Ch 6.2: Shrinkage - The Lasso

Lecture 18 - CMSE 381

Michigan State University
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Dept of Computational Mathematics, Science & Engineering

Fri, Feb 27, 2026

Announcements

Last time:

- Ridge Regression

This time:

- The Lasso

Announcements:

- HW3 due Sunday 3/8
- HW4 due Sunday 3/15
- Think about the project, choose a partner

11	F	2/6	Multiple Logistic Regression / Multinomial Logistic Regression	4.3.4-5	HW #2 Due Mon 2/9	
	M	2/9	***Project Day & Review***			
	W	2/11	**Midterm #1**			
12	F	2/13	**Class not held**			
13	M	2/16	Leave one out and k-fold CV	5.1.1-3		
14	W	2/18	More k-fold CV	5.1.4-5		Q5
15	F	2/20	k-fold CV for classification	5.1.5		
16	M	2/23	Subset selection	6.1		
17	W	2/25	Shrinkage: Ridge	6.2.1		
18	F	2/27	Shrinkage: Lasso	6.2.2		
	M	3/2	Spring Break			
	W	3/4	Spring Break			
	F	3/6	Spring Break		HW #3 Due Sun 3/8	
19	M	3/9	PCA	6.3		
20	W	3/11	PCR	6.3		Q6

What should you learn from the previous and this lecture?

- What is regularization? Why do we need it?
- What are the two basic types of regularization methods? How are they implemented mathematically in linear regression? Why are they also called Shrinkage methods?
- How do you fit a Lasso regression model in python?
- How do you control the model flexibility & bias-variance tradeoff when using regularization?
- How do you find the right amount of regularization using cross-validation? How do you do this in python?
- What additional precautions do you need to take when using regularization (compared to least squares)?
- When do you choose one Shrinkage method over another?

Section 1

Last time - Ridge Regression

Goal

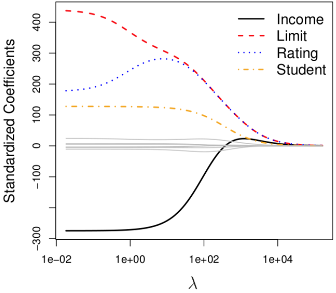
- Fit model using all p predictors
- Aim to constrain (regularize) coefficient estimates
- Shrink the coefficient estimates towards 0

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4$$

Ridge regression

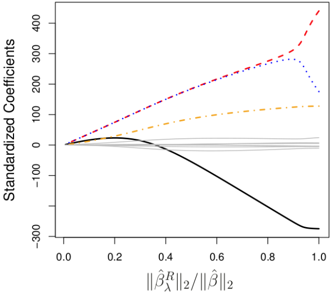
Before:

$$RSS = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(y_i - \beta_0 - \sum_{j=1}^{p} \beta_j x_{ij} \right)^2$$



After:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(y_i - \beta_0 - \sum_{j=1}^{p} \beta_j x_{ij} \right)^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^{p} \beta_j^2 = RSS + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^{p} \beta_j^2$$



Scale equivariance (or lack thereof)

Scale equivariant: Multiplying a variable by c (cX_i) just returns a coefficient multiplied by $1/c$ ($1/c\beta_i$)

Solution: standardize predictors

$$\widetilde{x}_{ij} = \frac{x_{ij}}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}(x_{ij} - \overline{x}_j)^2}}$$

- Least squares is scale equivariant
- Ridge regression is not

Section 2

The Lasso

Same goal as before

- Fit model using all p predictors
- Aim to constrain (regularize) coefficient estimates
- Shrink the coefficient estimates towards 0

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4$$

The lasso

Least Squares:

$$RSS = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(y_i - \beta_0 - \sum_{j=1}^{p} \beta_j x_{ij} \right)^2$$

Ridge:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(y_i - \beta_0 - \sum_{j=1}^{p} \beta_j x_{ij} \right)^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^{p} \beta_j^2 = RSS + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^{p} \beta_j^2$$

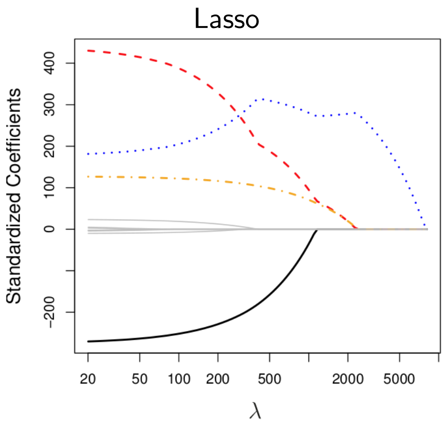
The Lasso:

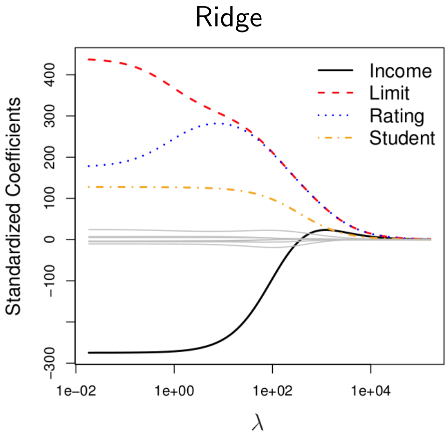
$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(y_i - \beta_0 - \sum_{j=1}^{p} \beta_j x_{ij} \right)^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^{p} |\beta_j| = RSS + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^{p} |\beta_j|$$

