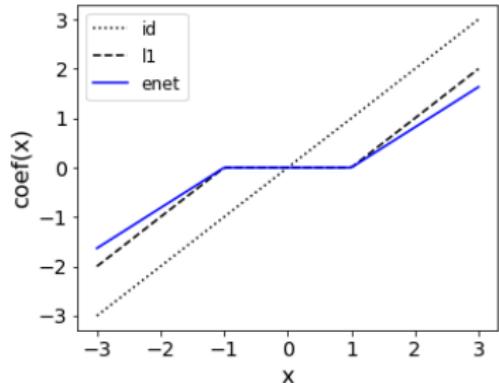
Penalty shape

$$h(x) = x + \rho x^2, \quad \rho = \lambda_2 / \lambda_1$$



Thresholding

$$\hat{w}_j^{enet} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \rho \lambda}} \hat{w}_j^{lasso}$$



Adaptive elastic net

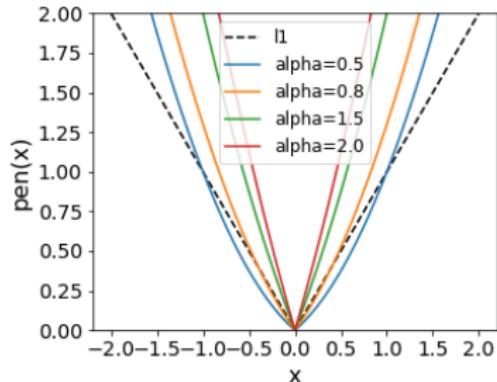
Convex for fixed weights, otherwise nonconvex [Zou and Zhang, 2009]

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \lambda_1 \sum_{j=1}^d \alpha_j |w_j| + \lambda_2 \sum_{j=1}^d \alpha_j w_j^2$$

Penalty shape

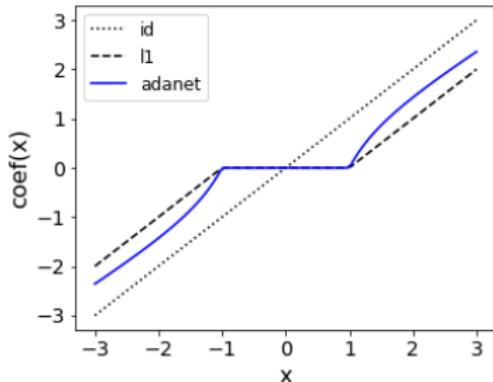
$$h_j(x) = \alpha_j x + \rho(\alpha_j x)^2$$

with e.g. $\alpha_j = |\hat{w}_j^{enet}|^{-a}$



Thresholding

$$\hat{w}_j^{adanet} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \rho \lambda}} \hat{w}_j^{adalasso}$$



Minimax Concave Penalty (MCP)

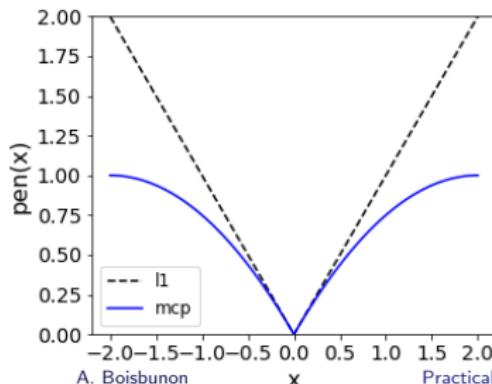
Nonconvex penalty [Zhang, 2010], a.k.a semisoft [Gao and Bruce, 1995] or firm shrinkage for \mathbf{X} orthogonal

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^d h(|w_j|)$$

Penalty shape

$$h(x) = \min \left(x - \frac{x^2}{2a\lambda}, \frac{a\lambda}{2} \right),$$

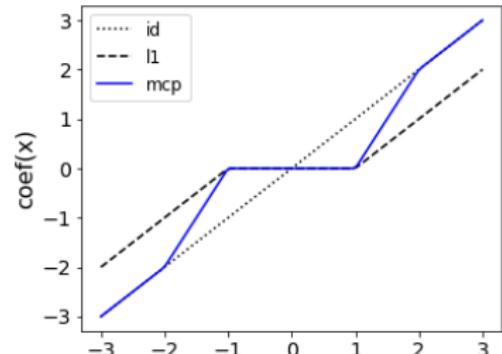
with $a > 1$



A. Boisbunon

Thresholding

$$\hat{w}_j^{mcp} = \frac{a}{a-1} \hat{w}_j^{lasso} \mathbb{1}_{\{|\hat{w}_j^{ls}| \leq a\lambda\}} + \hat{w}_j^{ls} \mathbb{1}_{\{|\hat{w}_j^{ls}| > a\lambda\}}$$



Practical Applications of the L1 penalty

Smoothly Clipped Absolute Deviation (SCAD)

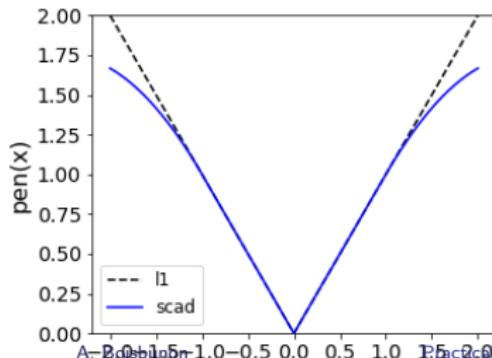
Nonconvex penalty [Fan and Li, 2001]

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^d h(|w_j|)$$

Penalty shape

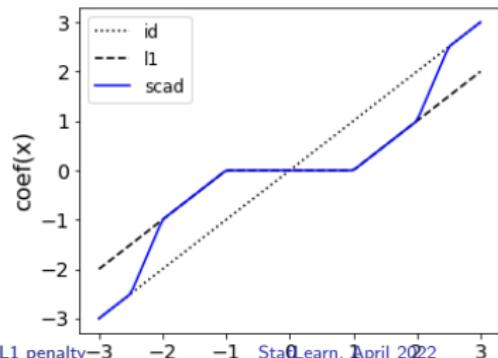
$$h(x) = x \mathbb{1}_{\{x \leq \lambda\}} + \frac{(x - \lambda)^2}{2(a-1)\lambda} \mathbb{1}_{\{\lambda < x \leq a\lambda\}} + \frac{(a+1)\lambda}{2} \mathbb{1}_{\{x > a\lambda\}}$$

with $a > 2$



Thresholding

$$\hat{w}_j^{scad} = \begin{cases} \hat{w}_j^{lasso} & \text{if } |\hat{w}_j^{ls}| \leq 2\lambda \\ \frac{a}{a-2} \hat{w}_j^{lasso} & \text{if } 2\lambda < |\hat{w}_j^{ls}| \leq a\lambda \\ \hat{w}_j^{ls} & \text{if } |\hat{w}_j^{ls}| > a\lambda \end{cases}$$

