

# Spike-and-Slab LASSO Generalized Additive Models and Fast Algorithms for High-Dimensional Data Analysis

Boyi Guo and Nengjun Yi

Department of Biostatistics  
University of Alabama at Birmingham

March 28th, 2022

## Outline

# Outline

- ▶ Background
  - ▶ Review of generalize additive model
  - ▶ Challenges in high dimensional additive model
- ▶ Objectives
- ▶ Bayesian Hierarchical Additive Model
  - ▶ Two-part Spike-and-slab LASSO Prior for Smoothing Functions
  - ▶ EM-Coordinate Descent algorithm
- ▶ Numeric Studies
- ▶ Conclusion

## Background

# Nonlinear Effect Modeling

*“It is extremely unlikely that the true (effect) function  $f(X)$  (on the outcome) is actually linear in  $X$ .”*

— *Hastie, Tibshirani, and Friedman (2009) PP. 139*

- ▶ Traditional modeling approaches
  - ▶ Categorization of continuous variable, polynomial regression
  - ▶ Simple but may be statistically flawed
- ▶ Machine learning methods
  - ▶ Black-box algorithms: Random forests, neural network
  - ▶ Predict accurate but too complicated for interpretation

# Generalized Additive Model (GAM)

Firstly formulated by Hastie and Tibshirani (1987)

$$y_i \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} EF(\mu_i, \phi), \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$
$$\mu_i = g^{-1}\left(\beta_0 + \sum_{j=1}^p B_j(x_j)\right)$$

where  $B_j(x_j)$  is a smoothing function,  $g(\cdot)$  is a link function,  $\phi$  is the dispersion parameter

- ▶ Objective: to estimate smoothing functions  $B_j(x_j)$
- ▶ Applications in biomedical research:
  - ▶ Dose-response curve
  - ▶ Time-varying effect

# High-dimensional GAM

- ▶ Grouped penalty models
  - ▶ Grouped lasso penalty (Ravikumar et al. 2009; Huang, Horowitz, and Wei 2010), grouped SCAD penalty (Wang, Chen, and Li 2007; Xue 2009)
  - ▶ Sparse penalty induces **excess shrinkage**, causing inaccurate interpolation of nonlinear effect
- ▶ Bayesian Hierarchical Models
  - ▶ Grouped spike-and-slab priors (Scheipl, Fahrmeir, and Kneib 2012; Yang and Narisetty 2020), grouped spike-and-slab lasso prior (Bai et al. 2020; Bai 2021)
  - ▶ Mostly Markov chain Monte Carlo methods for model fitting
  - ▶ Computational inefficiency causes **scaling problems** in high-dimensional data analysis

## Other challenges

- ▶ Bi-level selection
  - ▶ To detect if a smoothing function is linear and nonlinear
  - ▶ All-in-all-out selection reduces the ability of result interpretation
- ▶ Uncertainty inferences
  - ▶ Penalized models doesn't provide uncertainty measures
  - ▶ Challenging to estimate the effective degree of freedom for each smoothing functions



# Objectives

- ▶ To develop statistical models that improve curve interpolation and outcome prediction
  - ▶ Local adaption of sparse penalty and smooth penalty
  - ▶ Bi-level selection for linear and nonlinear effect
- ▶ To develop a fast and scalable algorithm
- ▶ To implement a user-friendly statistical software

# Bayesian Hierarchical Additive Model (BHAM)

# Model

Given the data  $\{\mathbf{X}_i, y_i\}_{i=1}^n$  where  $\mathbf{X}_i \in \mathbb{R}^p$ ,  $y_i \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $p \gg n$ , we have the generalized additive model

$$y_i \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} EF(\mu_i, \phi),$$
$$g(\mu_i) = g^{-1}\left(\beta_0 + \sum_{j=1}^p B_j(x_j)\right), \quad i = 1, \dots, n.$$

The smoothing function can be written in a matrix form  $B_j(x_j) = \beta_j^T \mathbf{X}_j$ , where  $\beta_j$  are the coefficients of the smoothing function and  $\mathbf{X}_j$  is the basis matrix of dimension  $K_j$ .

