

# Variable Selection and Prediction for High-Dimensional Genetic Data with Complex Structures

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# Outline

Introduction

Interaction selection

`eclust`

`sail`

Real Data Application

Multivariable Penalized Linear mixed effects models

Our proposal: `ggmix`

Survival Analysis

Acknowledgements



# High Dimensional (HD) Data Analysis

## Classical

$$\mathbf{X}_{n \times p} = \begin{bmatrix} x_{11} & x_{12} & \cdots & x_{1p} \\ x_{21} & x_{12} & \cdots & x_{1p} \\ x_{31} & x_{12} & \cdots & x_{1p} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ x_{n1} & x_{12} & \cdots & x_{np} \end{bmatrix}$$

# High Dimensional (HD) Data Analysis

## Classical

$$\mathbf{X}_{n \times p} = \begin{bmatrix} x_{11} & x_{12} & \cdots & x_{1p} \\ x_{21} & x_{12} & \cdots & x_{1p} \\ x_{31} & x_{12} & \cdots & x_{1p} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ x_{n1} & x_{12} & \cdots & x_{np} \end{bmatrix}$$

## HD data

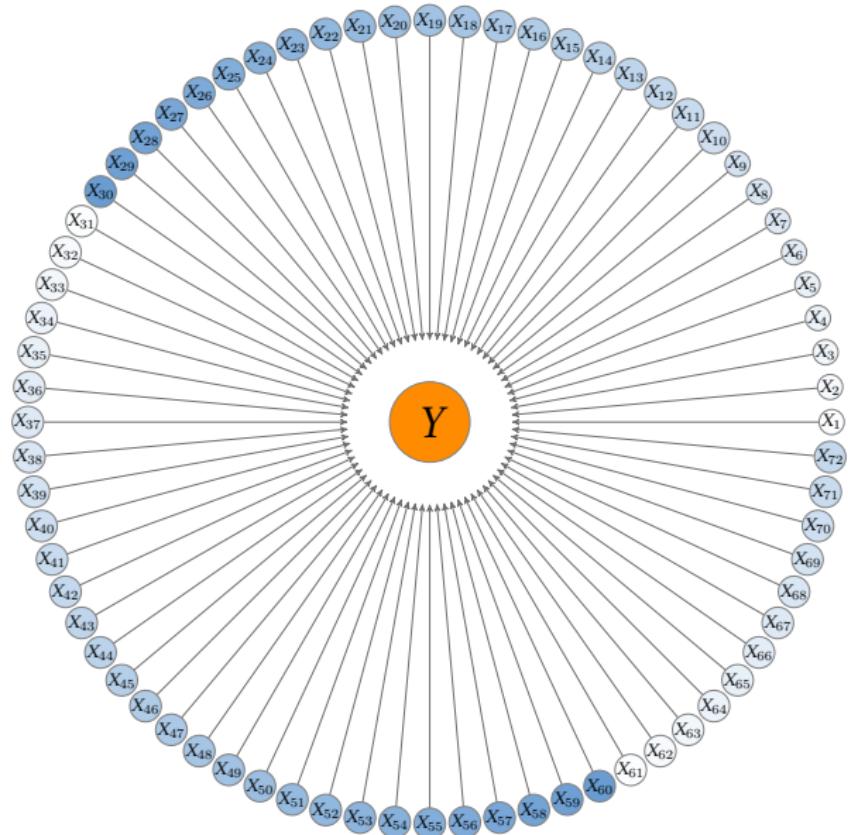
$$\mathbf{X}_{n \times p} = \begin{bmatrix} x_{11} & x_{12} & \cdots & x_{1p} \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ x_{n1} & x_{12} & \cdots & x_{np} \end{bmatrix}$$

## New challenges arise from how such data is used

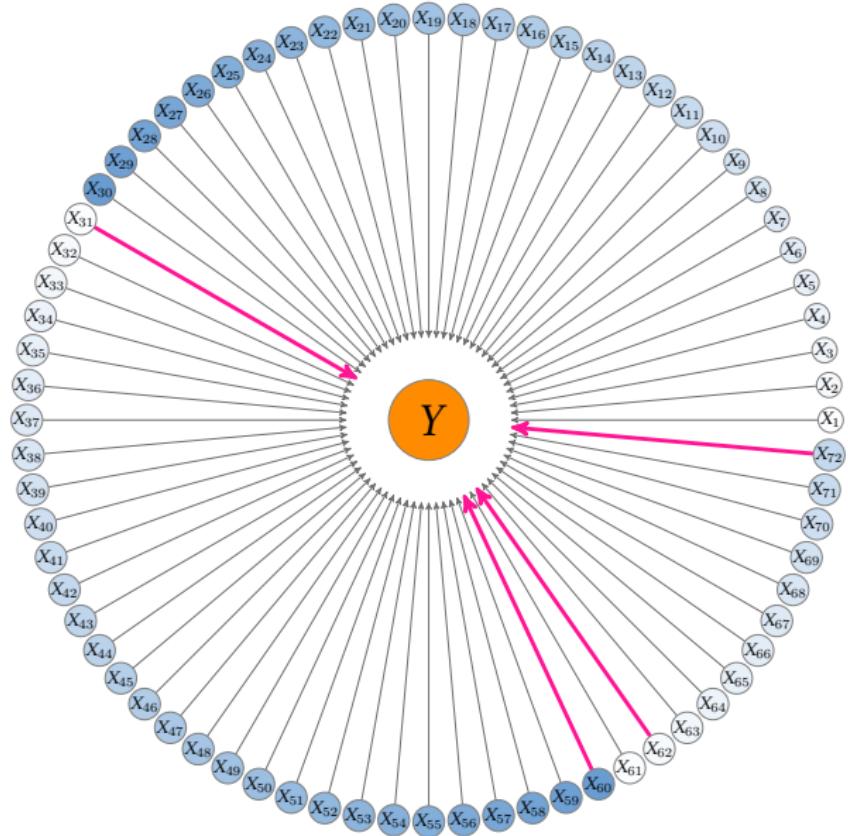
A		B								
$y$	$x_1$	$y$	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$x_5$	$x_6$	$x_7$	$x_8$
0.0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0
2.1	1	2.1	1	0	2	3	2	0	0	3
2.7	0	2.7	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	1
5.9	3	5.9	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
7.3	3	7.3	3	4	0	1	1	1	0	0
0.0	0	0.0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	0
2.0	1	2.0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	1

Estimated model	$R^2_{adj}$
$y = 0.66 + 1.92x_1$	0.83
$y = 0.22 + 1.78x_1 + 0x_2 + 0x_3 + 0x_4 + 0x_5 + 2.11x_6 + 0x_7 + 0x_8$	0.98

# Bet on Sparsity Principle



# Bet on Sparsity Principle



## Overarching research focus: including prior information

$$\hat{\beta} \in \arg \min_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^p} \{ \text{DataFitting} [\mathbf{X}, y, \beta] + \lambda \text{ Prior} [\beta] \}$$

## Overarching research focus: including prior information

$$\widehat{\beta} \in \arg \min_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^p} \{ \text{DataFitting } [\mathbf{X}, y, \beta] + \lambda \text{ Prior } [\beta] \}$$

Examples:

$$\min_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^p} \|y - X\beta\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\beta\|_0 \quad (\text{Best subset selection})$$

$$\min_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^p} \|y - X\beta\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\beta\|_1 \quad (\text{Lasso regression})$$

$$\min_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^p} \|y - X\beta\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\beta\|_2^2 \quad (\text{Ridge regression})$$





# Gestational diabetes, DNA methylation and obesity



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**Phenotype**  
Obesity measures

**Large Data**  
**Child's epigenome**  
( $p \approx 450k$ )

**Environment**  
**Gestational**  
**Diabetes**

# Differential Correlation between environments

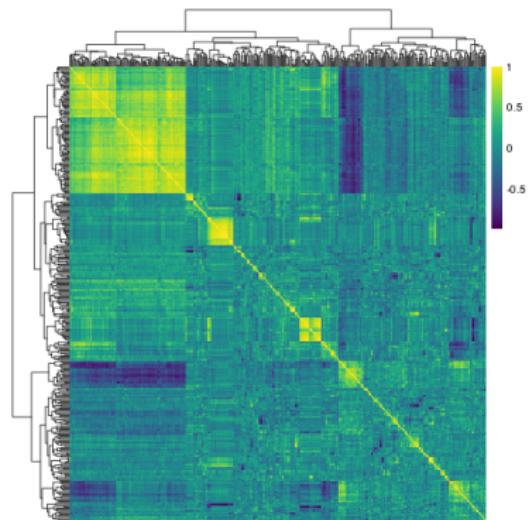


Fig.: Gestational diabetes

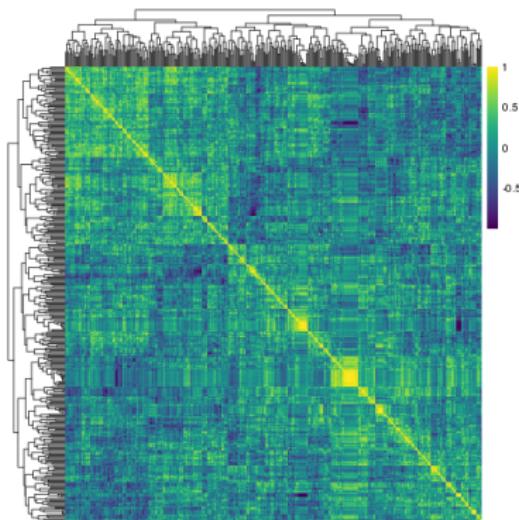
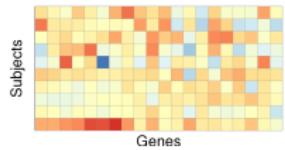


Fig.: Controls

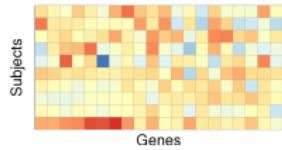
# eclust: our proposed 2 step method

Original Data

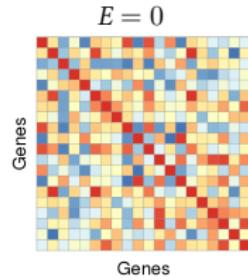


# eclust: our proposed 2 step method

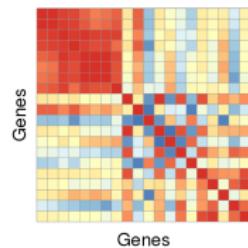
Original Data



1a) Gene Similarity

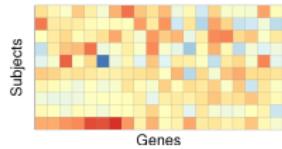


$E = 1$

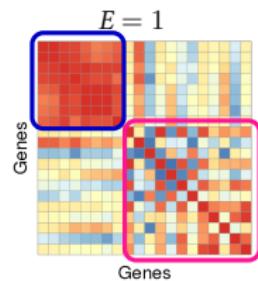
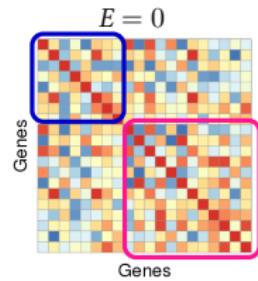


# eclust: our proposed 2 step method

Original Data

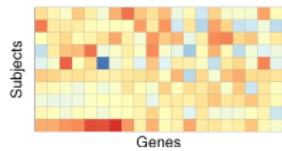


1a) Gene Similarity

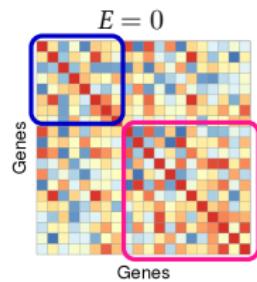


# eclust: our proposed 2 step method

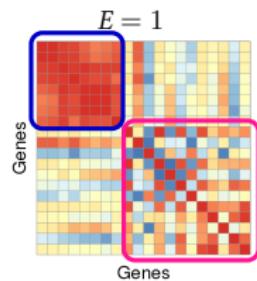
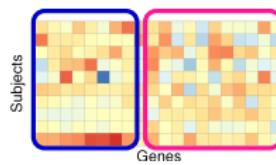
Original Data