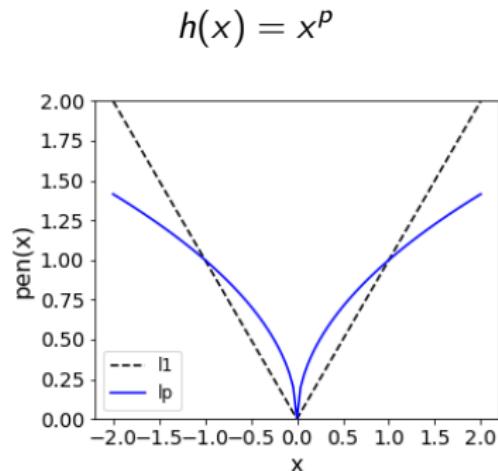


ℓ_p -norm, $0 < p < 1$

[Daubechies et al., 2010]

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^d |w_j|^p, \quad 0 < p < 1$$

Penalty shape



Proximal operator

$$x = \text{sign}(x)\theta \quad \text{s.t. } \theta + p\theta^{p-1} = |x|$$



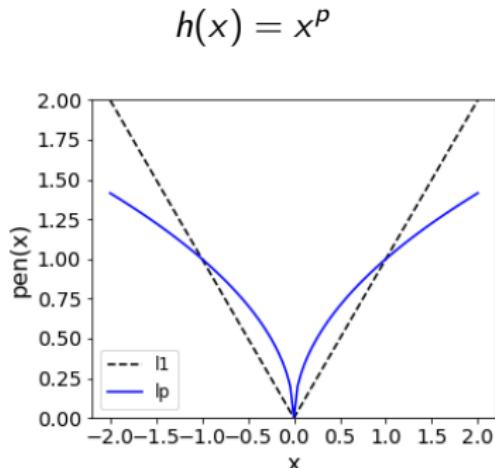
Ingrid Daubechies

ℓ_p -norm, $0 < p < 1$

[Daubechies et al., 2010]

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^d |w_j|^p, \quad 0 < p < 1$$

Penalty shape



Proximal operator

$$x = \text{sign}(x)\theta \quad \text{s.t. } \theta + p\theta^{p-1} = |x|$$

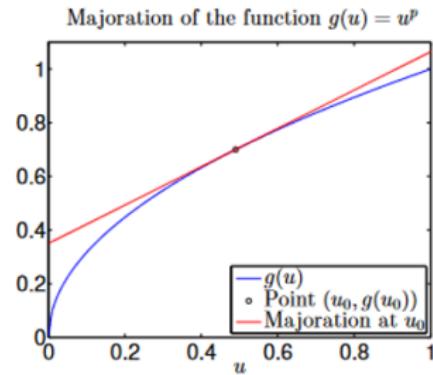


Illustration: [Courty et al., 2014]

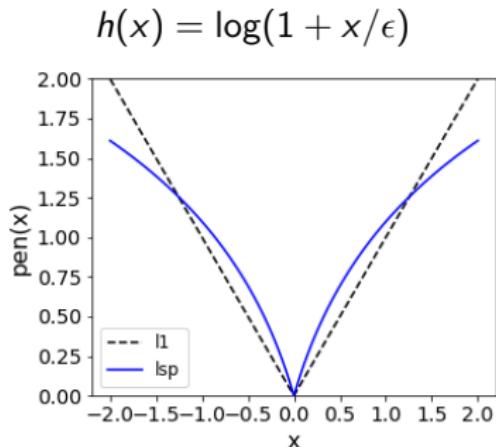
Log-sum penalty (LSP)

[Lobo et al., 2007, Candes et al., 2008]

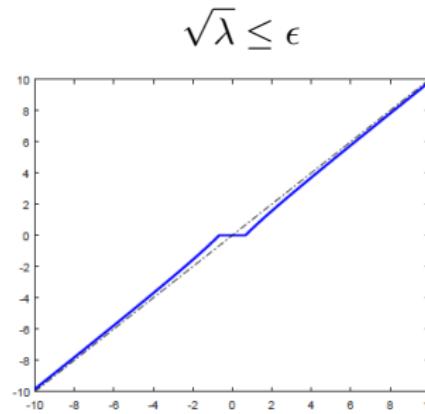
Proximity operator : [Prater-Bennette et al., 2021]

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^d \log \left(1 + \frac{|w_j|}{\epsilon} \right)$$

Penalty shape



Thresholding



$$h(x) = \log(1 + x/\epsilon)$$

$$\sqrt{\lambda} \leq \epsilon$$

Log-sum penalty (LSP)

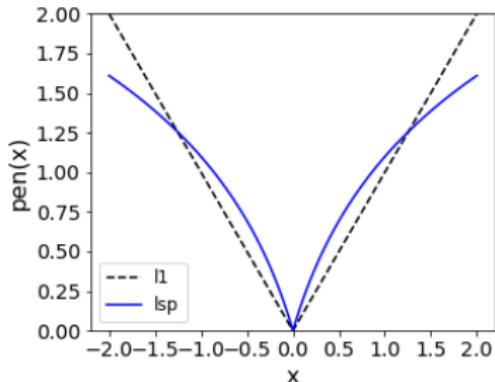
[Lobo et al., 2007, Candes et al., 2008]

Proximity operator : [Prater-Bennette et al., 2021]

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^d \log \left(1 + \frac{|w_j|}{\epsilon} \right)$$