# Smoothing Function Reparameterization

- ▶ Smoothing penalty from Smoothing spline regression (Simon N. Wood 2017)

$$\lambda_j \int B_j''(x) dx = \lambda_j \beta_j^T \mathbf{S}_j \beta_j,$$

where  $S_j$  is a known smoothing penalty matrix.

- ▶ Isolate the linear and nonlinear components via eigendecomposing  $S_j$

$$\mathbf{X}\beta = \mathbf{X}^0\beta + \mathbf{X}^*\beta^*$$

- ▶ Benefits
  - ▶ Motivate bi-level selection
  - ▶ Implicit modeling of function smoothness
  - ▶ Reduce computation load with conditionally independent prior of basis coefficients

## Two-part Spike-and-slab LASSO (SSL) Prior

- ▶ SSL prior for the linear coefficient and group SSL priors for nonlinear coefficients

$$\beta_j | \gamma_j, s_0, s_1 \sim DE(0, (1 - \gamma_j)s_0 + \gamma_j s_1)$$

$$\beta_{jk}^* | \gamma_j^*, s_0, s_1 \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} DE(0, (1 - \gamma_j^*)s_0 + \gamma_j^* s_1), k = 1, \dots, K_j$$

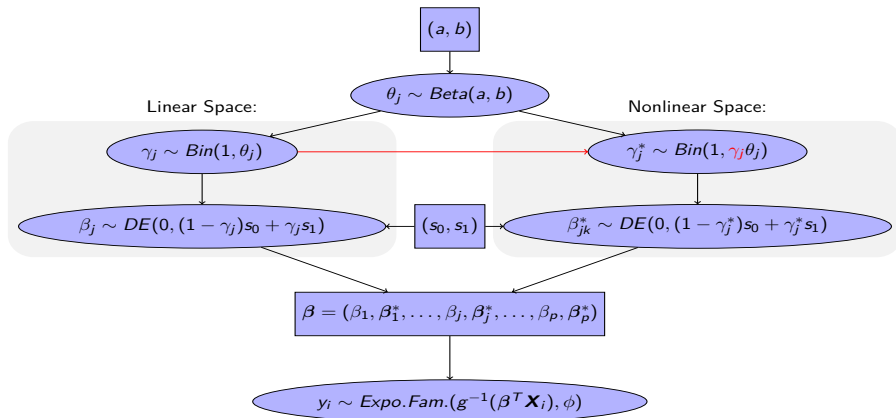
- ▶ Effect hierarchy enforced latent inclusion indicators  $\gamma_j$  and  $\gamma_j^*$  for bi-level selection

$$\gamma_j | \theta_j \sim \text{Bin}(\gamma_j | 1, \theta_j), \quad \gamma_j^* | \gamma_j, \theta_j \sim \text{Bin}(1, \gamma_j \theta_j),$$

- ▶ Local adaptivity of signal sparsity and function smoothness

$$\theta_j \sim \text{Beta}(a, b)$$

# Visual Representation



# EM-Coordinate Descent Algorithm for Scalable Model Fitting

We are interested in estimating  $\Theta = \{\beta, \theta, \phi\}$  using optimization based algorithm for scalability purpose

- ▶ Basic Ideas
  - ▶ Treat  $\gamma$ s as the “missing data” in the EM procedure
  - ▶ Quantify the expectation of log posterior density function of  $\Theta$  with respect to  $\gamma$  conditioning on  $\Theta^{(t-1)}$
  - ▶ Maximize two parts of the objective function independently
- ▶ Previous applications in high-dimensional data analysis
  - ▶ EMVS (Ročková and George 2014), Spike-and-slab lasso (Ročková and George 2018)
  - ▶ BhGLM (Yi et al. 2019)

## Decomposition of Objective Function

We aim to maximize the log posterior density of  $\Theta$  by averaging over all possible values of  $\gamma$

$$\log f(\Theta, \gamma | \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{X}) = Q_1(\beta, \phi) + Q_2(\gamma, \theta),$$