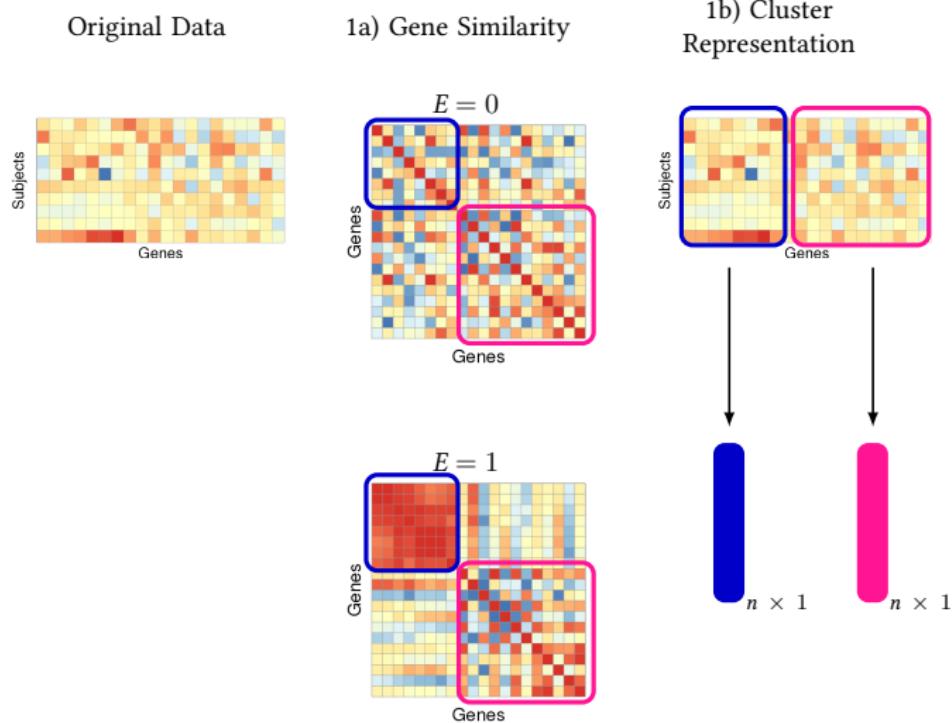
1a) Gene Similarity



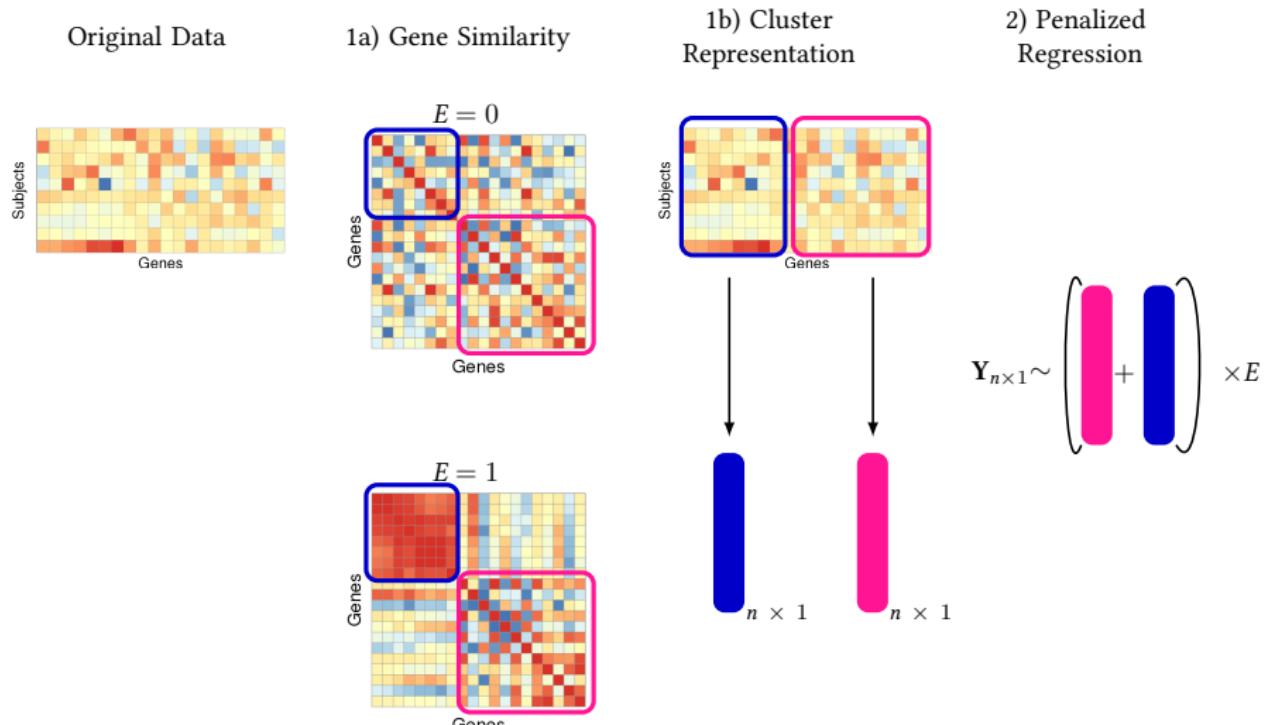
1b) Cluster Representation



# eclust: our proposed 2 step method



# eclust: our proposed 2 step method



Bhatnagar et al. An analytic approach for interpretable predictive models in high dimensional data, in the presence of interactions with exposures. *Genetic Epidemiology* (2018). <https://cran.r-project.org/package=eclust>



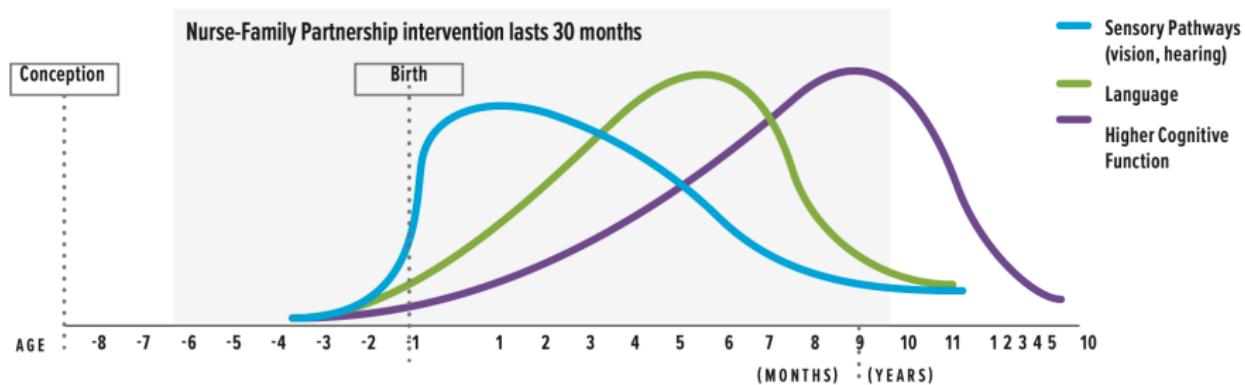
# Nurse-Family Partnership

Helping First-Time Parents Succeed®

**Nurse-Family Partnership is an evidence-based, community health program with over 40 years of evidence showing significant improvements in the health and lives of first-time moms and their children living in poverty.**

## Human Brain Development

Synapse formation dependent on early experiences

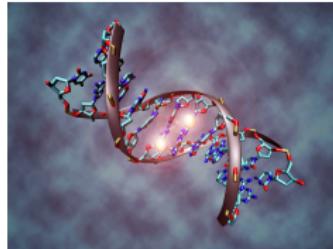


Source: Nelson, C.A., In Neurons to Neighborhoods (2000).

# Interactions between Intervention and Genetics

Stanford-Binet Fifth Edition (SB5) classification <sup>[4]</sup>	
IQ Range ("deviation IQ")	IQ Classification
145–160	Very gifted or highly advanced
130–144	Gifted or very advanced
120–129	Superior
110–119	High average
90–109	Average
80–89	Low average
70–79	Borderline impaired or delayed
55–69	Mildly impaired or delayed
40–54	Moderately impaired or delayed

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**Phenotype**  
**IQ Score**

**Large Data**  
**Genetic Markers**

**Environment**  
**NFP Intervention**

$$Y = \sum_{j=1}^p X_j \beta_j + \sum_{j=1}^p X_j X_E \tau_j + \epsilon$$

$$= \begin{matrix} \text{X} \\ n \times p \end{matrix} + \begin{matrix} \beta \\ p \times 1 \end{matrix} + \begin{matrix} X_E \circ \text{X} \\ n \times 1 \quad n \times p \end{matrix} + \begin{matrix} \tau \\ p \times 1 \end{matrix} + \begin{matrix} \epsilon \\ n \times 1 \end{matrix}$$

Main effects

Interaction effects

Error

$$Y = \sum_{j=1}^p X_j \beta_j + \sum_{j=1}^p X_j X_E \tau_j + \epsilon$$

$$= \begin{matrix} \text{X} \\ n \times p \end{matrix} + \begin{matrix} \beta \\ p \times 1 \end{matrix} + \begin{matrix} X_E \circ \text{X} \\ n \times 1 \quad n \times p \end{matrix} + \begin{matrix} \tau \\ p \times 1 \end{matrix} + \begin{matrix} \epsilon \\ n \times 1 \end{matrix}$$

Main effects

Interaction effects

Error

Let  $Z_{jE} = X_E X_j$

$$Y = \sum_{j=1}^p X_j \beta_j + \sum_{j=1}^p Z_j \tau_j + \varepsilon$$
$$= \begin{matrix} & \\ & \textbf{X} & \textbf{Z} \\ & \end{matrix}_{n \times 2p} + \begin{matrix} & \\ & \beta \\ & \end{matrix}_{2p \times 1} + \begin{matrix} & \\ & \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \\ & \end{matrix}_{n \times 1}$$


$$\beta = \begin{matrix} 0 \\ X_k \end{matrix}$$

A vertical vector  $\beta$  composed of three horizontal segments. The top segment is yellow, the middle segment is orange, and the bottom segment is orange. The middle orange segment contains the value  $X_k$ . To the right of the vector, the equation  $\hat{\beta}_k = 0$  is written.

Main effects


$$\tau = \begin{matrix} 1 \\ X_k X_E \end{matrix}$$

A vertical vector  $\tau$  composed of three horizontal segments. The top segment is green, the middle segment is purple, and the bottom segment is green. The middle purple segment contains the value  $X_k X_E$ . To the right of the vector, the equation  $\hat{\tau}_{kE} = 1$  is written.

Interaction effects

 $\beta$ 

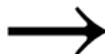
$$\hat{\beta}_k = 0$$
$$X_k$$

 $\tau$ 

$$\hat{\tau}_{kE} = 1$$
$$X_k X_E$$

Main effects

Interaction effects

 $\beta$  $\tau$ 

Main effects

Interaction effects

$$\beta$$
$$0 \quad \hat{\beta}_k = 0$$
$$X_k$$

$$\tau$$
$$1 \quad \hat{\tau}_{kE} = 1$$
$$X_k X_E$$



Main effects

Interaction effects

$$\beta$$
$$0$$
$$X_k$$

$$\tau$$
$$0$$
$$X_E$$



Main effects

Interaction effects

## Our Extension to Nonlinear Effects

Consider the basis expansion

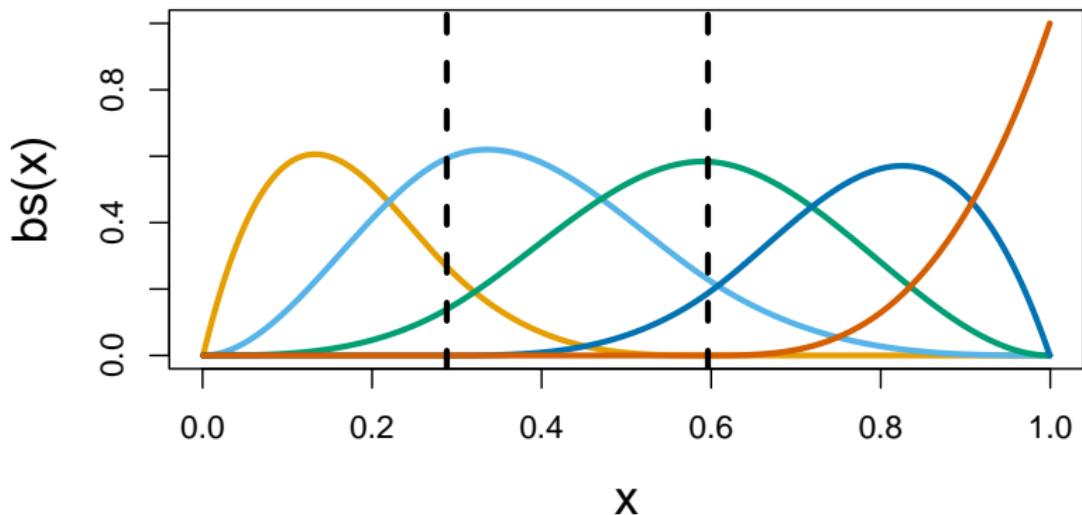
$$f_j(X_j) = \sum_{\ell=1}^{m_j} \psi_{j\ell}(X_j) \beta_{j\ell}$$

$$f(X_1) = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \psi_{11}(X_{11}) & \psi_{12}(X_{12}) & \cdots & \psi_{11}(X_{15}) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ \psi_{11}(X_{i1}) & \psi_{12}(X_{i2}) & \cdots & \psi_{11}(X_{i5}) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ \psi_{11}(X_{N1}) & \psi_{12}(X_{N2}) & \cdots & \psi_{11}(X_{N5}) \end{bmatrix}}_{\Psi_1}_{N \times 5} \times \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \beta_{11} \\ \beta_{12} \\ \beta_{13} \\ \beta_{14} \\ \beta_{15} \end{bmatrix}}_{\theta_1}_{5 \times 1}$$

# B-Spline Expansion

```
x <- truncnorm::rtruncnorm(1000, a = 0, b = 1)
B <- splines::bs(x, df = 5, degree=3, intercept = FALSE)
```

**df=5, degree=3, inner.knots at c(33.33%, 66.66%) percentile**



# sail: Additive Interactions

- $\boldsymbol{\theta}_j = (\beta_{j1}, \dots, \beta_{jm_j}) \in \mathbb{R}^{m_j}$
- $\boldsymbol{\tau}_j = (\tau_{j1}, \dots, \tau_{jm_j}) \in \mathbb{R}^{m_j}$
- $\boldsymbol{\Psi}_j \rightarrow n \times m_j$  matrix of evaluations of the  $\psi_{j\ell}$
- In our implementation, we use cubic bsplines with 5 degrees of freedom

## Model

$$Y = \beta_0 \cdot \mathbf{1} + \sum_{j=1}^p \boldsymbol{\Psi}_j \boldsymbol{\theta}_j + \beta_E X_E + \sum_{j=1}^p (X_E \circ \boldsymbol{\Psi}_j) \boldsymbol{\tau}_j + \varepsilon$$

# sail: Strong Heredity

## Reparametrization

$$\tau_j = \gamma_j \beta_E \theta_j$$

## Model

$$Y = \beta_0 \cdot \mathbf{1} + \sum_{j=1}^p \Psi_j \theta_j + \beta_E X_E + \sum_{j=1}^p \gamma_j \beta_E (X_E \circ \Psi_j) \theta_j + \varepsilon$$