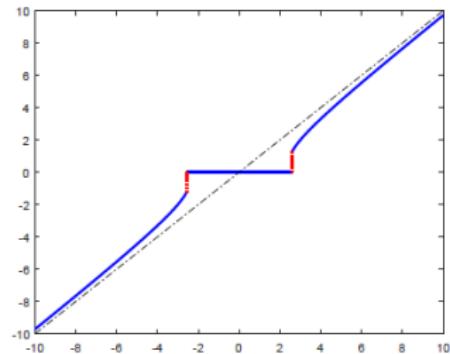
Penalty shape

$$h(x) = \log(1 + x/\epsilon)$$

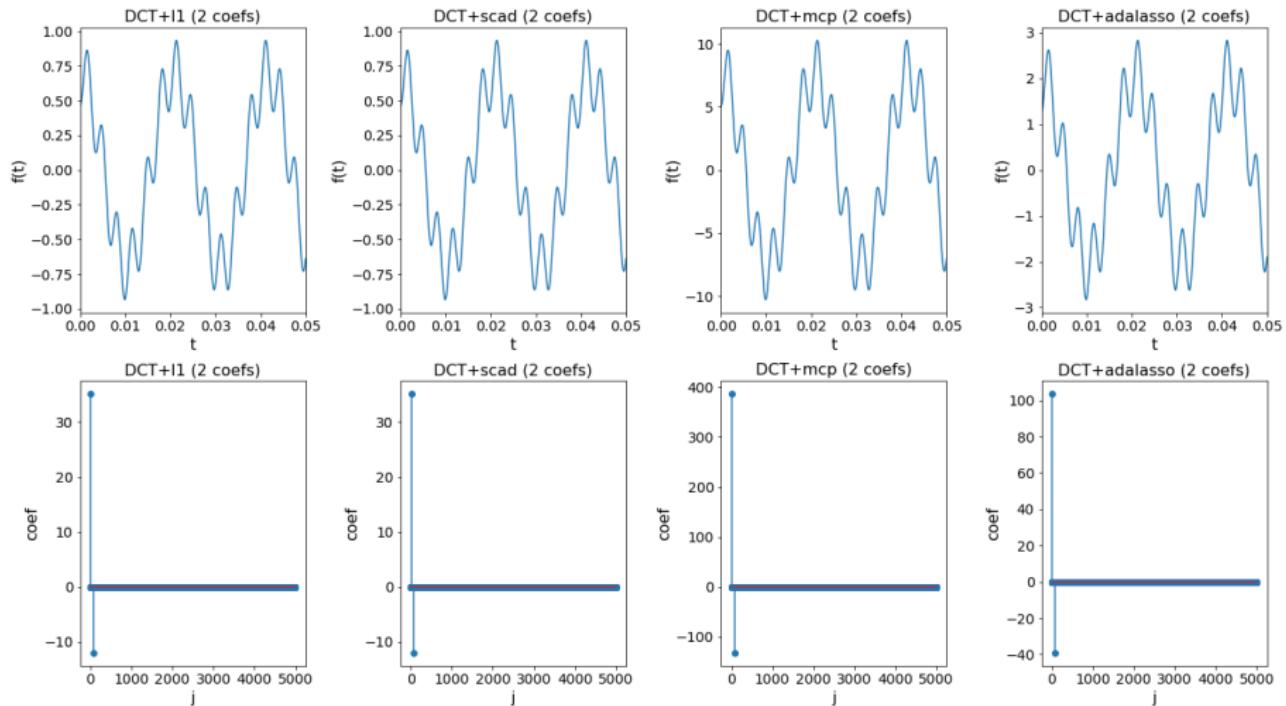


Thresholding

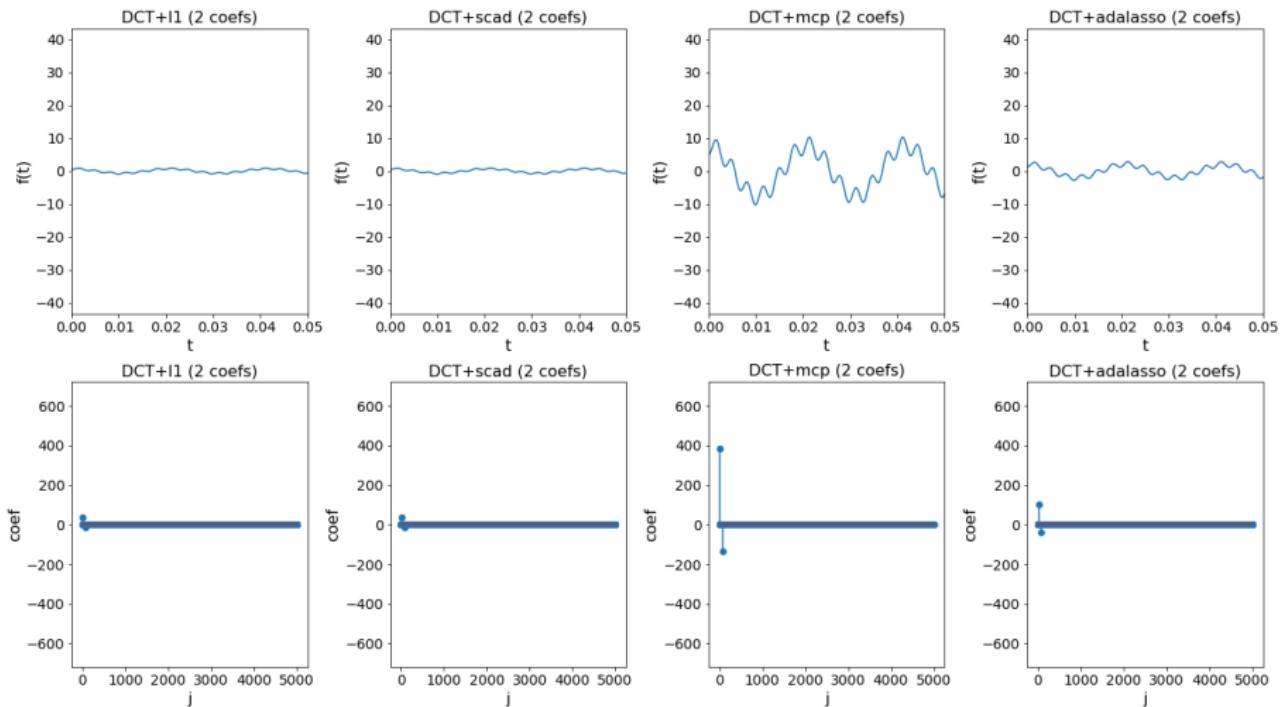
$$\sqrt{\lambda} > \epsilon$$



Choice of penalty



Choice of penalty



Other interesting sparse penalties

- ▶ Group-Lasso [Yuan and Lin, 2006]: promote sparsity on groups of variables

$$\Omega(\mathbf{w}) = \sum_{g=1}^G \|\mathbf{w}_{J_g}\|_{K_g} = \sum_{g=1}^G (\mathbf{w}_{J_g}^\top K_g \mathbf{w}_{J_g})^{1/2}$$