- $L_1$ -penalized likelihood function of  $\beta, \phi$

$$Q_1 \equiv Q_1(\beta, \phi) = \log f(\mathbf{y} | \beta, \phi) + \sum_{j=1}^p \left[ \log f(\beta_j | \gamma_j) + \sum_{k=1}^{K_j} \log f(\beta_{jk}^* | \gamma_{jk}^*) \right]$$

- Posterior density of  $\theta$  given data points  $\gamma$ s

$$Q_2 \equiv Q_2(\gamma, \theta) = \sum_{j=1}^p \left[ (\gamma_j + \gamma_j^*) \log \theta_j + (2 - \gamma_j - \gamma_j^*) \log(1 - \theta_j) \right] + \sum_{j=1}^p \log f(\theta_j).$$

- $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  are independent conditioning on  $\gamma$ s



# Summary of EM-Coordinate Descent Algorithm

- ▶ E-step
  - ▶ Formulate  $E_{\gamma|\Theta^{(t)}} [Q(\Theta, \gamma)] = E(Q_1) + E(Q_2)$ 
    - ▶  $E(Q_1)$  is a penalized likelihood function of  $\beta, \phi$
    - ▶  $E(Q_2)$  is a posterior density of  $\theta$  given  $E(\gamma)$
    - ▶  $E(Q_1)$  and  $E(Q_2)$  are conditionally independent
  - ▶ Calculate  $E(\gamma_j)$ ,  $E(\gamma_j^*)$  and the penalties parameters by Bayes' theorem
- ▶ M-step:
  - ▶ Use Coordinate Descent to fit the penalized model in  $E(Q_1)$  to update  $\beta, \phi$
  - ▶ Closed form calculation via  $E(Q_2)$  to update  $\theta$

# Tuning Parameter Selection

- ▶  $s_0$  and  $s_1$  are tuning parameters
- ▶ Empirically,  $s_1$  has extremely small effect on changing the estimates
- ▶ Focus on tuning  $s_0$
- ▶ Consider a sequence of  $L$  ordered values  $\{s_0^l\} : 0 < s_0^1 < s_0^2 < \cdots < s_0^L < s_1$
- ▶ Cross-validation to choose optimal value for  $s_0$

## Simulation Study

# Simulation Study

- ▶ Follow the data generating process introduced in Bai et al. (2020).
- ▶  $n_{train} = 500$ ,  $n_{test} = 1000$
- ▶  $p = 4, 10, 50, 200$

$$\mu = 5 \sin(2\pi x_1) - 4 \cos(2\pi x_2 - 0.5) + 6(x_3 - 0.5) - 5(x_4^2 - 0.3),$$

- ▶  $f_j(x_j) = 0$  for  $j = 5, \dots, p$ .
- ▶ 2 types of outcome: Gaussian ( $\phi = 1$ ), Binomial
- ▶ Splines are constructed using 10 knots
- ▶ 50 Iterations

# Comparison & Metrics

- ▶ Methods of comparison
  - ▶ Proposed model BHAM
  - ▶ Linear LASSO model as the benchmark
  - ▶ mgcv (S. N. Wood 2004)
  - ▶ COSSO (Zhang and Lin 2006) and adaptive COSSO (Storlie et al. 2011)
  - ▶ Sparse Bayesian GAM (Bai 2021)
  - ▶ spikeSlabGAM (Scheipl, Fahrmeir, and Kneib 2012)
- ▶ Metrics
  - ▶ Prediction:  $R^2$  for continuous outcomes, out-of-sample AUC for binary outcomes
  - ▶ Variable Selection: positive predictive value (precision), true positive rate (recall), and Matthews correlation coefficient (MCC)

# Prediction Performance

- ▶ Linear LASSO Model performs bad and mgcv performs well
- ▶ BHAM performs better than COSSO, adaptive COSSO and spikeSlabGAM
- ▶ BHAM performs better than SB-GAM in low-dimensional case but slightly worse in the high-dimensional setting
- ▶ BHAM is much faster than SB-GAM in fitting models

