Recap: Undirected graphical models

- graph G:
  set of vertices/nodes $V = \{1, \ldots, p\}$
  set of edges $E \subseteq V \times V$
- random variables $X = X^{(1)}, \ldots, X^{(p)}$ with distribution P
  identify nodes in V with components of X

graphical model: (G, P)
pairwise Markov property:
P satisfies the pairwise Markov property (w.r.t. G) if

$$(j, k) \notin E \Longrightarrow X^{(j)} \perp X^{(k)} | X^{(V \setminus \{j,k\})}$$

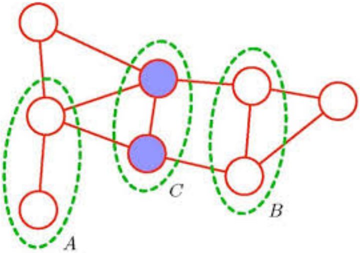
Global Markov property

(stronger property than pairwise Markov prop):

consider disjoint subsets $A, B, C \subseteq V$

P satisfies the global Markov property (w.r.t. G) if

$$A \text{ and } B \text{ are separated by } C \implies X^{(A)} \perp X^{(B)} | \underbrace{X^{(C)}}_{\text{only condition on subset } C}$$



global Markov property $\Longrightarrow$ pairwise Markov property

Proof:
consider $(j,k) \notin E$

denote by $A = \{j\}, B = \{k\}, C = V \setminus \{j,k\}$;
since $(j,k) \notin E$, $A = \{j\}$ and $B = \{k\}$ are separated by C

by the global Markov property: $X^{(j)} \perp X^{(k)} | X^{(V \setminus \{j,k\})}$

$\square$

$\leadsto$ global Markov property is more "interesting" consider graphical model (G, P)

if P has a positive and continuous density w.r.t. Lebesgue measure:
the global and pairwise Markov properties (w.r.t. G) coincide/are equivalent (Lauritzen, 1996)

prime example: P is Gaussian

the Markov properties imply some conditional independencies from graphical separation

for example with pairwise Markov property:

$$(j,k) \notin E \Longrightarrow X^{(j)} \perp X^{(k)} | X^{(V \setminus \{j,k\})}$$

how about reverse relation ?

$$(j,k) \in E \overbrace{\Longrightarrow}^{?} X^{(j)} \not\perp X^{(k)} | X^{(V \setminus \{j,k\})}$$

can we interpret existing edges?

in general: no! (unfortunately)

in some special cases:

$$(j,k) \in E \implies X^{(j)} \not\perp X^{(k)} | X^{(V \setminus \{j,k\})}$$

prime example: P is Gaussian

$$(j,k) \in E \iff X^{(j)} \not\perp X^{(k)} | X^{(V \setminus \{j,k\})}$$

for A and B not separated by C: in general not true that

$$X^{(A)} \not\perp X^{(B)} | X^{(C)}$$

... due to possible strange cancellations of “edge weights”

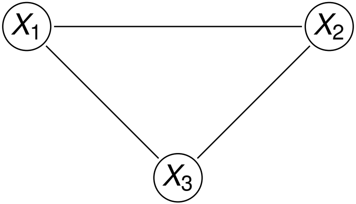
Gaussian “counterexample”

$$\begin{tikzcd} X_1 \arrow[rr, "\alpha"] \arrow[dr, "\beta"'] & & X_2 \arrow[dl, "\gamma"] \\ & X_3 & \end{tikzcd}$$

$$\begin{aligned} X^{(1)} &\leftarrow \varepsilon^{(1)}, \\ X^{(2)} &\leftarrow \alpha X^{(1)} + \varepsilon^{(2)}, \\ X^{(3)} &\leftarrow \beta X^{(1)} + \gamma X^{(2)} + \varepsilon^{(3)}, \\ &\varepsilon^{(1)}, \varepsilon^{(2)}, \varepsilon^{(3)} \text{ i.i.d. } \mathcal{N}(0,1) \end{aligned}$$