- ▶ Fused lasso [Tibshirani et al., 2005] / Total Variation [Acar and Vogel, 1994]: encourages piecewise constant signals

$$\Omega(\mathbf{w}) = \sum_{j \neq I} |\mathbf{w}_j - \mathbf{w}_I|$$

Optimality conditions

Sparsity for convex penalties

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \left\{ \|\mathbf{y} - X\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \lambda \Omega(\mathbf{w}) \right\}, \quad \Omega(\mathbf{w}) = \sum_{i=1}^d \omega(w_i) \text{ convex}$$

- ▶ Non-differentiability in $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0}$ with subgradient condition

$$\mathbf{0} \in \partial_0 \Omega(\mathbf{w}) = \{\mathbf{g} \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega(\mathbf{w}) - \Omega(\mathbf{0}) \geq \mathbf{g}^\top (\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{0})\}$$

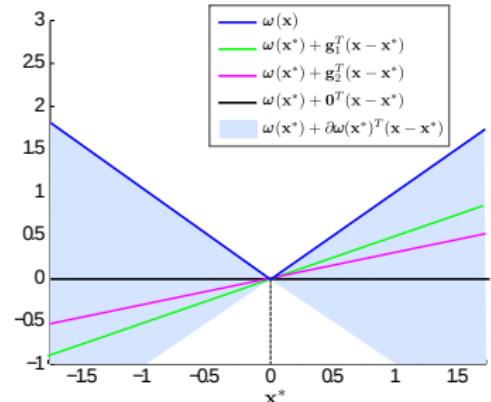
ℓ_1 -penalty:

- ▶ Subgradient condition

$$\omega(w) = |w| \Rightarrow \partial_0 \omega(w) = (-1, 1)$$

- ▶ Optimality condition

$$|(X^\top(\mathbf{y} - X\mathbf{w}))_j| \leq \lambda \quad \forall 1 \leq j \leq p$$



Optimality conditions

Sparsity for non-convex penalties

$$\min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \left\{ \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - X\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \lambda \Omega(\mathbf{w}) \right\}, \quad \Omega(\mathbf{w}) = \|\mathbf{w}\|_1 - h(\mathbf{w})$$

- ▶ Non-diff. in $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0}$ with Difference of Convex (DC) condition

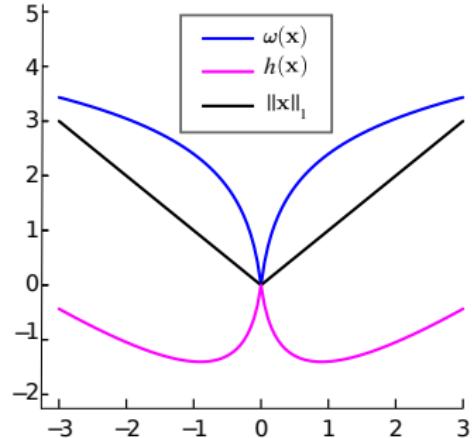
$$\partial_{\mathbf{0}} h(\mathbf{w}) \subset X_J^\top (\mathbf{y} - X\mathbf{w}) + \partial_{\mathbf{0}} \|\mathbf{w}\|_1(\mathbf{w})$$

Log sum penalty (LSP):

$$\omega(w) = \log(1 + |w|/\epsilon)$$

- ▶ Optimality condition

$$|(X^\top(\mathbf{y} - X\mathbf{w}))_j| \leq \lambda/\epsilon \quad \forall 1 \leq j \leq p$$



Sparse penalties with Python

Scikit-Learn

- ▶ Elastic net: regression, classification, multitask

Other Python toolboxes

- ▶ `cyanure`:
 - ▶ Elastic net
 - ▶ fused lasso
 - ▶ group-lasso
- ▶ `celer`:
 - ▶ group-lasso (reg)
 - ▶ weighted- ℓ_1 (reg/classif)
- ▶ `yagml`, `picasso`

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Background on the ℓ_1 penalty

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- Properties of the Lasso

- Sparse linear classification

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- Other sparse penalties

- Optimality conditions and solvers

Applications of the ℓ_1 penalty

- Feature generation

- ℓ_1 penalty and Neural Networks

- Signal/Image processing

Concluding remarks

References

Applications of the ℓ_1 penalty

Many types of problems can be rewritten as a sparse linear problem

Transforming the input variables into new features

- ▶ Additive models

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{j=1}^d w_j \phi_j(x_j)$$

- ▶ Modeling interactions between variables

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{j'=1}^{d'} w_{j'} \phi_{j'}(\mathbf{x})$$

Applications of the ℓ_1 penalty

Many types of problems can be rewritten as a sparse linear problem

Applying a (nonlinear) transformation to a linear model

- ▶ Generalized linear models

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = s \left(\sum_{j=1}^d w_j x_j \right)$$

- ▶ Example: activation in a neural network layer

Applications of the ℓ_1 penalty

Many types of problems can be rewritten as a sparse linear problem

Applying sparsity in a different subspace

- ▶ Transporting the weights

$$\min_{\mathbf{w}} \|\mathbf{y} - H\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\phi^\top \mathbf{w}\|_1$$

Transforming the input variables into new features

Motivation

- ▶ linear models are highly interpretable **BUT**
- ▶ Not all data can be estimated/approached with linear regression/classification
- ▶ Feature construction is often done "manually" and relies on experts knowledge/ a priori

Random feature generation

- ▶ allows to automatically explore possible nonlinearities
- ▶ allows to explore features outside prior information