## Objective Function

$$\underset{\Theta := (\beta_E, \theta, \gamma)}{\operatorname{argmin}} \quad \mathcal{L}(\Theta) + \lambda(1 - \alpha) \left( w_E |\beta_E| + \sum_{j=1}^p w_j \|\theta_j\|_2 \right) + \lambda \alpha \sum_{j=1}^p w_{jE} |\gamma_j|$$

<sup>1</sup><https://cran.r-project.org/package=sail>

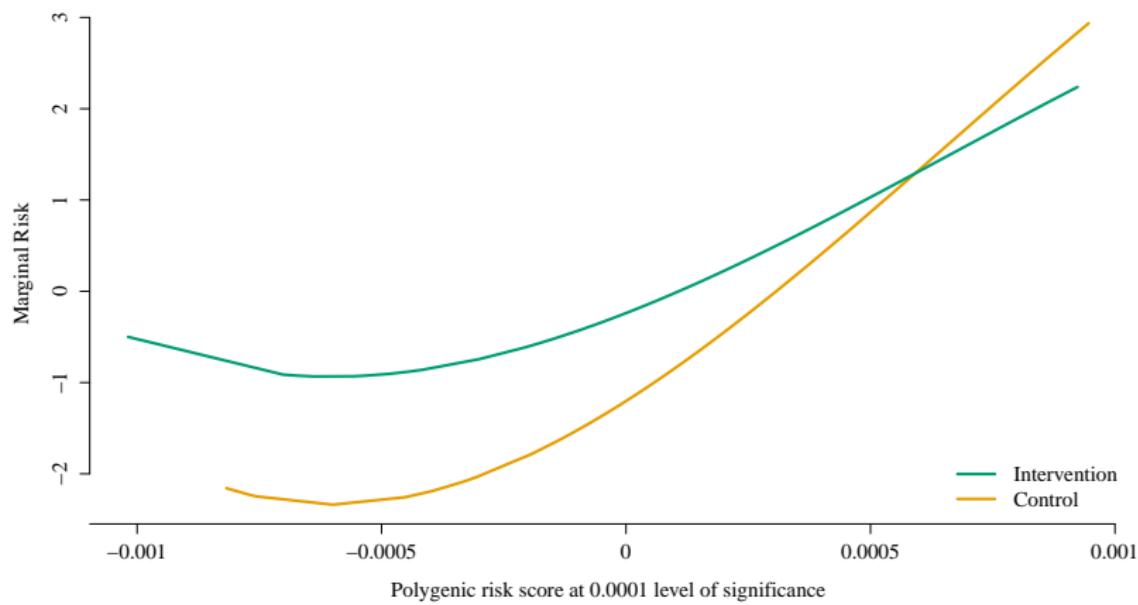
## Nurse Family Partnership Program

- The Stanford Binet IQ scores at 4 years of age were collected for 189 subjects born to women randomly assigned to control ( $n = 100$ ) or nurse-visited intervention groups ( $n = 89$ ).
- For each subject, we calculated a polygenic risk score (PRS) for educational attainment at different p-value thresholds using weights from a previous GWAS.

# Nurse Family Partnership Program

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- For each subject, we calculated a polygenic risk score (PRS) for educational attainment at different p-value thresholds using weights from a previous GWAS.
- In this context, individuals with a higher PRS have a propensity for higher educational attainment.
- The goal of this analysis was to determine if there was an interaction between genetic predisposition to educational attainment ( $X$ ) and maternal participation in the NFP program ( $E$ ) on child IQ at 4 years of age ( $Y$ ).

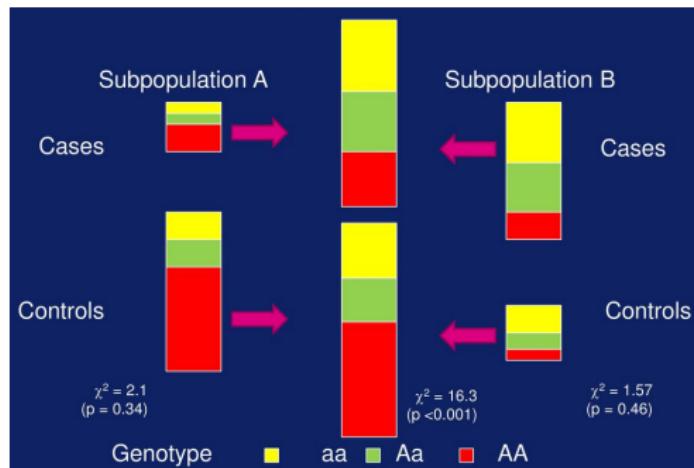
## Application of sail to NFP data



**Fig.:** The selected model, chosen via 10-fold cross-validation, contained three variables: the main effects for the intervention and the PRS for educational attainment using genetic variants significant at the 0.0001 level, as well as their interaction.



# Additional challenges in genetic data – confounding by population structure



<sup>1</sup>Tam V. et al. Benefits and limitations of genome-wide association studies. Nat Rev Genet (2019)

# Kinship Matrix: Measuring Genetic Similarity

- Let  $kinship$  be a list of SNPs used to estimate the kinship matrix
- Let  $X_{kinship}$  be a standardized  $n \times q$  genotype matrix.
- A kinship matrix ( $\Phi$ ) can be computed as

$$\Phi = \frac{1}{q-1} X_{kinship} X_{kinship}^\top \quad (1)$$

# Multivariable Penalized Linear mixed effects models (LMM)

$$\mathbf{Y} = \sum_{j=1}^p \beta_j \cdot \text{SNP}_j + \mathbf{P} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \quad (2)$$

$$\mathbf{P} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \eta\sigma^2 \boldsymbol{\Phi}) \quad \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, (1 - \eta)\sigma^2 \mathbf{I})$$

- $\sigma^2$  is the phenotype total variance
- $\eta \in [0, 1]$  is the phenotype heritability
- $\mathbf{Y}|(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \eta, \sigma^2) \sim \mathcal{N}(\sum_{j=1}^p \beta_j \cdot \text{SNP}_j, \eta\sigma^2 \boldsymbol{\Phi} + (1 - \eta)\sigma^2 \mathbf{I})$
- In our applications,  $n \ll p$

# Multivariable Penalized Linear mixed effects models (LMM)

$$\mathbf{Y} = \sum_{j=1}^p \beta_j \cdot \text{SNP}_j + \mathbf{P} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \quad (2)$$

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- $\mathbf{Y} | (\boldsymbol{\beta}, \eta, \sigma^2) \sim \mathcal{N}(\sum_{j=1}^p \beta_j \cdot \text{SNP}_j, \eta\sigma^2 \boldsymbol{\Phi} + (1 - \eta)\sigma^2 \mathbf{I})$
- In our applications,  $n \ll p$

Lasso, ridge, ect. are not directly applicable to LMM

# Current solution: Two Stage Procedure

$\mathbf{X}_{\text{kinship}}$

	Gene1	Gene2	Gene3	Gene4	Gene5	Gene6
ID1	2	2	2	2	2	2
ID2	0	2	2	2	2	2
ID3	0	2	2	2	2	2
ID4	1	2	2	2	2	2
ID5	0	2	2	2	2	2
ID6	1	2	2	2	1	2
ID7	2	2	2	2	1	2
ID8	1	2	2	2	2	2
ID9	0	2	2	2	1	2
ID10	1	2	2	1	2	2



$\mathbf{X}_{\text{kinship}} \mathbf{X}_{\text{kinship}}^T$

Response
-1.255
-0.339
-0.6
0.809
0.279
-0.421
-0.454
1.383
-2.29
2.289



	ID1	ID2	ID3	ID4	ID5	ID6	ID7	ID8	ID9	ID10
ID1	0.97	0	0	0	-0.02	0.03	0.02	-0.01	-0.02	0.03
ID2	0	1	0	-0.01	0	-0.01	-0.01	0	0	0
ID3	0	0	0.98	0.01	0.01	0.01	0	0.03	-0.01	-0.01
ID4	0	-0.01	0.01	1.03	0.04	0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.01	-0.01
ID5	-0.02	0	0.01	0.04	0.97	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.03	0.03
ID6	0.03	-0.01	0.01	0.01	-0.01	1.02	0	0	0	0.01
ID7	0.02	-0.01	0	-0.01	-0.01	0	1	0.02	0.02	0
ID8	-0.01	0	0.03	0.01	0.01	0	0.02	1.01	0.01	0
ID9	-0.02	0	-0.01	0.01	0.03	0	0.02	0.01	1.04	0.01
ID10	0.03	0	-0.01	-0.01	0.03	0.01	0	0	0.01	0.95



E

Y

P

# Current solution: Two Stage Procedure

Step 1:

**Y**

Response
-1.255
-0.339
-0.6
0.809
0.279
-0.421
-0.454
1.383
-2.29
2.289



**P**

	ID1	ID2	ID3	ID4	ID5	ID6	ID7	ID8	ID9	ID10
ID1	0.97	0	0	0	-0.02	0.03	0.02	-0.01	-0.02	0.03
ID2	0	1	0	-0.01	0	-0.01	-0.01	0	0	0
ID3	0	0	0.98	0.01	0.01	0.01	0	0.03	-0.01	-0.01
ID4	0	-0.01	0.01	1.03	0.04	0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.01	-0.01
ID5	-0.02	0	0.01	0.04	0.97	-0.01	-0.01	0.01	0.03	0.03
ID6	0.03	-0.01	0.01	0.01	-0.01	1.02	0	0	0	0.01
ID7	0.02	-0.01	0	-0.01	-0.01	0	1	0.02	0.02	0
ID8	-0.01	0	0.03	0.01	0.01	0	0.02	1.01	0.01	0
ID9	-0.02	0	-0.01	0.01	0.03	0	0.02	0.01	1.04	0.01
ID10	0.03	0	-0.01	-0.01	0.03	0.01	0	0	0.01	0.95

+ **E<sub>1</sub>**

Step 2: Residuals from Step 1



	Gene1	Gene2	Gene3	Gene4	Gene5	Gene6
ID1	2	2	2	2	2	2
ID2	0	2	2	2	2	2
ID3	0	2	2	2	2	2
ID4	1	2	2	2	2	2
ID5	0	2	2	2	2	2
ID6	1	2	2	2	1	2
ID7	2	2	2	2	1	2
ID8	1	2	2	2	2	2
ID9	0	2	2	2	1	2
ID10	1	2	2	1	2	2

+ **E<sub>2</sub>**

# Our proposal: ggmix

- We propose, `ggmix`, a one stage procedure which simultaneously controls for structured populations and performs variable selection in Linear Mixed Models (LMMs)

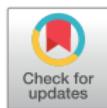
## PLOS GENETICS

RESEARCH ARTICLE

### Simultaneous SNP selection and adjustment for population structure in high dimensional prediction models

Sahir R. Bhatnagar<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Yi Yang<sup>3</sup>, Tianyuan Lu<sup>4,5</sup>, Erwin Schurr<sup>6</sup>, JC Loredo-Osti<sup>7</sup>, Marie Forest<sup>8</sup>, Karim Oualkacha<sup>9</sup>, Celia M. T. Greenwood<sup>1,4,5,10,11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>R package: [sahirbhatnagar.com/ggmix](http://sahirbhatnagar.com/ggmix), <https://cran.r-project.org/package=ggmix>

# Data and Model

- Phenotype:  $\mathbf{Y} = (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$
- SNPs:  $\mathbf{X} = (\mathbf{X}_1; \dots, \mathbf{X}_n)^T \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$ , where  $p \gg n$
- Twice the Kinship matrix or Realized Relationship matrix:  $\Phi \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$
- Regression Coefficients:  $\beta = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_p)^T \in \mathbb{R}^p$
- Polygenic random effect:  $\mathbf{P} = (P_1, \dots, P_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$
- Error:  $\varepsilon = (\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$
- We consider the following LMM with a single random effect:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{Y} &= \mathbf{X}\beta + \mathbf{P} + \varepsilon \\ \mathbf{P} &\sim \mathcal{N}(0, \eta\sigma^2\Phi) \quad \varepsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, (1 - \eta)\sigma^2\mathbf{I})\end{aligned}$$

- $\sigma^2$  is the phenotype total variance
- $\eta \in [0, 1]$  is the phenotype heritability (narrow sens)
- $\mathbf{Y}|(\beta, \eta, \sigma^2) \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{X}\beta, \eta\sigma^2\Phi + (1 - \eta)\sigma^2\mathbf{I})$

# Likelihood

- The negative log-likelihood is given by

$$-\ell(\boldsymbol{\Theta}) \propto \frac{n}{2} \log(\sigma^2) + \frac{1}{2} \log(\det(\mathbf{V})) + \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})^T \mathbf{V}^{-1} (\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})$$

where

$$\mathbf{V} = \eta \boldsymbol{\Phi} + (1 - \eta) \mathbf{I}$$

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- Assume the spectral decomposition of  $\boldsymbol{\Phi}$

$$\boldsymbol{\Phi} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{U}^\top$$

- $\mathbf{U}$  is an  $n \times n$  orthogonal matrix and  $\mathbf{D}$  is an  $n \times n$  diagonal matrix

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- $\mathbf{U}$  is an  $n \times n$  orthogonal matrix and  $\mathbf{D}$  is an  $n \times n$  diagonal matrix
- One can write

$$\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{U}(\eta \mathbf{D} + (1 - \eta) \mathbf{I}) \mathbf{U}^\top = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{W} \mathbf{U}^\top$$

with  $\mathbf{W} = \text{diag}(\mathbf{w}_i)_{i=1}^n$ ,  $\mathbf{w}_i = \eta \mathbf{D}_{ii} + (1 - \eta)$