$\rightsquigarrow$ a Gaussian distribution P
for $\beta + \alpha\gamma = 0$: $\mathrm{Corr}(X_1, X_3) = 0$ that is: $X^{(1)} \perp X^{(3)}$

it is a Gaussian Graphical Model where P is Markov w.r.t. the following graph



we know that $X^{(1)} \perp X^{(3)}$ (for special constellations of α, β, γ)

take $A = \{1\}, B = \{3\}, C = \emptyset$
although A and B are not separated (by the emptyset)
since there is a direct edge
it does not hold that $X^{(1)} \not\perp X^{(3)}$ (conditional on $\emptyset$, i.e., marginal)

Gaussian Graphical Model

conditional independence graph (CIG):
(G, P) satisfies the pairwise Markov property

Gaussian Graphical Model (GGM):
a conditional independence graph with P being Gaussian

for simplicity, assume mean zero: $P \sim \mathcal{N}_p(0, \Sigma)$

we know already that edges are equivalent to conditional dependence given all other variables

for a GGM:

$$(j, k) \in E \Longleftrightarrow (\Sigma^{-1})_{jk} \neq 0$$

Neighborhood selection: nodewise regression

$$X^{(j)} = \beta_k^{(j)} X^{(k)} + \sum_{r \neq j,k} \beta_r^{0(j)} X^{(r)} + \varepsilon^{(j)},\ j = 1 \ldots, p$$

$$X^{(k)} = \beta_j^{(k)} X^{(j)} + \sum_{r \neq k,j} \beta_r^{0(k)} X^{(r)} + \varepsilon^{(k)}$$

for GGM:

$$(j,k) \in E \Longleftrightarrow \beta_k^{(j)} \neq 0 \ \Longleftrightarrow \beta_j^{(k)} \neq 0$$

nodewise regression (Meinshausen & Bühlmann, 2006)

- run Lasso for every node variable $X^{(j)}$ versus all others $\{X^{(k)};\ k \neq j\}$ $(j = 1, \ldots, p)$
- estimated active set $\hat{S}^{(j)} = \{r;\ \hat{\beta}_r^{(j)} \neq 0\}$ $(j = 1, \ldots, p)$
- estimate edges in $\hat{E}$:

$$\text{or rule:} \qquad (j,k) \in \hat{E} \Longleftrightarrow j \in \hat{S}^{(k)} \text{ or } k \in \hat{S}^{(j)}$$

$$\text{and rule:} \qquad (j,k) \in \hat{E} \Longleftrightarrow j \in \hat{S}^{(k)} \text{ and } k \in \hat{S}^{(j)}$$

just run Lasso p times: it's fast!

(given the difficulty of the problem)

$O(np^2 min(n,p))$ computational complexity

and it has "near-optimal" statistical properties

(slightly better than penalized MLE)

`R`-packages `huge` and also in `glasso` (and set 'approx = T')

GLasso: regularized maximum likelihood estimation

data $X_1, \ldots X_n$ i.i.d. $\sim \mathcal{N}_p(\mu, \Sigma)$

goal: estimate $K = \Sigma^{-1}$ (precision matrix)

approach, called GLasso (Friedman, Hastie and Tibshirani, 2008):

$$\hat{K}, \hat{\mu} = \text{argmin}_{K \succ 0, \mu} \left(-\text{log-likelihood}(K, \mu;\ X_1, \ldots, X_n) + \lambda \|K\|_1\right)$$

$$\hat{\mu} = n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i \text{ decouples}$$

$$\hat{K} = \text{argmin}_{K \succ 0} (\underbrace{-\text{log-likelihood}(K, \hat{\mu};\ X_1, \ldots, X_n)}_{\propto -\log(\det K) + \text{trace}(\hat{\Sigma}_{\text{MLE}} K)} + \lambda \|K\|_1)$$

$$\|K\|_1 = \sum_{j,k} |K_{j,k}| \text{ or } \sum_{j \neq k} |K_{j,k}|$$

$$\hat{\Sigma}_{\text{MLE}} = n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (X_i - \hat{\mu})(X_i - \hat{\mu})^T$$

- GLasso is computationally (much) slower than nodewise regression
  $O(np^3)$ computational complexity (for potentially dense problems)
- GLasso provides estimates of Σ^{-1} and also of Σ by inversion
- one can run a hybrid approach:
  nodewise selection first with estimated edge set $\hat{E}$
  GLasso restricted to $\hat{E}$ with $\lambda = 0$:
  that is, unpenalized MLE restricted to $\hat{E}$

  fast and accurate!

