# Post-selection inference for generalized regression

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#### Abstract

## 1 Introduction

- Data  $(x_i, y_i), i = 1, 2, ..., N$  with  $x_i = (x_{i1}, x_{i2}, ..., x_{ip})$ . Let  $X = \{x_{ij}\}$  be the data matrix.
- Generalized regression model with linear predictor  $\eta = \beta_0 + X\beta$  and log-likelihood  $\ell(\beta_0, \beta)$ . Consider the objective function

$$J(\beta_0, \beta) = -\ell(\beta_0, \beta) + \lambda \cdot \sum_{j=1}^{p} |\beta_j|$$
 (1)

- Let  $\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta}_1$  be the minimizers of  $J(\beta_0, \beta)$ . We wish to carry out post-selection inference for any functional  $\gamma^T \beta$ .
- Leading example: logistic regression.  $\pi = E(Y|x)$ ;  $\log \pi/(1-\pi) = \beta_0 + X\beta$ .  $\ell(\beta_0, \beta) = \sum [y_i \log(\pi_i) + (1-y_i) \log(1-\pi_i)]$ .
- Background: Gaussian case. Selected model M with sign vector s, the KKT conditions state that  $\{\hat{M}, \hat{s}\} = (M, s)$  if and only if there exists  $\beta$  and u satisfying

$$X_{M}^{(}X_{M}^{T}\beta - y) + \lambda s) + \lambda s = 0$$

$$X_{-M}^{T}(X_{M}^{T}\beta - y) + \lambda s) + \lambda u = 0$$

$$\operatorname{sign}(\beta) = s$$

$$||u||_{\infty} < 1$$
(2)

This allows us to write the set of response y that yield the same M and s in the polyhedral form

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} A_0(M,s) \\ A_1(M,s) \end{pmatrix} y < \begin{pmatrix} b_0(M,s) \\ b_1(M,s) \end{pmatrix} \right\} \tag{3}$$

• A convenient strategy for minimizing (1) to express the usual Newton-Raphson update as an iterative reweighted least squares (IRLS) step, and then replace the weighted least squares step by a constrained weighted least squares procedure.

We define  $u = \partial \ell/\partial \eta$ ,  $W = -\partial^2 l/\partial \eta \eta^T$  and  $z = \eta + W^{-1}u$  Then a one-term Taylor series expansion for  $\ell(\beta)$  has the form

$$(z-\eta)^T W(z-\eta) \tag{4}$$

Hence to minimize (1) we use the following procedure:

- 1. Fix s and initialize  $\hat{\beta} = 0$
- 2. Compute  $\eta, W$  and z based on the current value of  $\hat{\beta}$
- 3. Minimize  $(z \beta_0 X\beta)^T W(z \beta_0 X\beta) + \lambda \cdot \sum |\beta_j|$
- 4. Repeat steps (2) and (3) until  $\hat{\beta}_0$ ,  $\hat{\beta}$  don't change.
- KKT

$$-X_M^T W(z - \beta_0 - X_M^T \beta) + \lambda s = 0$$

•

$$\hat{\beta} = (X_M^T W X_M)^{-1} (X_M^T W z - \lambda s) (active)$$
$$-X_{-M}^T W (z - X_M \beta) + \lambda u = 0, ||u||_{\infty} < 1 (inactive)$$

$$u = X_{-M}^T W P_M W^{-1} (X_M^T)^+ s + \frac{1}{\lambda} X_{-M}^T W (I - P_M) z$$
 (5)

• For active variables,  $\operatorname{diag}(s)\beta > 0$  implies  $D(X_M^TXW_M)^{-1}(X_m^TWz - \lambda s) > 0$ . where  $D = \operatorname{diag}(s)$ .

Hence 
$$A_1 = -D(X_M^T W X_M)^{-1} X_M^T W, b_1 = -D(X_M^T W X_M)^{-1} \lambda s$$

For inactive variables, 
$$A_0 = \frac{1}{\lambda} \begin{pmatrix} X_{-M}^T W \\ -X_{-M}^T W \end{pmatrix}$$
,  $b_0 = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} + X_{-M}^T W X_M \hat{\beta} / \lambda \\ \mathbf{1} - X_{-M}^T W X_M \hat{\beta} / \lambda \end{pmatrix}$ 

Finally, let 
$$A = \begin{pmatrix} A_1 \\ A_0 \end{pmatrix}$$
,  $b = (b_1, b_0)$ 

- Idea: take  $z \sim N(\mu, W^{-1})$  and apply polyhedral lemma to region  $Az \leq b$
- Logistic regression: KKT

$$z = X\beta + \frac{y - \hat{p}}{\hat{p}(1 - \hat{p})}$$

$$-X_M^T W(z - X_M^T \beta) + \lambda s = 0$$

$$\hat{\beta} = (X_M^T W X_M)^{-1} (X_M^T W z - \lambda s) (active)$$
$$-X_{-M}^T W (z - X_M \beta) + \lambda u = 0, ||u||_{\infty} < 1 (inactive)$$

$$u = X_{-M}^T W P_M W^{-1} (X_M^T)^+ s + \frac{1}{\lambda} X_{-M}^T W (I - P_M) z$$
 (6)

• For active variables,  $\operatorname{diag}(s)\beta > 0$  implies  $D(X_M^TXW_M)^{-1}(X_m^TWz - \lambda s) > 0$ . where  $D = \operatorname{diag}(s)$ .