Subsets with lasso

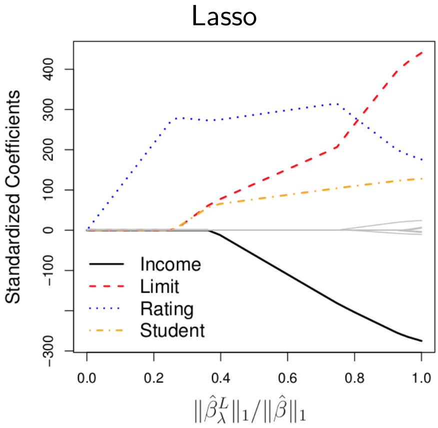
$$\sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(y_i - \beta_0 - \sum_{j=1}^{p}\beta_j x_{ij}\right)^2 + \lambda\sum_{j=1}^{p}|\beta_j| = RSS + \lambda\sum_{j=1}^{p}|\beta_j|$$

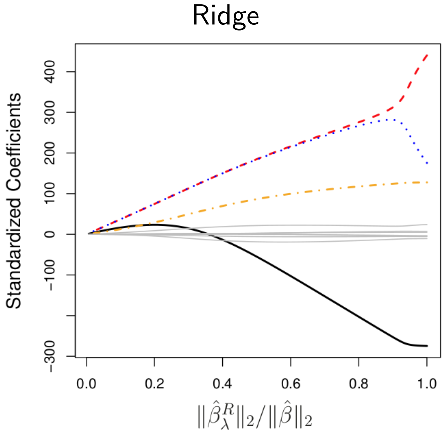
An example on `Credit` data set





More example on `Credit` data set





Why the hell lasso can select variable (while ridge cannot)?

Alternative formulation of lasso & ridge regression (play more with ℓ_p)

$$\min_{\beta} \sum (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 \text{ where } \sum |\beta_j| \leq s$$

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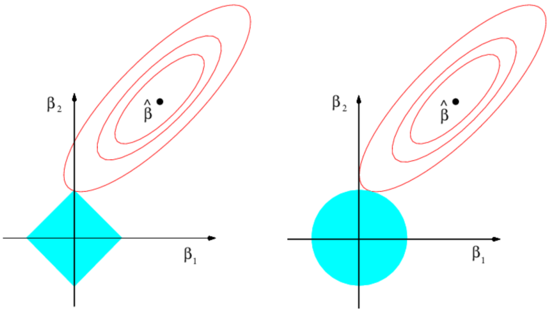
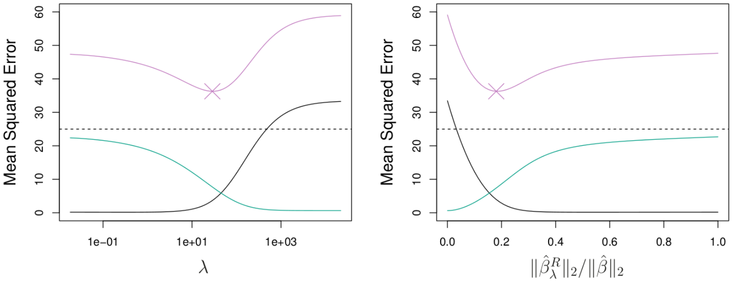


Bias-Variance tradeoff

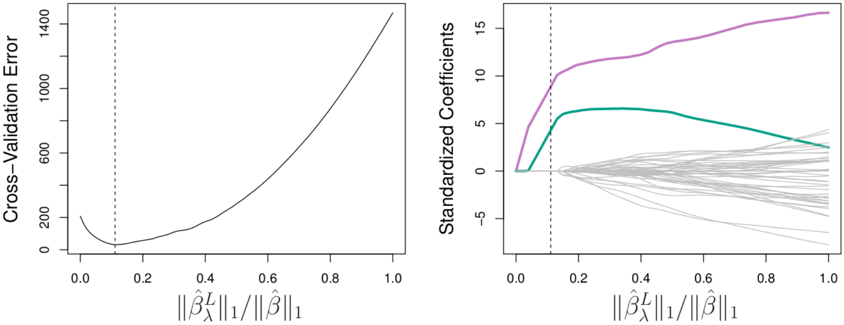


Squared bias (black), variance (green), and test mean squared error (purple) for simulated data.

Using Cross-Validation to find λ

- Choose a grid of λ values
- Compute the (k-fold) cross-validation error for each value of λ
- Select the tuning parameter value λ for which the CV error is smallest.
- The model is re-fit using all of the available observations and the selected value of the tuning parameter.

10-fold CV choice of λ for lasso and simulated data



Coding example

Ridge vs Lasso

Ridge Regression:

Lasso:

TL;DR - Original forumlation

Least Squares:

$$RSS = \sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(y_i - \beta_0 - \sum_{j=1}^{p}\beta_j x_{ij}\right)^2$$

Ridge:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(y_i - \beta_0 - \sum_{j=1}^{p}\beta_j x_{ij}\right)^2 + \lambda\sum_{j=1}^{p}\beta_j^2 = RSS + \lambda\sum_{j=1}^{p}\beta_j^2$$

The Lasso:

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

Next time

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