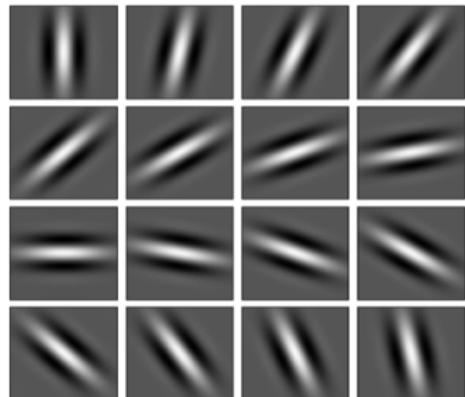
Infinite feature learning

Features generated through Gabor filters, wavelets, Fourier, kernels, etc, with continuous parameter $\theta_j, j = 1, \dots, d$ [Rakotomamonjy et al., 2013]

$$\mathcal{F} = \{\{\phi_{\theta_j}(\cdot)\}_{j=1}^d\}$$

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{j=1}^d w_j \phi_{\theta_j}(\mathbf{x}) + b_t$$

- ▶ Randomly draw d' filters/kernels with different parameters θ_j
- ▶ Apply Lasso (or other sparse penalty) to select the most relevant ones
- ▶ Repeat step 1 and 2 until convergence



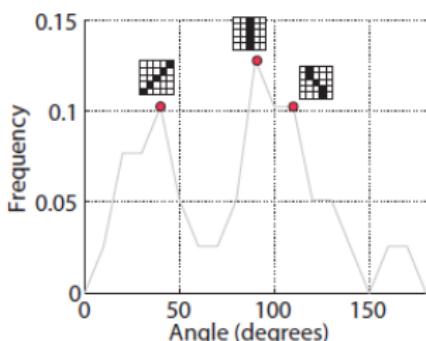
Infinite feature learning

Application: classification of pixels in remote sensing imagery [Tuia et al., 2014]

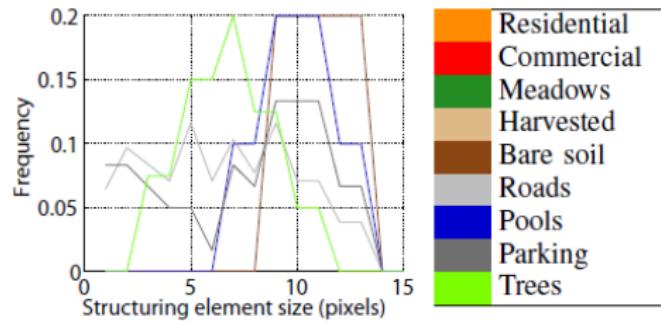
$$\min_{\varphi \in \mathcal{F}} \min_{\mathbf{w}} \frac{1}{n} L(y_i, \mathbf{w}^\top \Phi_\varphi(\mathbf{x}_i)) + \lambda \|\mathbf{w}\|_1$$

- ▶ Classes are types of land cover (one-vs-rest)
- ▶ Features generated through Gabor filters
- ▶ Different directions and sizes are selected depending on the class

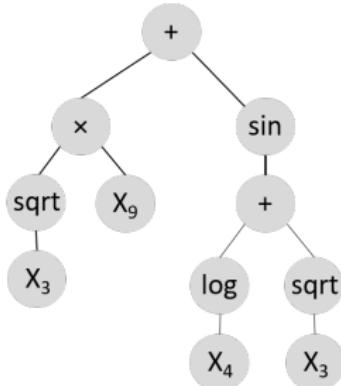
Directions of roads



Size of elements



Symbolic Regression



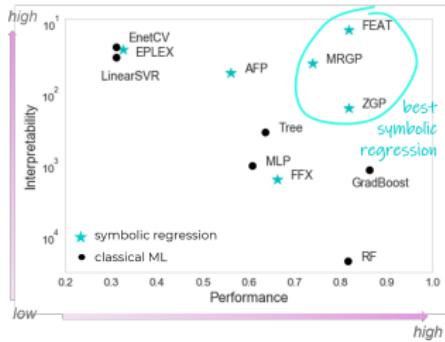
$$\hat{y} = \sqrt{X_3} \cdot X_9 + \sin(\log X_4 + \sqrt{X_3})$$

Search models with [analytical form](#)

- ▶ Ability to model [interactions](#) between variables
- ▶ Ability to construct [new features](#)
- ▶ Good tradeoff between interpretability and flexibility

Symbolic Regression and ℓ_1 penalty

Some SR algorithms randomly build features and then linearly combine them with a sparse penalty to select the most relevant ones



- ▶ features = bases in the form $\{op(X_i)\}_{i=1}^P$
- ▶ FFX – Fast Function eXtractor [McConaghay, 2011]
- ▶ construct/evolve branches via genetic programming (GP)
 - ▶ MRGP – Multiple Regression GP [Arnaldo et al., 2014]
 - ▶ FEAT – Feature Engineering Automation Tool [La Cava et al., 2018]
 - ▶ ZGP – Zoetrope GP [Boisbunon et al., 2021]

Compressed Sensing with random features

Universal encoding [Candes and Tao, 2006]

Motivation

- ▶ Reduce data acquisition, e.g. for Magnetic Resonance Imaging, or for allowing satellite imaging with low transmission rates
- ▶ Ensure security in encoder-decoder

Principle

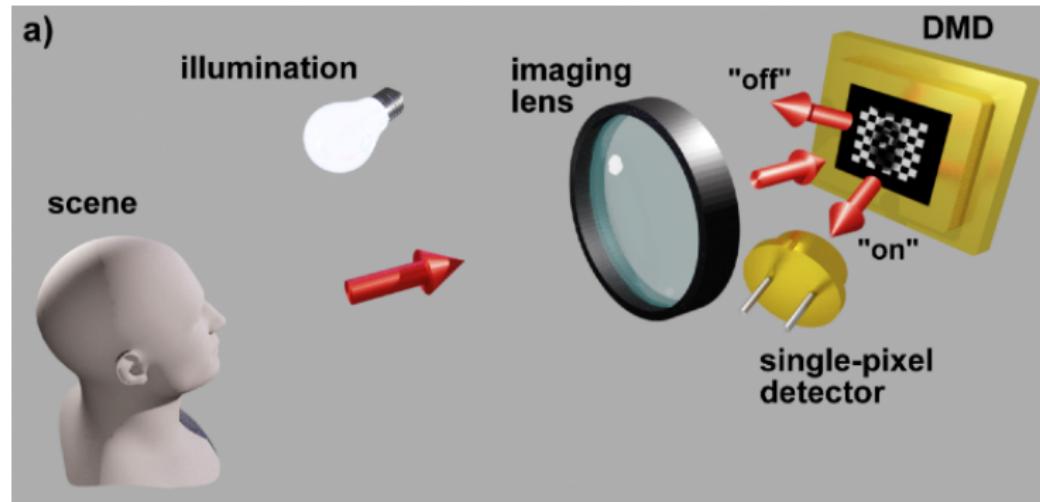
- ▶ Generate a collection of random vectors \mathbf{x}_k , e.g. random rows of Fourier or random Gaussian vectors
- ▶ Share the collection (e.g. send the seed)
- ▶ Encoder part: $y_k = \langle f, \mathbf{x}_k \rangle + \text{apply quantization}$
- ▶ Decoder part: Lasso