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• Idea: take  $z \sim N(\mu, W^{-1})$  and apply polyhedral lemma to region  $Az \leq b$ 

#### 2 Jon's notes

We are conditioning on the active set and signs. Let  $\hat{\beta} = \hat{\beta}_{\lambda}$  be the LASSO solution. We are going to fix the model M and signs  $s_M$ . So, it is a function of  $M, X_M^T y, X_M, s_M$ . Also, let

$$\hat{\pi} = \pi(X\hat{\beta}_{\lambda})$$

$$W = \operatorname{diag}(\hat{\pi}(1 - \hat{\pi}))$$

Let

$$z = X_M \hat{\beta} + \frac{y - \hat{\pi}}{\hat{\pi}(1 - \hat{\pi})}$$

The KKT conditions can then be written as

$$X^{T}(y - \hat{\pi}) = XW(z - X_{M}\hat{\beta}) = \lambda u$$

where  $u \in \partial(\|\cdot\|_1)(\hat{\beta})$  so

$$u_M = s_M, \quad ||u_{-M}||_{\infty} < 1.$$

By construction, we have that

$$\bar{\beta} = (X_M^T W X_M)^{-1} (X_M^T W z) = \hat{\beta} + \lambda (X_M^T W X_M)^{-1} s_M.$$

This is, up to some remainder, the unpenalized logistic regression estimator. The remainder, after rescaling, goes to 0 in probability (p fixed) before selection. So, under suitable assumptions about the selective likelihood ratio, so Lemma 1

of randomized response paper applies, and you can use this for inference about  $\beta_M$ .

Let's look at the inactive block. By construction,

$$\begin{split} X_{-M}^T W(z - X_M \hat{\beta}) &= X_{-M}^T (y - \hat{\pi}) \\ &\approx X_{-M}^T (y - \pi) - X_{-M}^T W X_M (\hat{\beta} - \beta_M) \\ &= X_{-M}^T (y - \pi) - X_{-M}^T W X_M (\bar{\beta} - \beta_M) + X_{-M}^T W X_M (X_M^T W X_M)^{-1} s_M \end{split}$$

with the remainder also going to 0 in probability after appropriate rescaling.

So, while z is not normally distributed, i.e. the KKT conditions are an affine function of z and the affine functionals are such that, they are asymptotically normally distributed. Further, the variances from Rob's normal approximation work as plugins variance estimators (Section 4.3 of http://arxiv.org/pdf/1507.06739v3.pdf) under the **selected model.** 

Since our variance calculations only hold under the selected model, we might be losing some power using polyhedral lemma.

#### 2.1 Selected is the same as full?

An asymptotic variance calculation under pairs model  $(y_i, X_i) \stackrel{IID}{\sim} F$ :

$$\mathrm{Cov}_F\left(X_{-M}^T(y-\pi) - E_F((X_{-M}^TWX_M))E((X_{M}^TWX_M))^{-1}X_{M}^T(y-\pi)), E_F((X_{M}^TWX_M))^{-1}X_{M}^T(y-\pi)\right) = 0$$

yields that the randomness in the inactive block is (asymptotically) independent of  $\bar{\beta}$ . This assumes that the selected model is correct, or, more precisely that  $\hat{\pi}$  is a good estimate of  $P_F(y=1|X)$  so that

$$\frac{1}{n}X^TWX \approx \text{Cov}_F((y - P_F(y = 1|X)) \cdot X)$$

(X on the RHS should be thought of as a random vector). This might not be true if link is misspecified or selected model is poor...

I think then the inactive blocks are not needed.

## 3 Current favorite version

$$\hat{\beta} = \hat{\beta}_{\lambda} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\beta} \ell(\beta) + \lambda \|\beta\|_{1}$$

$$M = \{j : \hat{\beta} \neq 0\}, s_{M} = \operatorname{sign}(\hat{\beta}[M])$$

$$\bar{\beta}_{M} = \hat{\beta}[M] - \left(\nabla^{2}\ell(\hat{\beta})[M, M]\right)^{-1} \nabla \ell(\hat{\beta})_{M}$$

$$= \hat{\beta}_{M} + \lambda \left(\nabla^{2}\ell(\hat{\beta})[M, M]\right)^{-1} s_{M}$$

$$= \hat{\beta}_{M} + \lambda \ell_{M}(\hat{\beta}_{M})^{-1} s_{M}$$

where  $\ell_M:\mathbb{R}^M \to \mathbb{R}$  is the objective funtions of the selected model and

$$\nabla \ell^2(\hat{\beta})[M,M] = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \beta_i \partial \beta_j} \ell(\beta) \bigg|_{\hat{\beta}}, \qquad i, j \in M$$

is an  $|M| \times |M|$  matrix.

If  $\ell$  is a negative log-likelihood, then under the selected model,

$$\bar{\beta}_M \approx N\left(\beta_M^*, \nabla^2 \ell_M(\hat{\beta}_M)^{-1}\right).$$

subject to affine constraints

$$\left\{ \operatorname{diag}(s_M) \left[ \bar{\beta}_M - \nabla^2 \ell_M (\hat{\beta}_M)^{-1} s_M \right] \ge 0 \right\}.$$

We apply polyhedral lemma to  $\bar{\beta}_M$ , with  $M, s_M$  and  $\nabla^2 \ell_M(\hat{\beta}_M)$  fixed. For logistic regression, these should match your active block KKT conditions exactly where

$$\bar{\beta}_M = (X_M^T W X_M)^{-1} X_M^T W z$$

with

$$z = X_M \hat{\beta}_M + \frac{y - \hat{\pi}}{\hat{\pi}(1 - \hat{\pi})} = X_M \hat{\beta}_M + W^{-1}(y - \hat{\pi}).$$