# Likelihood

- Projection of  $\mathbf{Y}$  (and columns of  $\mathbf{X}$ ) into  $\text{Span}(\mathbf{U})$  leads to a simplified correlation structure for the transformed data:  $\tilde{\mathbf{Y}} = \mathbf{U}^\top \mathbf{Y}$
- $\tilde{\mathbf{Y}} | (\boldsymbol{\beta}, \eta, \sigma^2) \sim \mathcal{N}(\tilde{\mathbf{X}}\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2 \mathbf{W})$ , with  $\tilde{\mathbf{X}} = \mathbf{U}^\top \mathbf{X}$
- The negative log-likelihood can then be expressed as

$$-\ell(\boldsymbol{\Theta}) \propto \frac{n}{2} \log(\sigma^2) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \log(w_i) + \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (\tilde{\mathbf{Y}} - \tilde{\mathbf{X}}\boldsymbol{\beta})^T \mathbf{W}^{-1} (\tilde{\mathbf{Y}} - \tilde{\mathbf{X}}\boldsymbol{\beta})$$

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- For fixed  $\sigma^2$  and  $\eta$ , solving for  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$  is a weighted least squares problem

# Penalized Maximum Likelihood Estimator

- Define the objective function:

$$Q_\lambda(\Theta) = -\ell(\Theta) + \lambda \sum_j p_j(\beta_j)$$

- $p_j(\cdot)$  is a penalty term on  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_p$
- An estimate of the model parameters  $\hat{\Theta}_\lambda$  is obtained by

$$\hat{\Theta}_\lambda = \arg \min_{\Theta} Q_\lambda(\Theta)$$

# Real data applications

## 1. UK Biobank

- ▶ 10,000 LD-pruned SNPs (Essentially un-correlated variables) to predict standing height in 18k related individuals
- ▶ Standing height is highly polygenic (many variables associated with response)

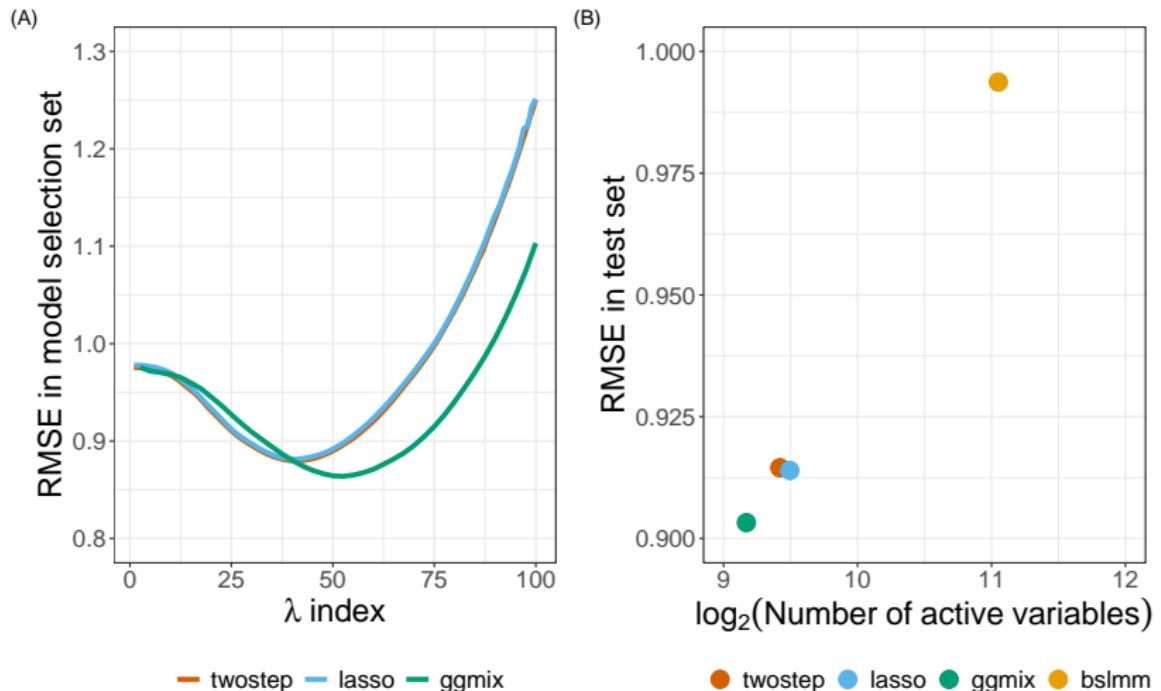
## 2. GAW20 Simulated dataset

- ▶ 50,000 SNPs (all on chromosome 1) to predict high-density lipoproteins in 679 related individuals
- ▶ Not much correlation between causal SNP and others
- ▶ Very sparse signals (only 1 causal variant)

## 3. Mouse Crosses

- ▶ Find loci associated with mouse sensitivity to mycobacterial infection
- ▶ 189 samples, and 625 microsatellite markers
- ▶ Highly correlated variables

# Results: UK Biobank





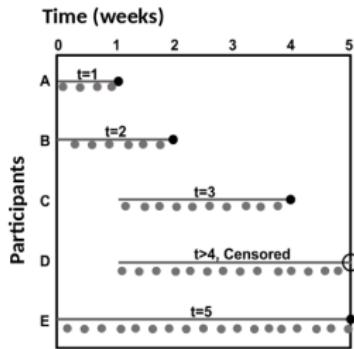
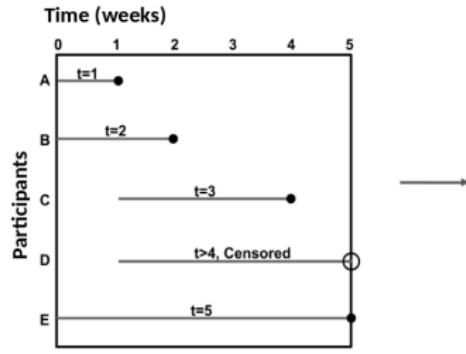
# Neural network survival analysis

- DeepSurv – Cox neural networks.
  - ▶ Cox regression extended using neural networks.
  - ▶ Only uses proportional hazards (PH).
- DeepHit – First Hitting Time neural networks.
  - ▶ Inverse Gaussian distribution used as baseline hazard.
  - ▶ Does not let model determine baseline hazard.
- DeepSurvivalMachines (DSM) – Mixture model used for baseline hazard.
  - ▶ User specifies a set of distributions to be used as the baseline hazard.
  - ▶ Does not permit time-varying interactions.

# Neural network survival analysis

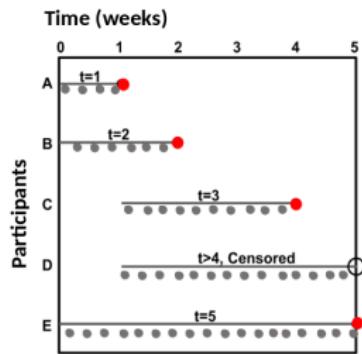
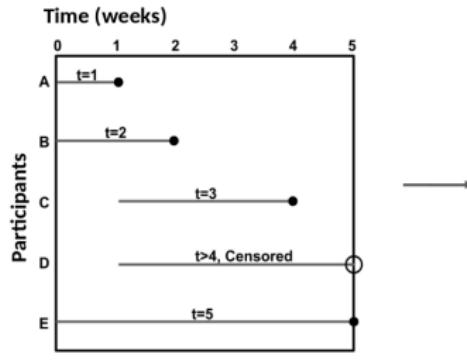
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- **Person-moment neural networks (PMNN)**
  - ▶ Provides a flexible baseline hazard.
  - ▶ Permits time-varying interactions of covariates.
  - ▶ Applicable to high-dimensional datasets

# Case-base sampling



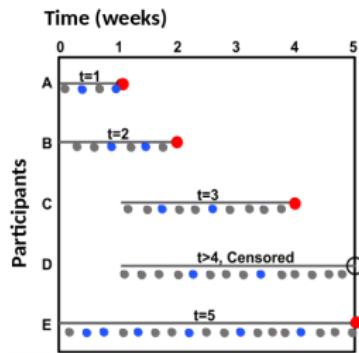
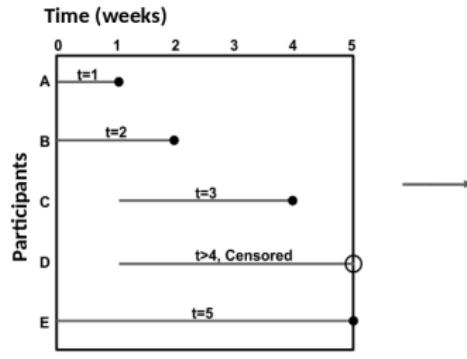
- Base: All the person-moments experienced in the study.

# Case-base sampling

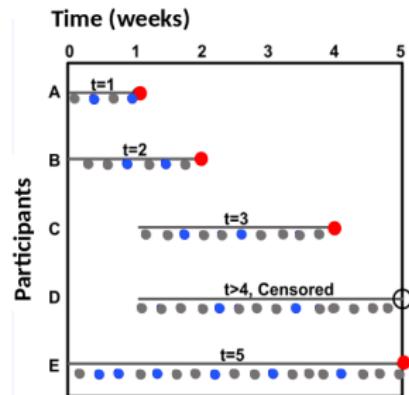


- Base: All the person-moments experienced in the study.
- Case series: all the person-moments where an event occurred.

# Case-base sampling



# Case-base sampling and logistic regression



$$e^{\beta(x,t)} = \frac{Pr(Y = 1|x, t)}{Pr(Y = 0|x, t)}$$

$$\frac{Pr(Y = 1|x, t)}{Pr(Y = 0|x, t)} = \frac{h(x, t) * B(x, t)}{b[B(x, t)/B]}$$

$$\frac{h(x, t) * B(x, t)}{b[B(x, t)/B]} = \frac{h(x, t) * B}{b}$$

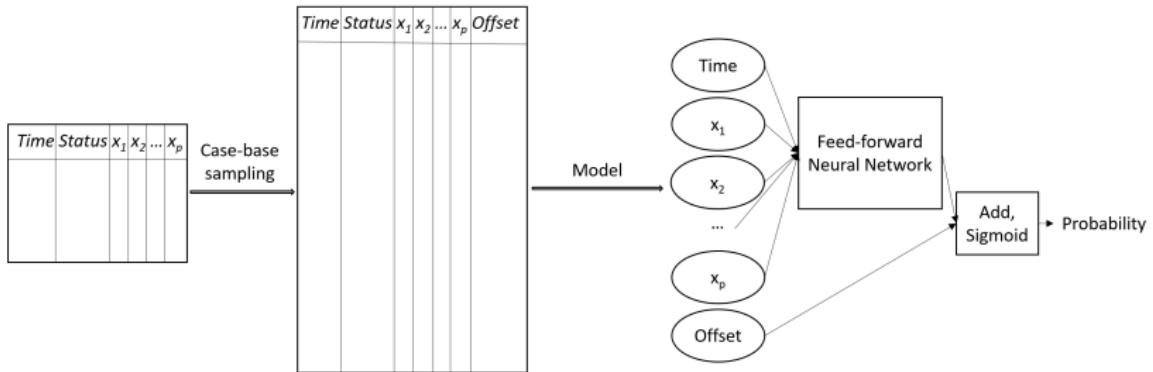
$$h(x, t) = e^{\beta(x,t)} \frac{b}{B}$$

$$\ln(h(x, t)) = \beta(x, t) + \ln\left(\frac{b}{B}\right) \quad b = \# \text{ Blue} \\ B = \# \text{ Moments}$$

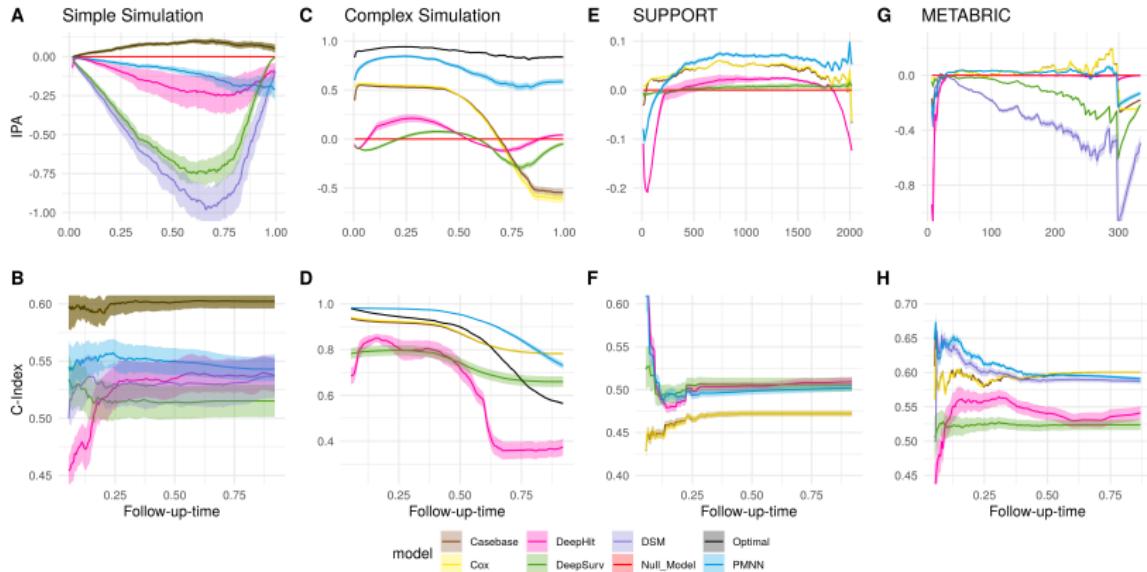
Bhatnagar et al. *In revision at R Journal* (2021+).