Compressed Sensing with random features

Single pixel imaging

[Gibson et al., 2020]

- ▶ cheaper sensors than traditional sensor arrays (e.g. for infrared)
- ▶ ability to detect weak light intensity changes

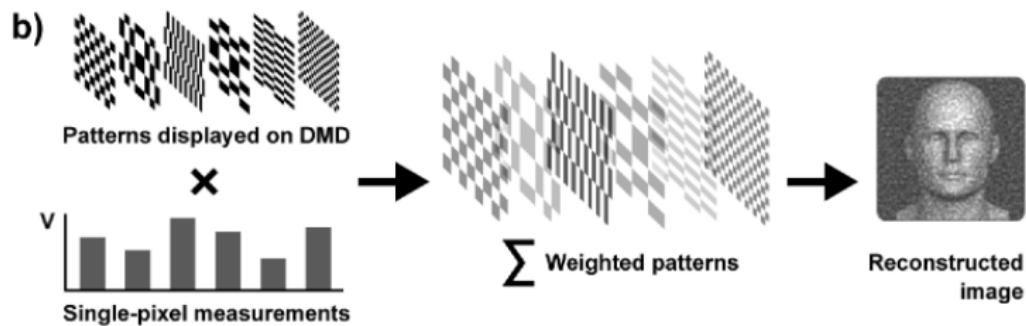


Compressed Sensing with random features

Single pixel imaging

[Gibson et al., 2020]

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ℓ_1 penalty and Neural Networks

Sparsity in neural networks

- ▶ In neural networks, we apply nonlinear transformations to linear models
- ▶ The linear layers in a neural network can also be sparsified through ℓ_1
 - ▶ limit overfitting
 - ▶ concentrate the learning to the most important connexions between neurons

Using ℓ_1 penalty with Keras

```
from tensorflow.keras import layers
from tensorflow.keras import regularizers

tf.keras.regularizers.l1(l1=0.01)
tf.keras.regularizers.l1_l2(l1=0.01, l2=0.01)
```

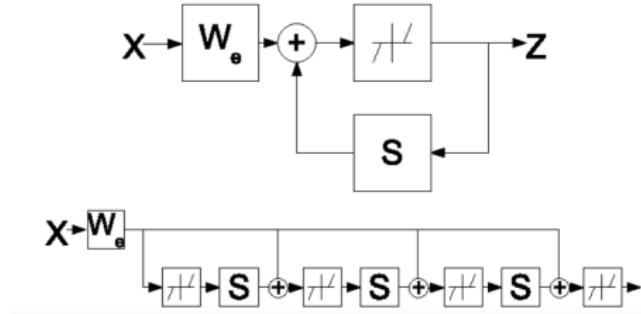
ℓ_1 penalty and Neural Networks

Real-time applications

- Sometimes computing the sparse weights may be too long for real time applications (e.g. in telecom)

Learning ISTA and CD [Gregor and LeCun, 2010]

- Run (F)ISTA/CD or your favorite algorithm on the dataset
- Train a neural network that predicts the results of the (F)ISTA/CD/etc



Signal/image processing

Denoising

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{x} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$$

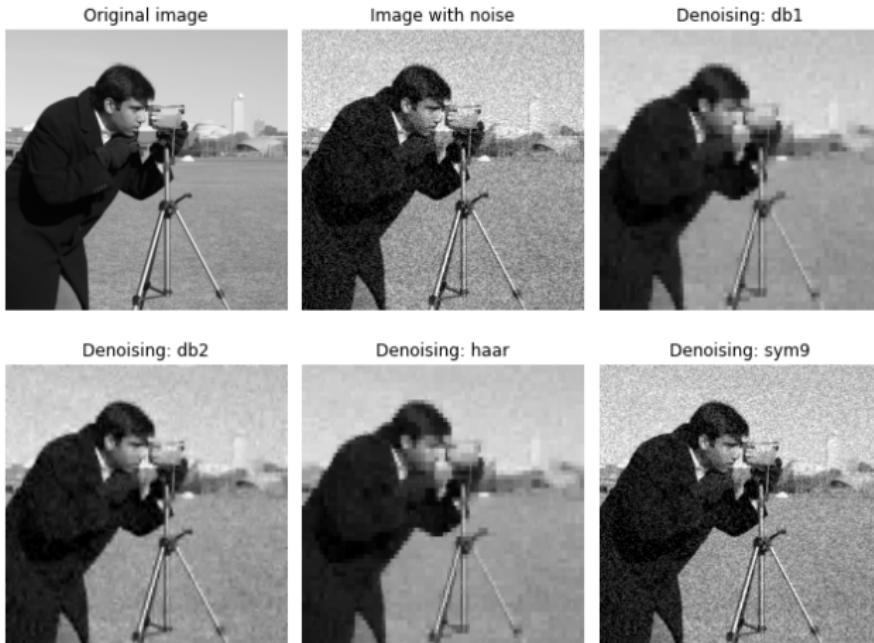
- ▶ Aim: recover original signal $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{Dw}$ from noisy observations \mathbf{y}
- ▶ \mathbf{D} is a (fixed) dictionary
- ▶ Regular setting for Lasso



Source: R. Flamary

Denoising with wavelets in Python

```
from skimage.restoration import denoise_wavelet
denoised_img = denoise_wavelet(noisy_img, wavelet='db1',
                               mode='soft', method='BayesShrink')
```

