FTML practical session 12

5 juin 2025

Solution of the Lasso regression $\theta_{\lambda} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\theta} \frac{1}{2} (y - \theta)^2 + \lambda |\theta|$ y = 1 0.8 0.6 0.4 0.2 0.05 0.50 0.75 1.00 1.25 1.50 1.75 2.00

FIGURE 1 – Solution of the one-dimensional Lasso estimator

TABLE DES MATIÈRES

1	General Lasso estimator	
2	1D Lasso	

Lasso regression is a regularization method for linear regression based on the L1 norm. With our usual notations, the Lasso estimator is the solution to the following optimization problem :

$$\tilde{\theta}_{\lambda} \in \underset{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^d}{arg \, min} \{ \frac{1}{2} ||y - X\theta||^2 + \lambda ||\theta||_1 \} \tag{1}$$

where

- $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n,d}$ is the design matrix.
- $y X \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is the vector of labels
- $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ is the regularization constant (called alpha in scikit-learn)

2 1D LASSO

In this session we analyze the Lasso regression on a simple, one-dimensional example, in order to develop the intuition of why this method leads to **sparse** estimators. We hence consider the simplified problem :

$$\theta_{\lambda} = \underset{\theta}{\text{arg min}} \, F_{\lambda}(\theta) \tag{2}$$

with

$$F_{\lambda}(\theta) = \frac{1}{2}(y - \theta)^2 + \lambda |\theta| \tag{3}$$

and $y \in \mathbb{R}$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$, $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$.

Find the solution to the one-dimensional Lasso problem, as a function of λ . An example solution for y=1 is shown in figure 1.

Run a simulation that reproduces the plot shown in figure 1 using scikit-learn.