<https://cran.r-project.org/package=casebase>

# Overview of our method



# Results





# Acknowledgements



Zeyu Bian, PhD (c)

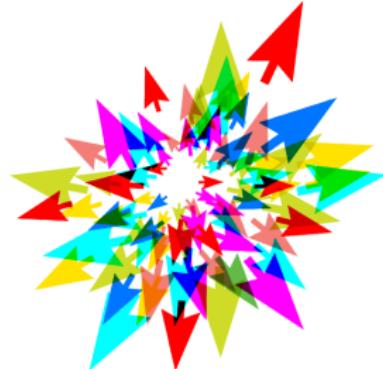


# Acknowledgements

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- Yi Yang (McGill)
- Celia Greenwood (Lady Davis Institute)
- Erica Moodie (McGill)
- Kieran O'Donnell (Yale)



**compute** | **calcul**  
canada | canada



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[sahirbhatnagar.com](http://sahirbhatnagar.com)

# Session Info

```
R version 4.1.1 (2021-08-10)
Platform: x86_64-pc-linux-gnu (64-bit)
Running under: Pop!_OS 21.04

Matrix products: default
BLAS:    /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/openblas-pthread/libblas.so.3
LAPACK:  /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/openblas-pthread/libopenblas-p0.3.13.so

attached base packages:
[1] stats      graphics   grDevices utils      datasets   methods    base

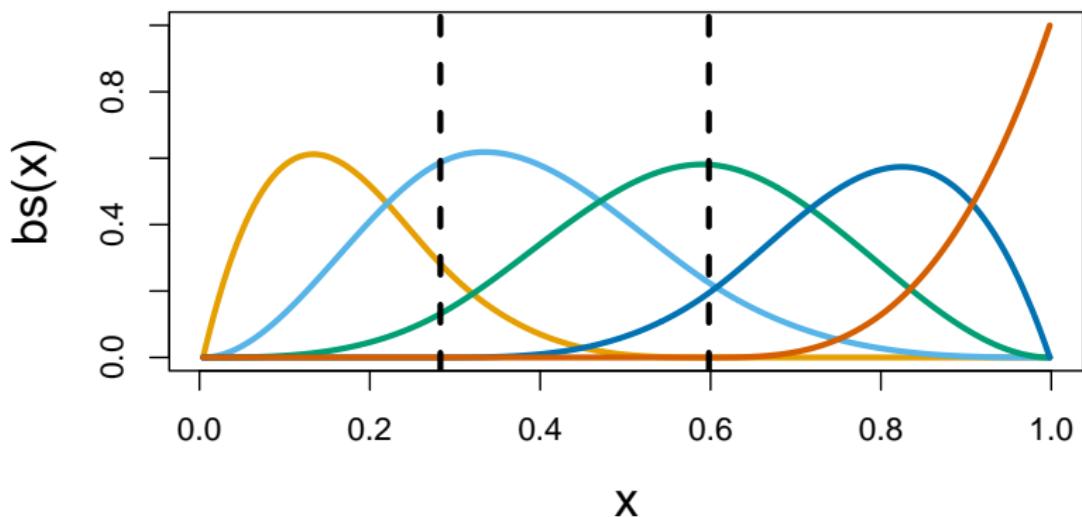
other attached packages:
[1] xtable_1.8-4       rpart.plot_3.1.0    rpart_4.1-15      data.table_1.14.2
[5] ISLR_1.2           ggplot2_3.3.5.9000 knitr_1.36

loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
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 [5] digest_0.6.28      evaluate_0.14     lifecycle_1.0.1   tibble_3.1.5
 [9] gtable_0.3.0       pkgconfig_2.0.3    rlang_0.4.12      DBI_1.1.1
[13] xfun_0.26          withr_2.4.2       dplyr_1.0.7       stringr_1.4.0
[17] generics_0.1.0     vctrs_0.3.8       grid_4.1.1        tidyselect_1.1.1
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```

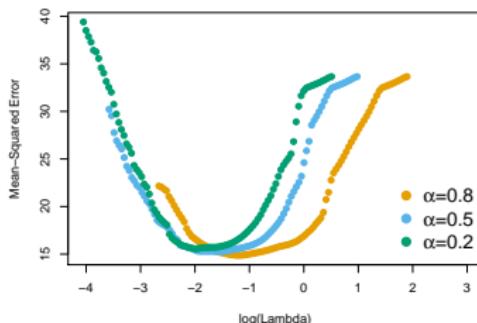
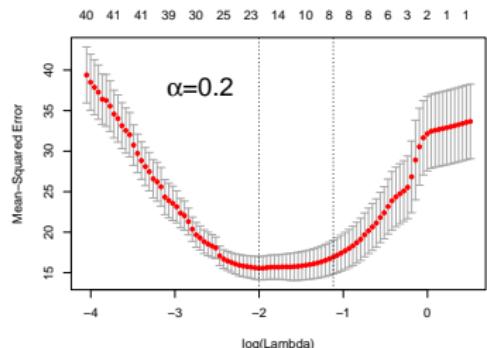
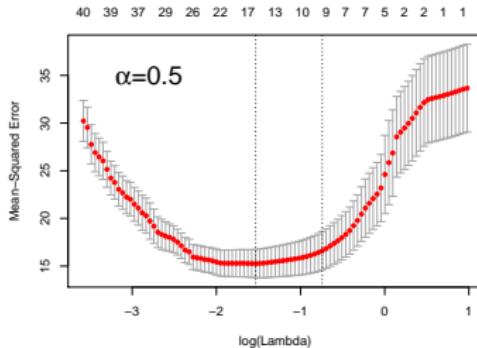
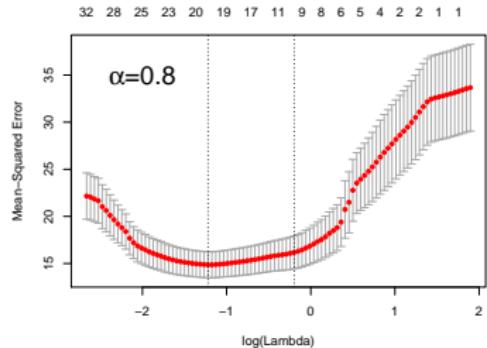
# B-Spline Expansion