# Variable Selection Performance

- ▶ SB-GAM has the best variable selection performance
- ▶ BHAM has conservative selection
- ▶ BHAM and spikeSlabGAM have trade-offs for bi-level selection
  - ▶ spikeSlabGAM tends to select either linear or nonlinear components of the function
  - ▶ BHAM is more likely to select both parts

## Conclusion



# Conclusion

- ▶ Propose a scalable Bayesian Hierarchical Additive Model (BHAM) for high-dimensional data analysis
  - ▶ Organic balance between sparse penalty and smooth penalty
  - ▶ Bi-level selection for linear and nonlinear effects
- ▶ R package: BHAM
  - ▶ Ancillary functions for high-dimensional formulation
  - ▶ Model summary and variable selection
  - ▶ Website via *boyiguo1.github.io/BHAM*

## References

# References I

- Bai, Ray. 2021. “Spike-and-Slab Group Lasso for Consistent Estimation and Variable Selection in Non-Gaussian Generalized Additive Models.” *arXiv:2007.07021v5*.
- Bai, Ray, Gemma E Moran, Joseph L Antonelli, Yong Chen, and Mary R Boland. 2020. “Spike-and-Slab Group Lassos for Grouped Regression and Sparse Generalized Additive Models.” *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 1–14.
- Hastie, Trevor, and Robert Tibshirani. 1987. “Generalized additive models: Some applications.” *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 82 (398): 371–86. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01621459.1987.10478440>.
- Hastie, Trevor, Robert Tibshirani, and Jerome Friedman. 2009. *The Elements of Statistical Learning: Data Mining, Inference, and Prediction*. Springer Science & Business Media.

## References II

- Huang, Jian, Joel L Horowitz, and Fengrong Wei. 2010. "Variable Selection in Nonparametric Additive Models." *Annals of Statistics* 38 (4): 2282.
- Ravikumar, Pradeep, John Lafferty, Han Liu, and Larry Wasserman. 2009. "Sparse additive models." *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series B (Statistical Methodology)* 71 (5): 1009–30.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9868.2009.00718.x>.
- Ročková, Veronika, and Edward I. George. 2014. "EMVS: The EM approach to Bayesian variable selection." *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 109 (506): 828–46. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01621459.2013.869223>.
- . 2018. "The Spike-and-Slab LASSO." *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 113 (521): 431–44. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01621459.2016.1260469>.

## References III

- Scheipl, Fabian, Ludwig Fahrmeir, and Thomas Kneib. 2012. “Spike-and-slab priors for function selection in structured additive regression models.” *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 107 (500): 1518–32.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01621459.2012.737742>.
- Storlie, Curtis B, Howard D Bondell, Brian J Reich, and Hao Helen Zhang. 2011. “Surface Estimation, Variable Selection, and the Nonparametric Oracle Property.” *Statistica Sinica* 21 (2): 679.
- Wang, Lifeng, Guang Chen, and Hongzhe Li. 2007. “Group SCAD Regression Analysis for Microarray Time Course Gene Expression Data.” *Bioinformatics* 23 (12): 1486–94.

## References IV

- Wood, S. N. 2004. “Stable and Efficient Multiple Smoothing Parameter Estimation for Generalized Additive Models.” *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 99 (467): 673–86.
- Wood, Simon N. 2017. *Generalized additive models: An introduction with R*, second edition. <https://doi.org/10.1201/9781315370279>.
- Xue, Lan. 2009. “Consistent Variable Selection in Additive Models.” *Statistica Sinica*, 1281–96.
- Yang, Xinming, and Naveen N Narisetty. 2020. “Consistent Group Selection with Bayesian High Dimensional Modeling.” *Bayesian Analysis* 15 (3): 909–35.

## References V

- Yi, Nengjun, Zaixiang Tang, Xinyan Zhang, and Boyi Guo. 2019. “BhGLM: Bayesian Hierarchical GLMs and Survival Models, with Applications to Genomics and Epidemiology.” *Bioinformatics* 35 (8): 1419–21.
- Zhang, Hao Helen, and Yi Lin. 2006. “Component Selection and Smoothing for Nonparametric Regression in Exponential Families.” *Statistica Sinica*, 1021–41.