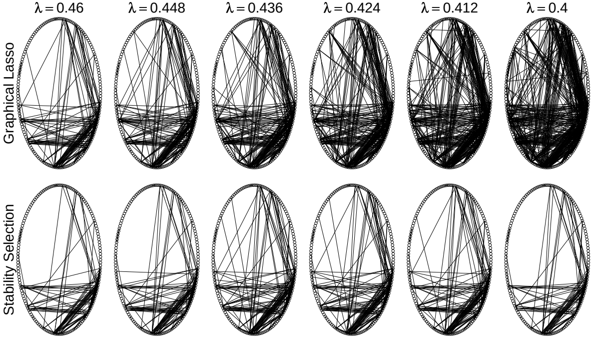
  analogous to Lasso-OLS hybrid in regression

Tuning of the methods

cross-validation of the (nodewise) likelihood

and/or Stability Selection

$p = 160$ gene expressions, $n = 115$
GLasso estimator, selecting among the $\binom{p}{2} = 12'720$ features stability selection with $\mathbb{E}[V] \le v_0 = 30$



The nonparanormal graphical model

(Liu, Lafferty and Wasserman, 2009)

motivating question: are there other “interesting” distributions, besides the Gaussian, where conditional independence between two rv.’s is encoded as zero entries in a matrix?

nonparanormal graphical model:
X has a nonparanormal distribution if there exist functions f_j ($j = 1, \ldots, p$) such that

$$Z = f(X) = (f_1(X^{(1)}), \ldots, f_p(X^{(p)})) \sim \mathcal{N}_p(\mu, \Sigma)$$

w.l.o.g. $\mu = 0$ and $\Sigma_{jj} = 1$
$\rightsquigarrow$ $Z_j = f_j(X^{(j)}) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ and therefore:
$f_j(\cdot) = \Phi^{-1} F_j(\cdot)$ where $F_j(u) = \mathbb{P}[X^{(j)} \leq u]$

$\rightsquigarrow$ a semiparametric Gaussian copula model

Lemma

Assume that (G, P) is a nonparanormal graphical model with f_js being differentiable. Then:

$$(j,k) \in E \Longleftrightarrow X^{(j)} \not\perp X^{(k)} | X^{(V \setminus \{j,k\})} \Longleftrightarrow \Sigma^{-1}_{j,k} \neq 0$$

Proof: the density of X is

$$p(x) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{p/2} \det(\Sigma)^{1/2}} \exp(-\frac{1}{2}(f(x) - \mu)^T \Sigma^{-1}(f(x) - \mu)) \prod_{j=1}^{p} |f_j'(x_j)|$$

$\leadsto$ the density factorizes exactly as in the Gaussian case according to Σ^{-1} $\square$

we only have to estimate the non-zeroes of Σ^{-1}
but Σ is the covariance of the unknown $f(X)$...

the best proposal (Lue and Zhou, 2012):
rank-based!
compute empirical rank correlation of $X^{(1)}, \ldots, X^{(p)}$ with a bias correction from Kendall (1948)
denote this empirical rank correlation matrix as $\hat{R}$

stick it into GLasso:

$$\hat{K} = \text{argmin}_{K \succ 0} - \log(\det K) + \text{trace}(\hat{R}K) + \lambda \|K\|_1$$

this has provable guarantees in the case of a nonparanormal graphical model
robustness of GLasso by using rank-correlation as input matrix