```
x <- truncnorm::rtruncnorm(1000, a = 0, b = 1)
B <- splines::bs(x, df = 5, degree=3, intercept = FALSE)
```

**df=5, degree=3, inner.knots at c(33.33%, 66.66%) percentile**



# sail A Note on the Second Tuning Parameter results

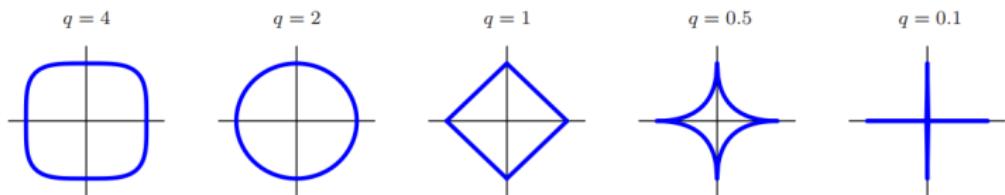


# Why the L1 norm ?

- For a fixed real number  $q \geq 0$  consider the criterion

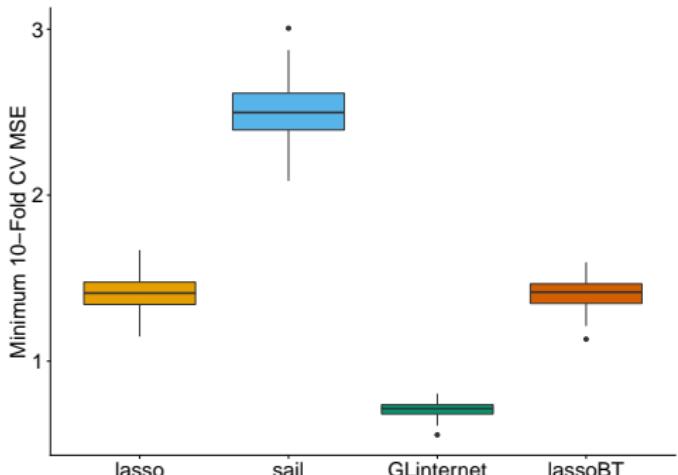
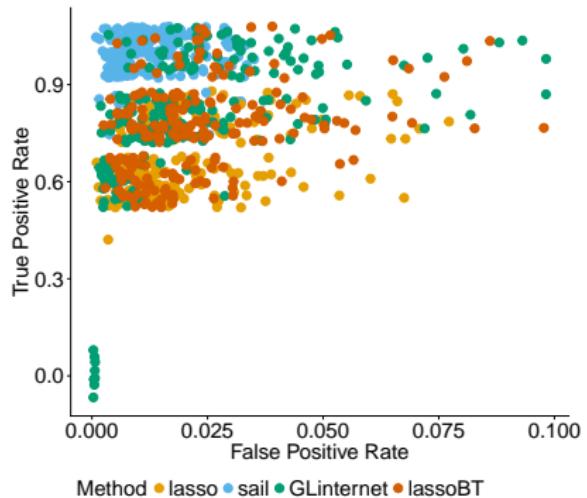
$$\tilde{\beta} = \arg \min_{\beta} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n \left( y_i - \beta_0 - \sum_{j=1}^p x_{ij}\beta_j \right)^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^p |\beta_j|^q \right\}$$

- Why do we use the  $\ell_1$  norm? Why not use the  $q = 2$  (Ridge) or any  $\ell_q$  norm?



- $q = 1$  is the smallest value that yields a sparse solution **and** yields a **convex** problem  $\rightarrow$  scalable to high-dimensional data
- For  $q < 1$  the constrained region is **nonconvex**

# Linear Effects Simulation - Comparison





# Simulation Scenarios

1. Truth obeys strong hierarchy (**right in our wheel house**):

$$Y = \sum_{j=1}^4 f_j(X_j) + \beta_E \cdot X_E + X_E \times (f_3(X_3) + f_4(X_4)) + \varepsilon$$

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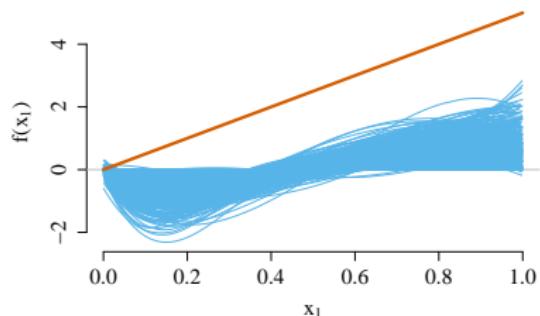
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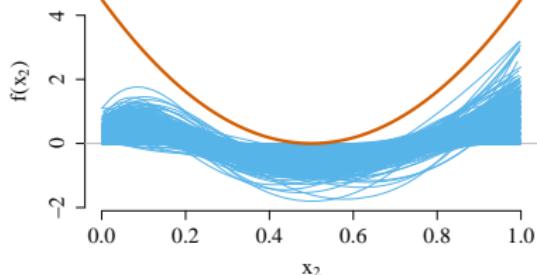
- $n_{train} = n_{tuning} = 200, n_{test} = 800, p = 1000, \beta_E = 1, SNR = 2$
- $X_j \sim \text{truncnorm}(0, 1), j = 1, \dots, 1000, E \sim \text{truncnorm}(-1, 1)$
- sail needs to estimate  $1000 \times 5 \times 2 = 10k$  parameters

# Scenario 1: Main Effects for 500 Simulations

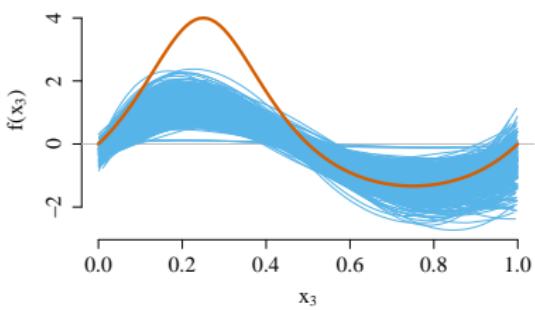
$$f(x_1) = 5x_1$$



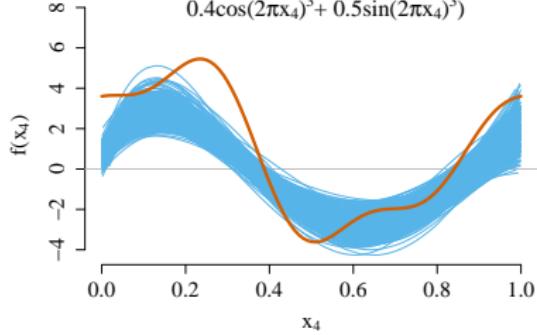
$$f(x_2) = 4.5(2x_2 - 1)^2$$



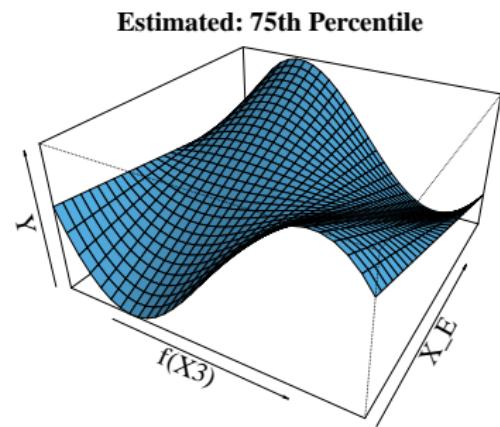
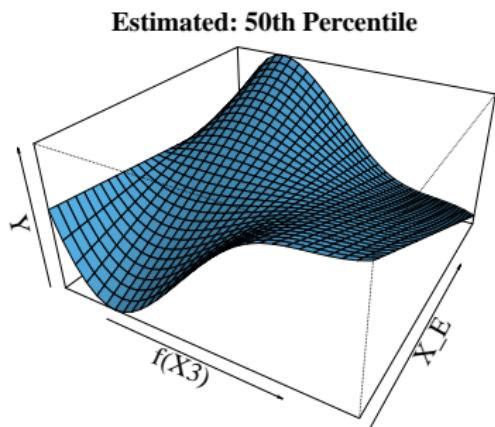
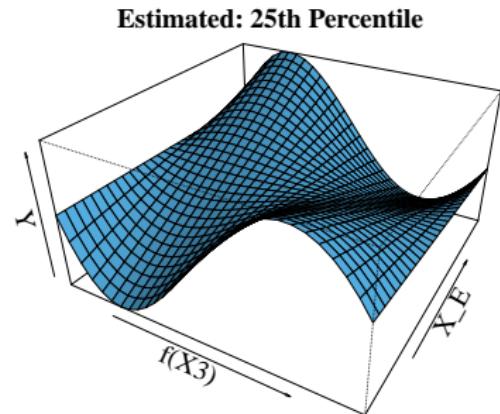
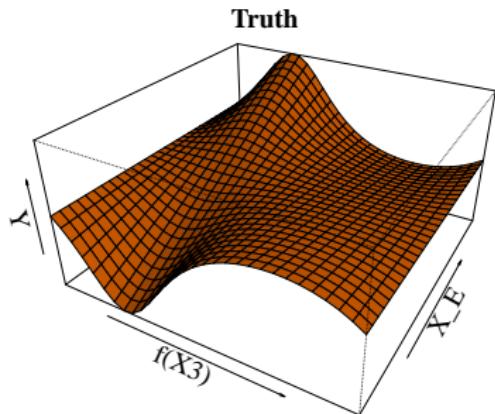
$$f(x_3) = \frac{4\sin(2\pi x_3)}{2 - \sin(2\pi x_3)}$$



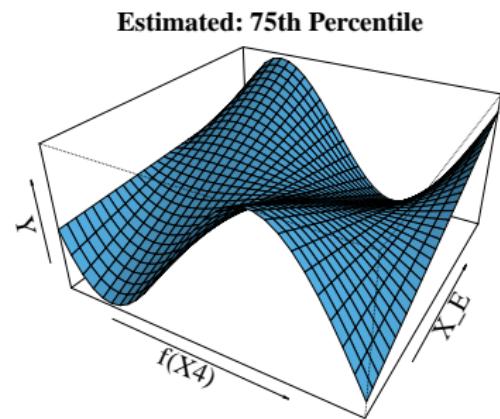
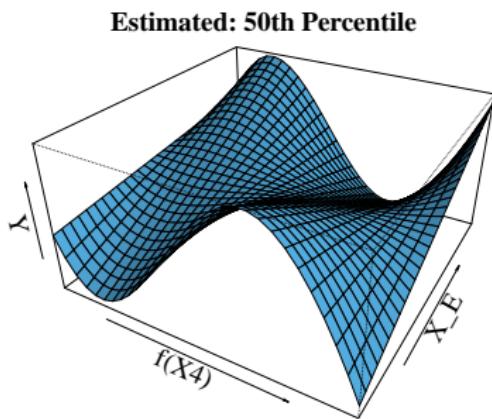
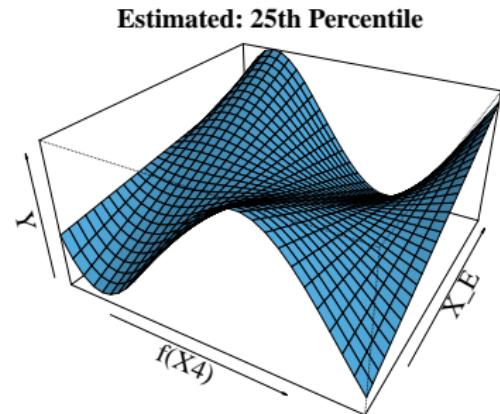
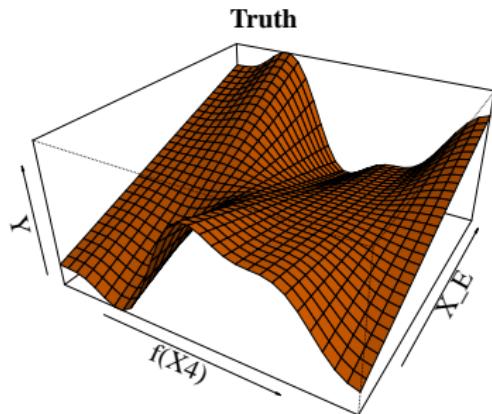
$$f(x_4) = 6(0.1\sin(2\pi x_4) + 0.2\cos(2\pi x_4) + 0.3\sin(2\pi x_4)^2 + 0.4\cos(2\pi x_4)^3 + 0.5\sin(2\pi x_4)^3)$$



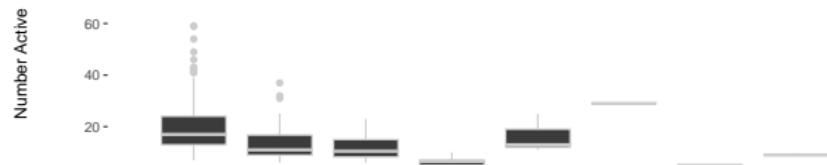
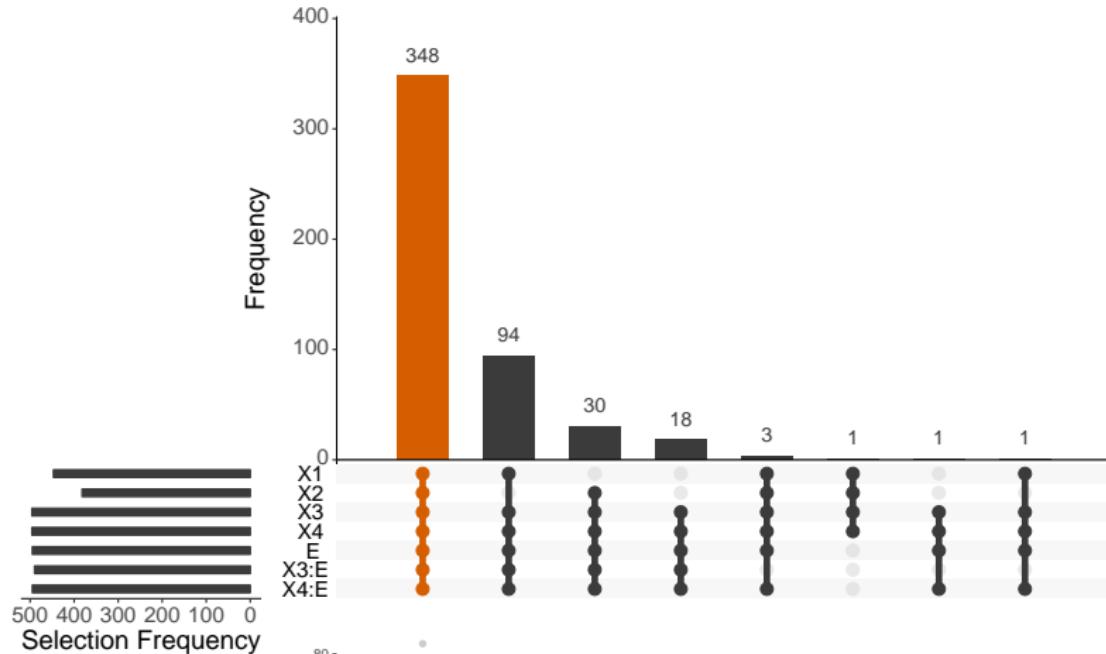
## Scenario 1: Estimated Interaction Effects for $E \cdot f(X_3)$



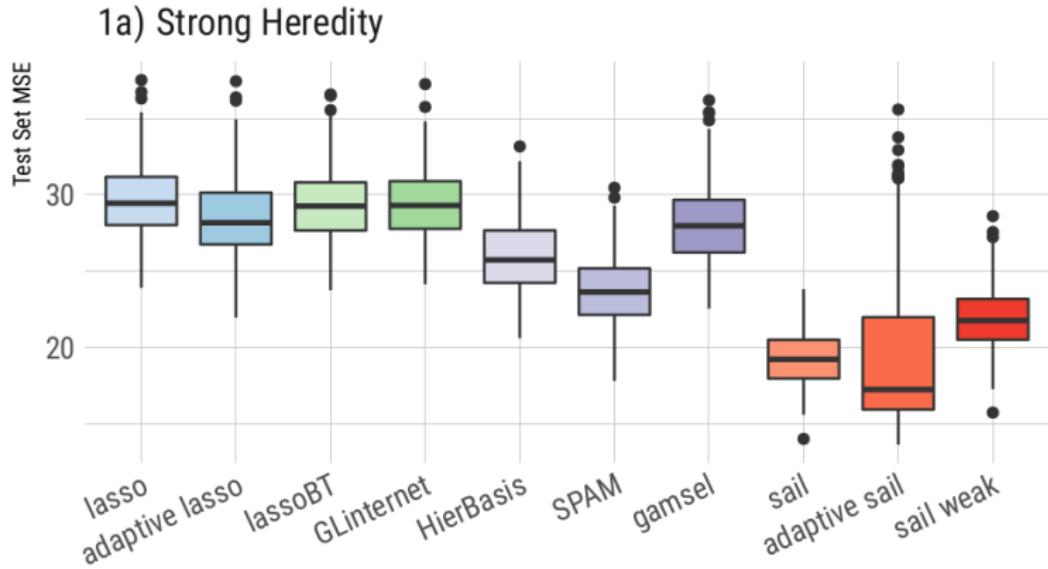
## Scenario 1: Estimated Interaction Effects for $E \cdot f(X_4)$



# Right in Our Wheel House Simulation Results

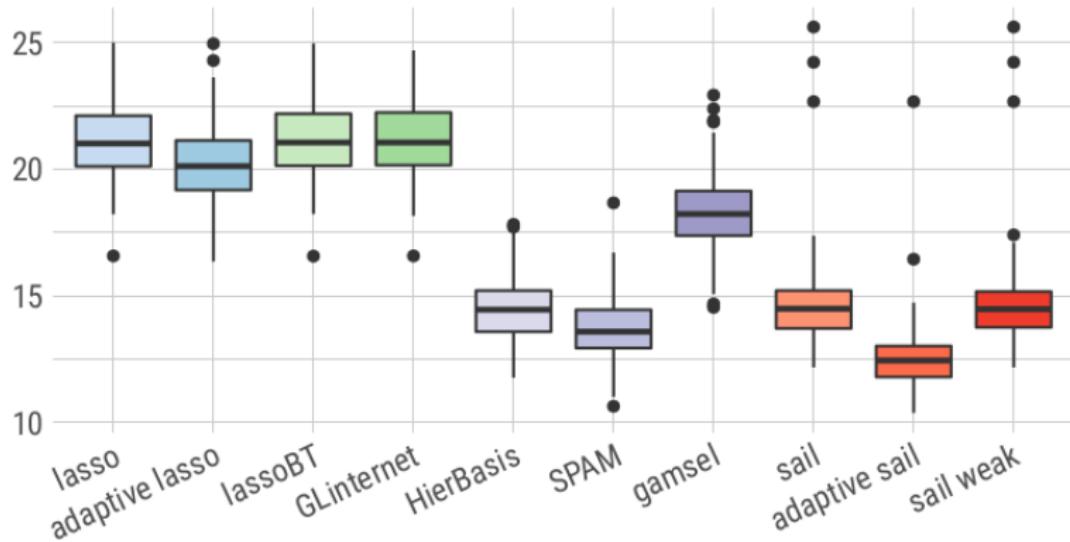


# Strong Heredity



# Main Effects Only

## 3) Main Effects Only





# Sparsity

## Theorem 1

$$\widehat{\boldsymbol{\Theta}}_n = \underset{\beta_E, \boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\gamma}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \quad \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\Theta}) + \lambda(1 - \alpha) \left( w_E |\beta_E| + \sum_{j=1}^p w_j \|\theta_j\|_2 \right) + \lambda \alpha \sum_{j=1}^p w_{jE} |\gamma_j|$$

$$\mathcal{A}_1 = \{j : \theta_j \neq 0, \beta_j \neq 0\}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_2 = \{k : \gamma_k \neq 0\}, \quad \mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_1 \cup \mathcal{A}_2$$

Under certain regularity conditions and the existence of a local minimizer  $\widehat{\boldsymbol{\Theta}}_n$  that is  $\sqrt{n}$ -consistent

$$P\left(\widehat{\boldsymbol{\Theta}}_{\mathcal{A}^c} = 0\right) \rightarrow 1$$

# Sparsity

## Theorem 1

$$\widehat{\boldsymbol{\Theta}}_n = \operatorname{argmin}_{\beta_E, \boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\gamma}} \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\Theta}) + \lambda(1 - \alpha) \left( w_E |\beta_E| + \sum_{j=1}^p w_j \|\theta_j\|_2 \right) + \lambda \alpha \sum_{j=1}^p w_{jE} |\gamma_j|$$

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Under certain regularity conditions and the existence of a local minimizer  $\widehat{\boldsymbol{\Theta}}_n$  that is  $\sqrt{n}$ -consistent

$$P\left(\widehat{\boldsymbol{\Theta}}_{\mathcal{A}^c} = 0\right) \rightarrow 1$$

Theorem 1 shows that when the tuning parameters for the nonzero coefficients converge to 0 faster than  $n^{-1/2}$  sail can consistently remove the noise terms with probability tending to 1.

