

29. Ridge Regression, part 2

November 21, 2025 10:00 AM

Ridge Regression: $\hat{\beta}_2^R = \underset{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^p}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{y}_i - X_i^\top \tilde{\beta})^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^p \tilde{\beta}_j^2 \right\}$

Squared Error *penalty on using "big" values for $\tilde{\beta}$*

$$\hat{\beta}_2^R = (X^\top X + \lambda I_p)^{-1} X^\top \hat{y}$$

λI_p is "stabilizing" the inverse of $X^\top X$

• if we have Multicollinearity then $(X^\top X)'$ is unstable leading to a large variance in $\hat{\beta}$

• If $p > n$ then $(X^\top X)'$ Does not exist.

However $(X^\top X + \lambda I_p)'$ always exists for any $\lambda > 0$.

\Rightarrow Reduce variance and stop as from overfitting

Theorem: there exists a $\lambda > 0$, small enough, s.t.

$$MSE(\hat{\beta}_2^R) < MSE(\hat{\beta})$$

Ridge < Least Squares

Unbiased!

Proof: • $MSE(\hat{\beta}) = \text{Var}(\hat{\beta})$ ↗ For simplicity, we assume this exists.

• $MSE(\hat{\beta}_2^R) := E[(\hat{\beta}_2^R - \beta)(\hat{\beta}_2^R - \beta)^\top]$
 $= \text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_2^R) + \text{bias}(\hat{\beta}_2^R) \text{bias}(\hat{\beta}_2^R)^\top$

• $\text{bias}(\hat{\beta}_2^R) = E[\hat{\beta}_2^R] - \beta$
 $= E[(X^\top X + \lambda I_p)^{-1} X^\top \hat{y}] - \beta$
 $= (X^\top X + \lambda I_p)^{-1} X^\top E[y] - \beta$
 $= (X^\top X + \lambda I_p)^{-1} X^\top X \beta - \beta$
 $= \underbrace{[(X^\top X + \lambda I_p)^{-1} X^\top X - I]}_{\text{I}} \beta$

$= [(X^\top X + \lambda I_p)^{-1} X^\top X - (X^\top X)(X^\top X)^\top] \beta$
 $= [(\underbrace{X^\top X + \lambda I_p}_{\text{I}})^{-1} - (X^\top X)^\top] (X^\top X) \beta$

Here we use an outer product $\hat{\beta} \hat{\beta}^\top$ a matrix instead of inner product $\hat{\beta}^\top \hat{\beta} \in \mathbb{R}$
Note:
 $\text{tr}(\hat{\beta} \hat{\beta}^\top) = \hat{\beta}^\top \hat{\beta}$

Point: Ridge \Rightarrow monotone wrt β $\therefore \phi$ if $\beta_0 > 0$

$$= \left[(\underline{X^T X + \lambda I_p}) - (\underline{X^T X}) \right] (X^T Y)$$

Point: Bias is negative wrt β . i.e. if $\beta_i > 0$ then the bias ($\hat{\beta}_{\lambda}^R$) < 0 and if $\beta_i < 0$ then the bias ($\hat{\beta}_{\lambda}^R$) > 0

\Rightarrow Shrinkage estimator as the bias is always point towards zero.

$$\text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_\lambda^R) = \text{Var}\left(\underline{(X^T X + \lambda I_p)^{-1} X^T Y}\right)$$

$$= \left[(X^T X + \lambda I_p)^{-1} X^T \right] \text{Var}(Y) \left[(X^T X + \lambda I_p)^{-1} X^T \right]^T$$

$$= \left[(X^T X + \lambda I_p)^{-1} X^T \right] (\sigma^2 I_n) \left[X \underbrace{(X^T X + \lambda I_p)^{-1}}_{\text{Symmetric}} \right]$$

$$= \sigma^2 (X^T X + \lambda I_p)^{-1} (X^T X) (X^T X + \lambda I_p)^{-1}$$

$$\text{Var}(\hat{\beta}) = \sigma^2 (X^T X)^{-1} (X^T X) (X^T X)^{-1} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Multiplied by} \\ (X^T X)^{-1} (X^T X) \text{ and} \\ \text{grouped terms} \\ \text{together} \end{array}$$

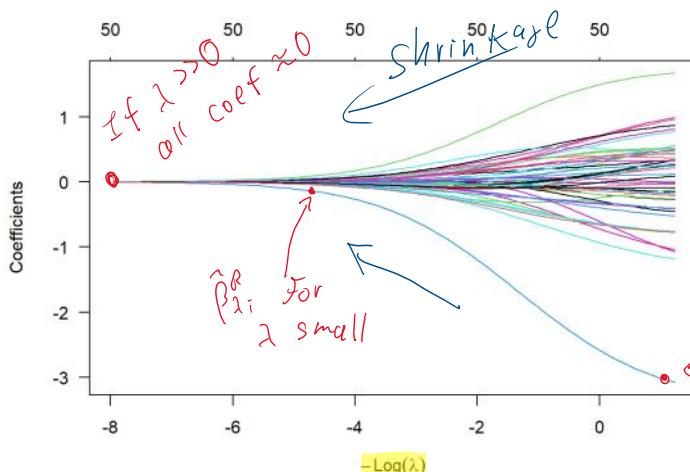
Claim: $< I_p$ then we have reduced the variance.

Simple Case: $X = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}$

$$\text{Now, } (X^T X) (X^T X + \lambda I_p)^{-1} = \frac{\sum x_i^2}{\sum x_i^2 + \lambda} < 1$$

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# Run a ridge regression
md.ridge = glmnet( xx, yy, alpha=0 )
plot( md.ridge, las=1 )
```

Output From
"glmnet"



Each line corresponds to $\alpha \hat{\beta}_{\lambda,i}^R$

If $\lambda \approx 0$ then $\hat{\beta}_{\lambda}^R \approx \hat{\beta}$

Interpolating between $(\lambda, 0)$ and $(0, \hat{\beta})$

Next time: go from Ridge to Lasso estimator

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$$2 \sum \tilde{\beta}_i^2$$

$$2 \sum |\beta_i|$$

Lasso = Least Absolute Shrinkage + Selection Operator

$$|\beta| \quad \downarrow 0 \quad \text{set} = 0$$

↳ Do variable selection, but still maintains
a convex optimization problem.