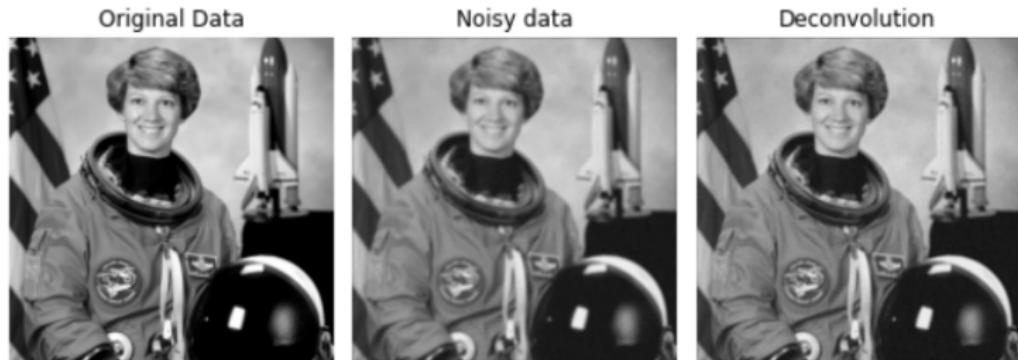


Signal/image processing

Reconstructing a signal

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{Hx} + \varepsilon$$

- ▶ Aim: recover original signal $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{Dw}$ from noisy observations \mathbf{y}
- ▶ \mathbf{D} is a (fixed) dictionary
- ▶ \mathbf{H} is a known linear operator, e.g. convolution or blur operator



Application: object detection

Detection of objects (boats) from satellite images with fixed dictionary
 [Boisbunon et al., 2014b]

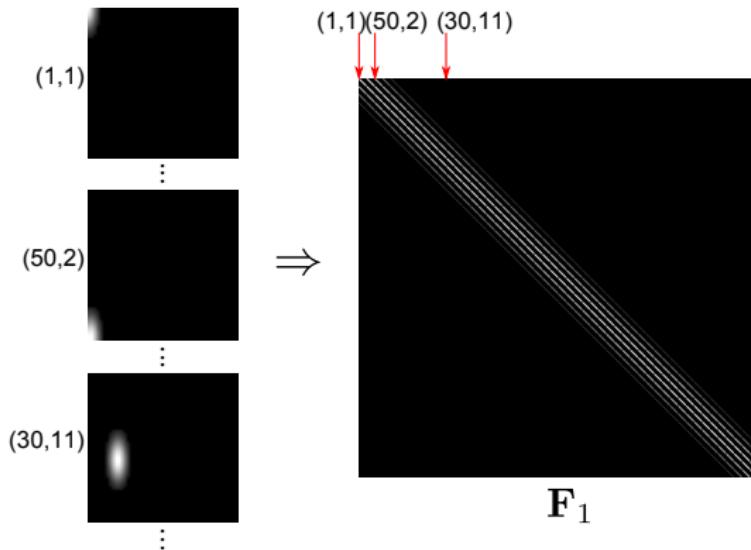
$$\mathbf{Y} = \sum \begin{matrix} \mathbf{X}_1 \\ \mathbf{X}_2 \end{matrix} * \begin{matrix} \mathbf{D}_1 \\ \mathbf{D}_2 \end{matrix}$$

The diagram shows the mathematical expression for image reconstruction. On the left is the observed image \mathbf{Y} , which is represented as a sum of two terms. Each term consists of a sparse matrix (\mathbf{X}_1 or \mathbf{X}_2) multiplied by a dictionary atom (\mathbf{D}_1 or \mathbf{D}_2). The sparse matrices \mathbf{X}_1 and \mathbf{X}_2 have non-zero entries at specific positions, indicating which dictionary atoms are active for each pixel. The dictionary atoms \mathbf{D}_1 and \mathbf{D}_2 are shown as small, localized patterns.

- ▶ \mathbf{Y} : matrix of size $n \times m$ (image)
- ▶ $\mathbf{D}_k, k = 1, \dots, K$: dictionary atoms
- ▶ \mathbf{X}_k : extremely sparse matrix of size $n \times m$
 - ▶ $x_{i,j,k} \neq 0 \Rightarrow$ position (i,j) activated for atom \mathbf{D}_k
- ▶ Reconstructed image: $\tilde{\mathbf{Y}} = \sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k * \mathbf{D}_k$

Application: object detection

Equivalence with linear problem



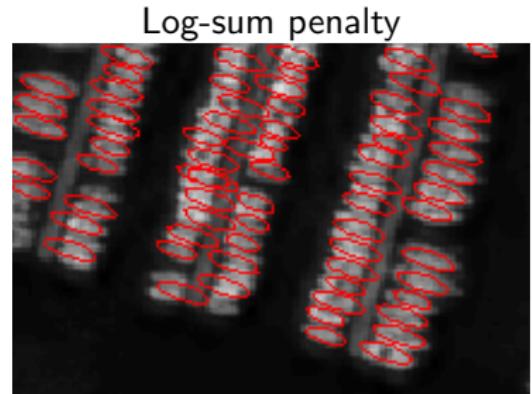
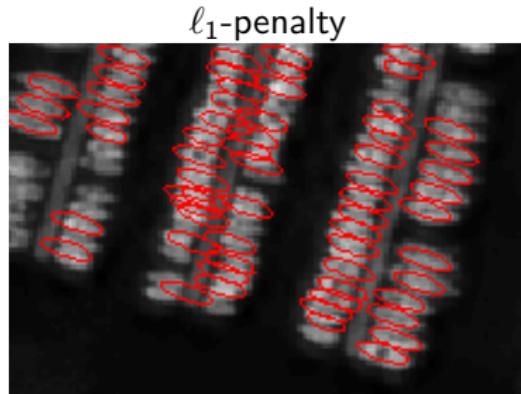
- ▶ Sum of convolutions: $\min_{\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}_+^{n \times m \times K}} \left\{ \|\mathbf{Y} - \sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{X}_k * \mathbf{D}_k\|_F^2 + \lambda \Omega(\mathbf{X}) \right\}$
- ▶ Linear problem: $\min_{\mathbf{x} \geq 0} \left\{ \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{F}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 + \lambda \Omega(\mathbf{x}) \right\}$