# Asymptotic normality

## Theorem 2

$$\widehat{\Theta}_n = \underset{\beta_E, \boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\gamma}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \quad \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\Theta}) + \lambda(1 - \alpha) \left( w_E |\beta_E| + \sum_{j=1}^p w_j \|\theta_j\|_2 \right) + \lambda \alpha \sum_{j=1}^p w_{jE} |\gamma_j|$$

Under certain regularity conditions, the component  $\widehat{\Theta}_{\mathcal{A}}$  of the local minimizer  $\widehat{\Theta}_n$  satisfies

$$\sqrt{n} \left( \widehat{\Theta}_{\mathcal{A}} - \Theta_{\mathcal{A}} \right) \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N} \left( 0, \mathbf{I}^{-1} (\Theta_{\mathcal{A}}) \right)$$

Theorem 2 shows that the sail estimates for nonzero coefficients in the true model have the same asymptotic distribution as they would have if the zero coefficients were known in advance.

# Asymptotic normality

## Theorem 2

$$\widehat{\Theta}_n = \underset{\beta_E, \boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\gamma}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \quad \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\Theta}) + \lambda(1 - \alpha) \left( w_E |\beta_E| + \sum_{j=1}^p w_j \|\theta_j\|_2 \right) + \lambda \alpha \sum_{j=1}^p w_{jE} |\gamma_j|$$

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Theorem 2 shows that the sail estimates for nonzero coefficients in the true model have the same asymptotic distribution as they would have if the zero coefficients were known in advance.

Theorem 1 + 2  $\rightarrow$  Oracle property (Fan and Li, 2001)



## Block Relaxation (De Leeuw, 1994)

---

### Algorithm 1: Block Relaxation Algorithm

---

Set the iteration counter  $k \leftarrow 0$  and fix  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ ;

**for** each  $\lambda$  **do**

**repeat**

$$\gamma^{(k+1)} \leftarrow \operatorname{argmin}_{\gamma} Q_{\lambda}(\gamma, \beta_E^{(k)}, \boldsymbol{\theta}^{(k)})$$

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(k+1)} \leftarrow \operatorname{argmin}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} Q_{\lambda}(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \beta_E^{(k)}, \gamma^{(k+1)})$$

$$\beta_E^{(k+1)} \leftarrow \operatorname{argmin}_{\beta_E} Q_{\lambda}(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(k+1)}, \beta_E, \gamma^{(k+1)})$$

$$k \leftarrow k + 1$$

**until** convergence criterion is satisfied;

**end**

---

# sail: Weak Heredity

## Reparametrization

$$\tau_j = \gamma_j(\beta_E \cdot \mathbf{1}_{m_j} + \theta_j)$$

## Model

$$Y = \beta_0 \cdot \mathbf{1} + \sum_{j=1}^p \Psi_j \theta_j + \beta_E X_E + \sum_{j=1}^p \gamma_j (X_E \circ \Psi_j) (\beta_E \cdot \mathbf{1}_{m_j} + \theta_j) + \varepsilon$$

## Objective Function

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\beta_E, \theta, \gamma} \mathcal{L}(\Theta) + \lambda(1 - \alpha) \left( w_E |\beta_E| + \sum_{j=1}^p w_j \|\theta_j\|_2 \right) + \lambda \alpha \sum_{j=1}^p w_{jE} |\gamma_j|$$

# Implementation

## Objective Function

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\beta_E, \theta, \gamma} \mathcal{L}(Y; \Theta) + \lambda(1 - \alpha) \left( w_E |\beta_E| + \sum_{j=1}^p w_j \|\theta_j\|_2 \right) + \lambda \alpha \sum_{j=1}^p w_{jE} |\gamma_j|$$

---

<sup>1</sup><https://cran.r-project.org/package=sail>

# Implementation

## Objective Function

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\beta_E, \theta, \gamma} \mathcal{L}(Y; \Theta) + \lambda(1 - \alpha) \left( w_E |\beta_E| + \sum_{j=1}^p w_j \|\theta_j\|_2 \right) + \lambda \alpha \sum_{j=1}^p w_{jE} |\gamma_j|$$

## Lasso problem

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\gamma} \mathcal{L}(Y; \Theta) + \lambda(1 - \alpha) \left( w_E |\beta_E| + \sum_{j=1}^p w_j \|\theta_j\|_2 \right) + \lambda \alpha \sum_{j=1}^p w_{jE} |\gamma_j|$$

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# Implementation

## Objective Function

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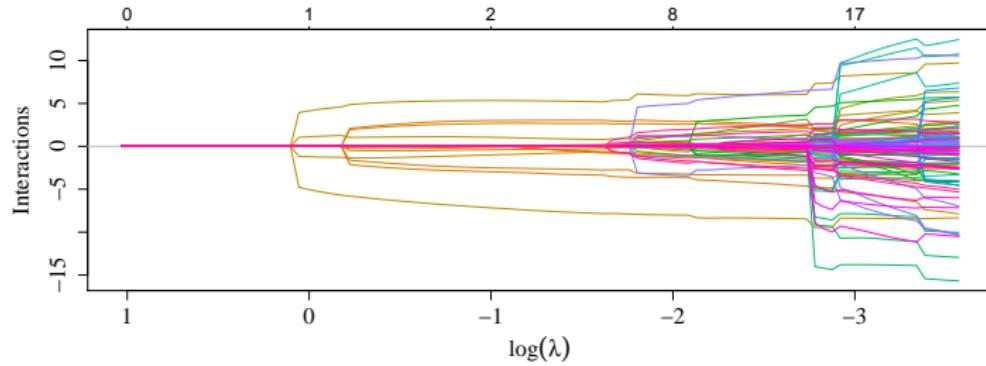
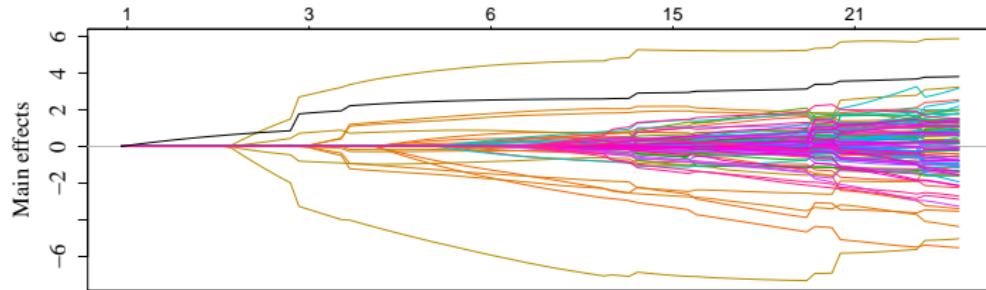
## Group Lasso problem

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\beta_E, \boldsymbol{\theta}} \mathcal{L}(Y; \boldsymbol{\Theta}) + \lambda(1 - \alpha) \left( w_E |\beta_E| + \sum_{j=1}^p w_j \|\theta_j\|_2 \right) + \lambda \alpha \sum_{j=1}^p w_{jE} |\gamma_j|$$

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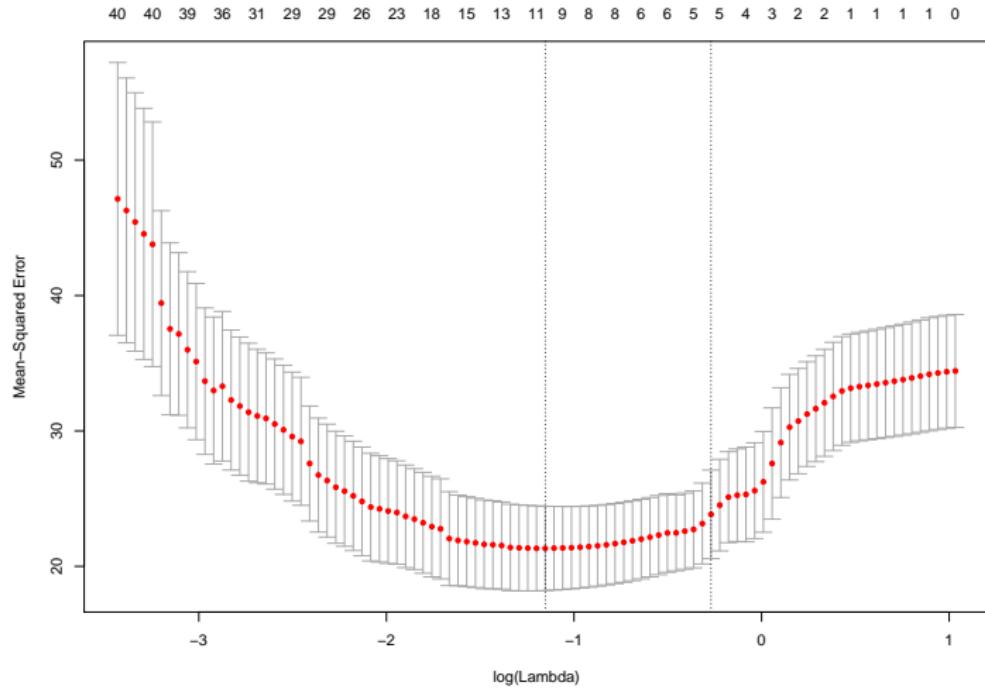
# sail R package: Solution Path results

```
f.basis <- function(x) splines::bs(x, degree = 5)
fit <- sail(x, y, e, basis = f.basis)
plot(fit)
```



# sail R package: Cross-validation results

```
sail::plot(cvfit)
```





# Strengths and Limitations

## Strengths

- Non-linear environment interactions with strong heredity property in  $p \gg N$
- sail allows for flexible modeling of input variables

# Strengths and Limitations

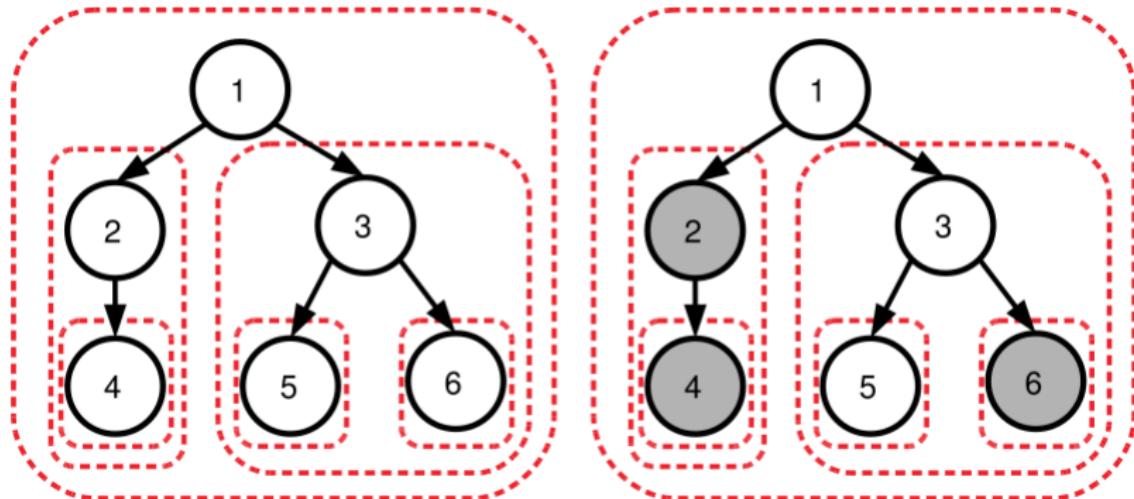
## Strengths

- Non-linear environment interactions with strong heredity property in  $p \gg N$
- sail allows for flexible modeling of input variables

## Limitations

- sail can currently only handle  $E \cdot f(X)$  or  $f(E) \cdot X$
- Does not allow for  $f(X_1, E)$  or  $f(X_1, X_2)$
- Memory footprint is an issue

# Hierarchical Penalty Structure



<sup>1</sup>Bach, Jenatton, Mairal and Obozinski (2011). Optimization with Sparsity-Inducing Penalties.

## Bi-level selection

- Bi-level selection:

$$f(X_1) = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} X_{11} & \psi_{11}(X_{11}) & \psi_{12}(X_{12}) & \cdots & \psi_{11}(X_{15}) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & & \vdots \\ X_{i1} & \psi_{11}(X_{i1}) & \psi_{12}(X_{i2}) & \cdots & \psi_{11}(X_{i5}) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & & \vdots \\ X_{N1} & \psi_{11}(X_{N1}) & \psi_{12}(X_{N2}) & \cdots & \psi_{11}(X_{N5}) \end{bmatrix}}_{\Psi_1}_{N \times 5} \times \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \beta_{\text{linear}} \\ \beta_{11} \\ \beta_{12} \\ \beta_{13} \\ \beta_{14} \\ \beta_{15} \end{bmatrix}}_{\theta_1}_{6 \times 1}$$



## Block Relaxation (De Leeuw, 1994)

To solve for the optimization problem we use a block relaxation technique

---

### Algorithm 2: Block Relaxation Algorithm

---

Set  $k \leftarrow 0$ , initial values for the parameter vector  $\Theta^{(0)}$  and  $\epsilon$ ;

**for**  $\lambda \in \{\lambda_{\max}, \dots, \lambda_{\min}\}$  **do**

**repeat**

$$\text{For } j = 1, \dots, p, \beta_j^{(k+1)} \leftarrow \arg \min_{\beta_j} Q_\lambda \left( \boldsymbol{\beta}_{-j}^{(k)}, \eta^{(k)}, \sigma^2^{(k)} \right)$$

$$\eta^{(k+1)} \leftarrow \arg \min_{\eta} Q_\lambda \left( \boldsymbol{\beta}^{(k+1)}, \eta, \sigma^2^{(k)} \right)$$

$$\sigma^2^{(k+1)} \leftarrow \arg \min_{\sigma^2} Q_\lambda \left( \boldsymbol{\beta}^{(k+1)}, \eta^{(k+1)}, \sigma^2 \right)$$

$$k \leftarrow k + 1$$

**until** convergence criterion is satisfied:  $\|\Theta^{(k+1)} - \Theta^{(k)}\|_2 < \epsilon$ ;

**end**

---

# Coordinate Gradient Descent Method

- We take advantage of smoothness of  $\ell(\Theta)$
- We approximate  $Q_\lambda(\Theta)$  by a strictly convex quadratic function (using gradient)
- We use CGD to calculate a descent direction
- To achieve the descent property for the objective function, we employ further line search

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<sup>1</sup>Tseng P& Yun S. Math. Program., Ser. B, (2009)

# Coordinate Gradient Descent Method

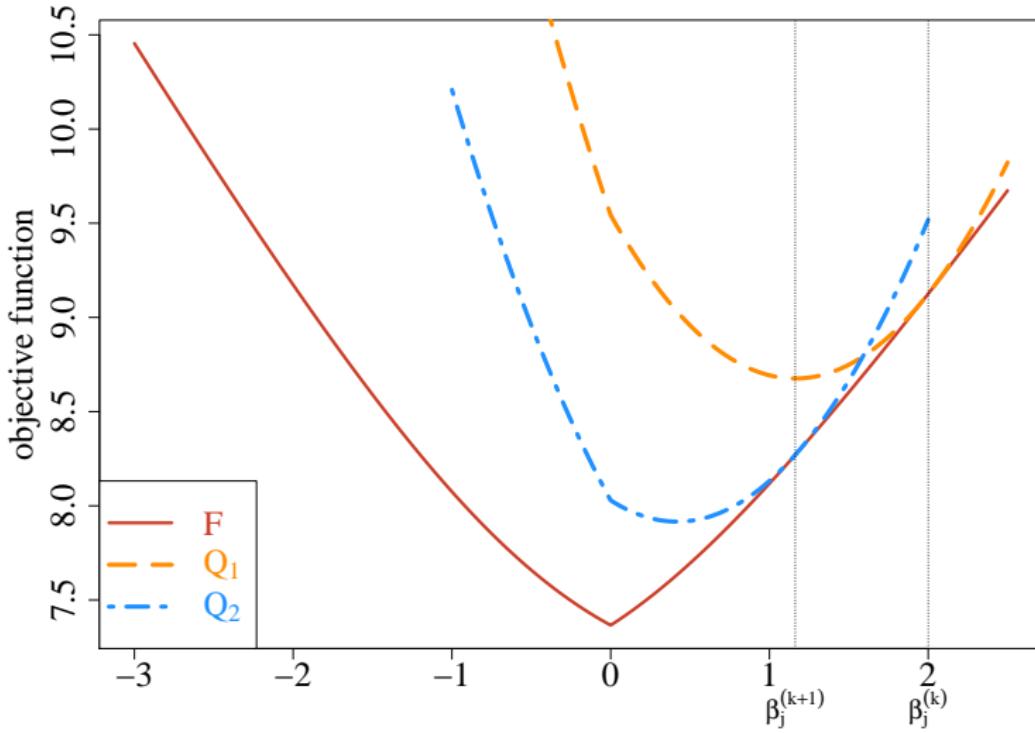
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- To achieve the descent property for the objective function, we employ further line search

**Theorem [Convergence]** <sup>1</sup>:

If  $\{\Theta^{(k)}, k = 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$  is a sequence of iterates generated by the iteration map of Algorithm 1, then each cluster point (i.e. limit point) of  $\{\Theta^{(k)}, k = 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$  is a stationary point of  $Q_\lambda(\Theta)$

---

<sup>1</sup>Tseng P & Yun S. Math. Program., Ser. B, (2009)



# Choice of the tuning parameter

- We use the BIC:

$$BIC_{\lambda} = -2\ell(\hat{\beta}, \hat{\sigma}^2, \hat{\eta}) + c \cdot \hat{df}_{\lambda}$$

- $\hat{df}_{\lambda}$  is the number of non-zero elements in  $\hat{\beta}_{\lambda}$  plus two <sup>1</sup>
- Several authors <sup>2</sup> have used this criterion for variable selection in mixed models with  $c = \log n$
- Other authors <sup>3</sup> have proposed  $c = \log(\log(n)) * \log(n)$

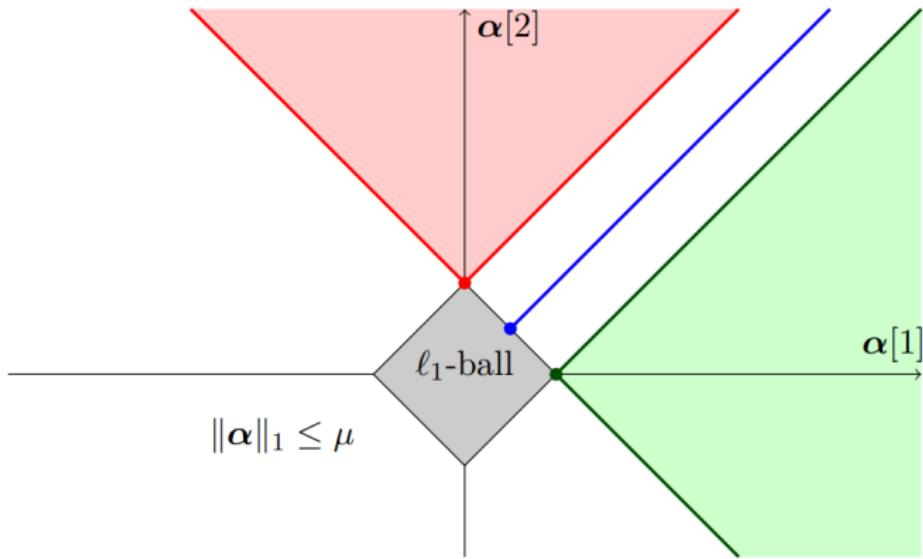
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<sup>1</sup>Zou et al. The Annals of Statistics, (2007)

<sup>2</sup>Bondell et al. Biometrics (2010)

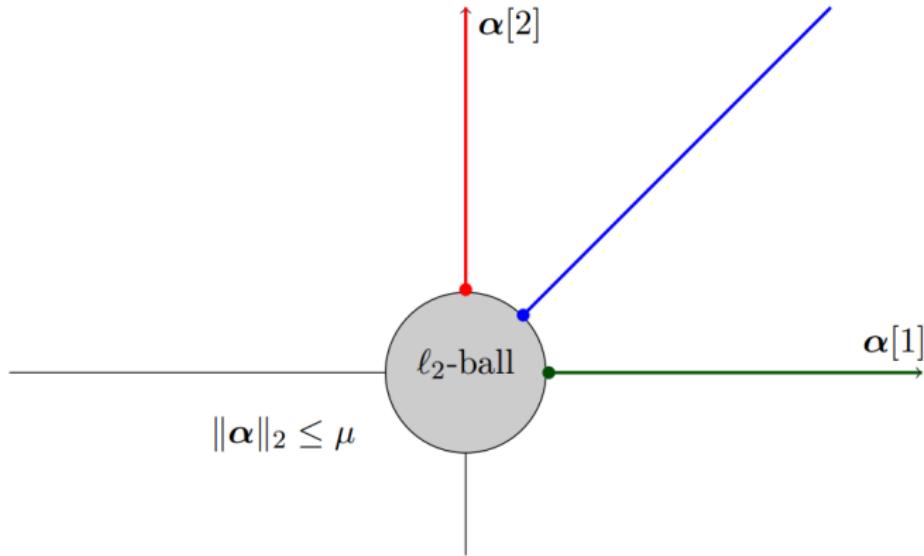
<sup>3</sup>Wang et al. JRSS(Ser. B), (2009)

## Effect of the Euclidean projection onto the $\ell_1$ -ball



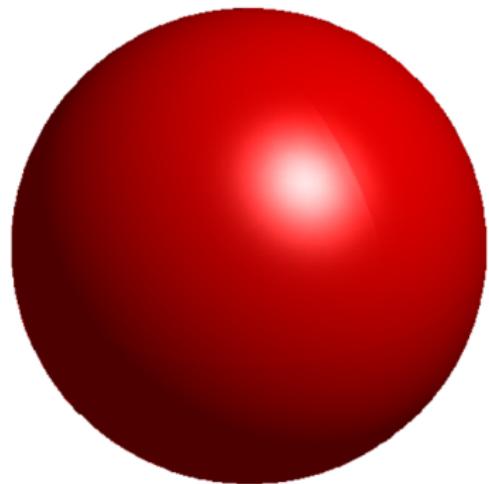
<sup>1</sup>Mairal, Bach and Ponce (2012). Sparse Modeling for Image and Vision Processing.

## Effect of the Euclidean projection onto the $\ell_2$ -ball

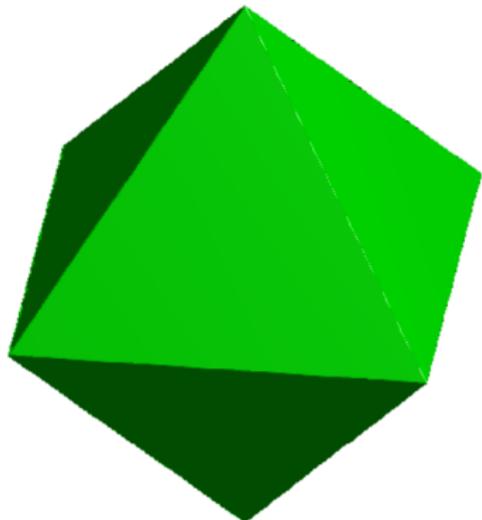


<sup>1</sup>Mairal, Bach and Ponce (2012). Sparse Modeling for Image and Vision Processing.

## Representation in three dimensions of the $\ell_1$ - and $\ell_2$ -balls



(a)  $\ell_2$



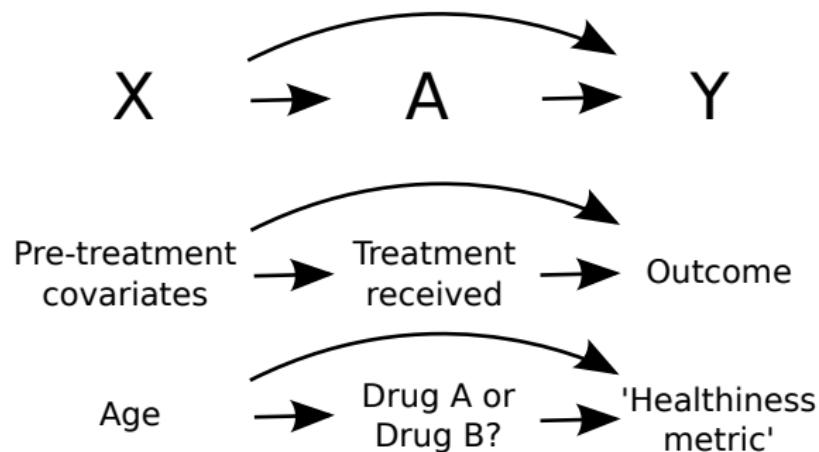
(b)  $\ell_1$ -ball in 3D

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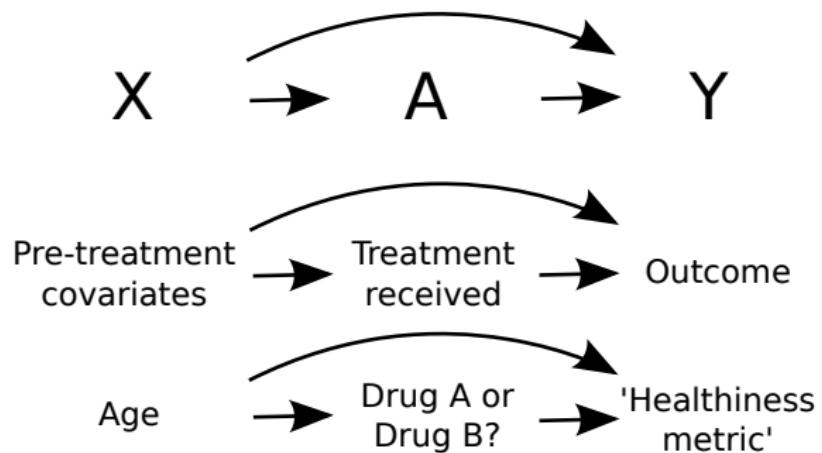
<sup>1</sup>Mairal, Bach and Ponce (2012). Sparse Modeling for Image and Vision Processing.



# Dynamic Treatment Regimes (DTRs)



# Dynamic Treatment Regimes (DTRs)



$$\mathbb{E}[Y | \mathbf{X}, A; \psi, \beta] = \underbrace{\mathbf{X}\beta}_{\text{Impact of patient history in the absence of treatment}} + \underbrace{\psi_0 A + \psi A \mathbf{X}}_{\text{Impact of treatment on outcome}}$$

# Extension of sail to DTRs



Cornell University

arXiv.org > stat > arXiv:2101.07359

## Statistics > Methodology

[Submitted on 18 Jan 2021]

# Variable Selection in Regression-based Estimation of Dynamic Treatment Regimes

Zeyu Bian, Erica EM Moodie, Susan M Shortreed, Sahir Bhatnagar

Dynamic treatment regimes (DTRs) consist of a sequence of decision rules, one per stage of intervention, that finds effective treatments for individual patients based on covariates. However, with increasingly large and complex data being collected, driven approach of selecting these covariates might improve the estimated decision rules and simplify models to make them easier to interpret. We propose a method that has the strong heredity property, that is, an interaction term can be included in the model only if the corresponding main terms have also been selected. The newly proposed methods compare favorably with other variable selection approaches.

Subjects: [Methodology \(stat.ME\)](#); Computation (stat.CO)

Cite as: [arXiv:2101.07359 \[stat.ME\]](#)

(or [arXiv:2101.07359v1 \[stat.ME\]](#) for this version)

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<sup>1</sup>In press at *Biometrics*. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2101.07359>