Application: object detection

Algorithm

2D Sparse Optimization (2DSO) with active set strategy

- ▶ Find the atom most correlated with image \Rightarrow shape + position
- ▶ Add the atom to active set
- ▶ Solve problem on a small active set² (verify optimality conditions) and apply transformation vector \rightarrow matrix



²[Boisbunon et al., 2014a]

Dictionary learning

Aim: reconstruct $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{DW}$ with both \mathbf{D} and \mathbf{W} unknown

Optimization problem

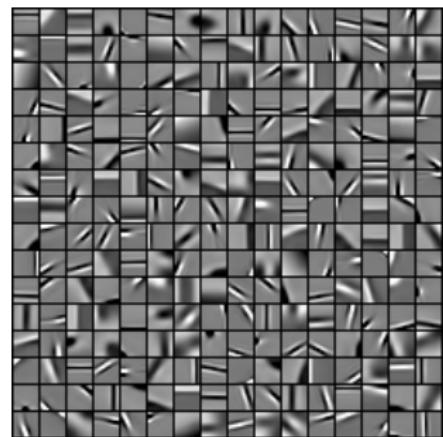
$$\min_{\mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times m}, \mathbf{D} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}, \|\mathbf{d}\|_j=1} \|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{DW}\|_F^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^d \|\mathbf{w}_j\|_1$$

Algorithm

Start: $\mathbf{W}^{(0)} = \mathbf{0}$, $\mathbf{D}^{(0)}$

1. Extract patches from image
2. Repeat
 - ▶ Solve optimization problem for $\mathbf{W}^{(l+1)}$ with $\mathbf{D}^{(l)}$ fixed
 - ▶ Solve optimization problem for $\mathbf{D}^{(l+1)}$ with $\mathbf{W}^{(l+1)}$ fixed

until stopping rule.



Source: [Bach et al., 2011]

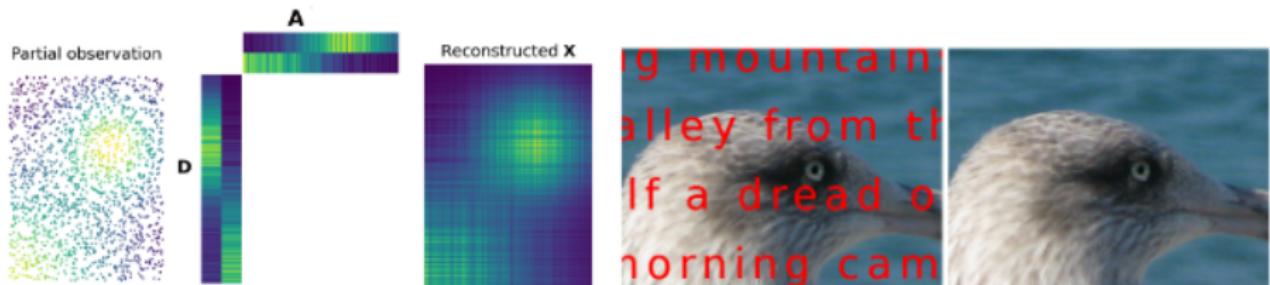
Application: inpainting

Dictionary learning with a mask

[Mairal et al., 2008]

$$\min_{\mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times m}, \mathbf{D} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}, \|\mathbf{d}\|_j=1} \|\mathbf{M} \odot (\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{DW})\|_F^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^d \|\mathbf{w}_j\|_1$$

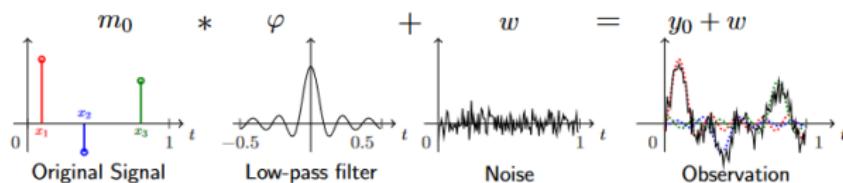
- ▶ \mathbf{M} = binary mask of pixels we wish to recover
- ▶ \odot is the pointwise multiplication



Beurling Lasso

Input = Blurred observations from measuring devices

- Beurling allows to explore Diracs in continuous space



Reconstruct a discrete measure from noisy samples
[Azais et al., 2015]

$$\min_{\mu} \left\| \int \phi d\mu - \mathbf{y} \right\|^2 + \lambda \|\mu\|_{TV}$$

$$\min_{\mu} \|\phi\mu - \mathbf{y}\|^2 + \lambda |\mu|(\mathcal{X})$$



Image courtesy of S. Ladjal

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- Other sparse penalties

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Concluding remarks

References

Other interesting works with sparse penalties

Some applications of ℓ_1 I did not mention but are very interesting too:

- ▶ Selecting the k best singular value for matrix factorization, e.g. in recommendation systems
- ▶ Analysis of spike trains in the brain with Hawkes processes [Reynaud-Bouret et al., 2013]
- ▶ Sparse subspace clustering [Elhamifar and Vidal, 2013]
- ▶ Multitask learning
- ▶ Unbalanced optimal transport [Chapel et al., 2021]

and many more!

Take-home messages

- ▶ ℓ_1 penalty is everywhere!
- ▶ always try simple/classical approaches first (baseline)
- ▶ research is not always about new ideas, it can also be about how to adapt it in a new framework/context

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Pursuit algorithms

X = overcomplete dictionary of p atoms (wavelets, Gabor, Fourier), $p > n$

Matching pursuit [Mallat and Zhang, 1993]

$$\min_{\mathbf{w}} \|\mathbf{y} - X\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 \quad s.t. \quad \|\mathbf{w}\|_0 \leq p^*,$$

regularization path where the coefficients are updated with $w_j = \mathbf{x}_j^\top \mathbf{y}$

Basis pursuit

$$\min_{\mathbf{w}} \|\mathbf{w}\|_1 \quad s.t. \quad \mathbf{y} = X\mathbf{w}$$

Basis pursuit denoising [Chen and Donoho, 1994]

$$\min_{\mathbf{w}} \|\mathbf{w}\|_1 \quad s.t. \quad \|\mathbf{y} - X\mathbf{w}\|_2^2 \leq t_\lambda$$

with $t_\lambda = \sigma \sqrt{2 \log(p)}$

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