

## Case Study 3: fMRI Prediction

# LASSO Regression

Machine Learning/Statistics for Big Data  
CSE599C1/STAT592, University of Washington

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## LASSO Regression

- **LASSO**: least absolute shrinkage and selection operator

- New objective:

$$\min_{\beta} \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^N (y^i - (\beta_0 + \beta^T x^i))^2}_{\text{RSS}(\beta)} + \lambda \|\beta\|_1$$



$$\min_{\beta} \text{RSS}(\beta) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \|\beta\|_1 \leq B$$

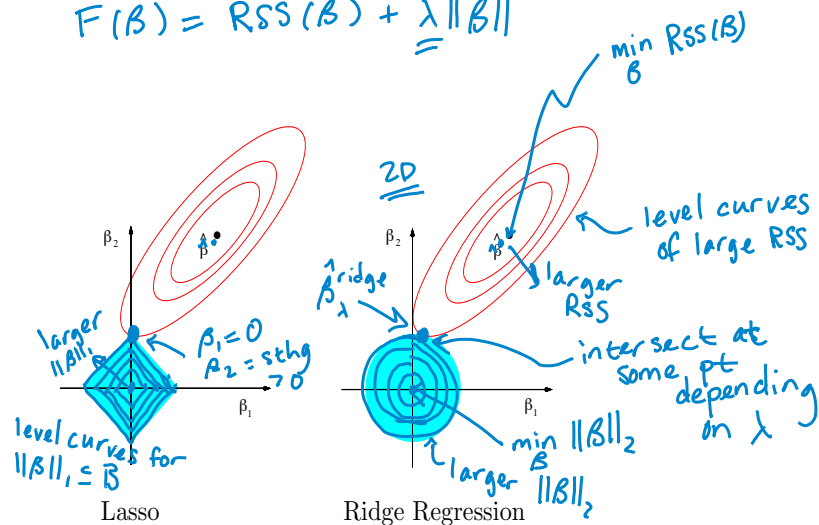
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# Geometric Intuition for Sparsity

$$F(\beta) = \text{RSS}(\beta) + \lambda \|\beta\|$$

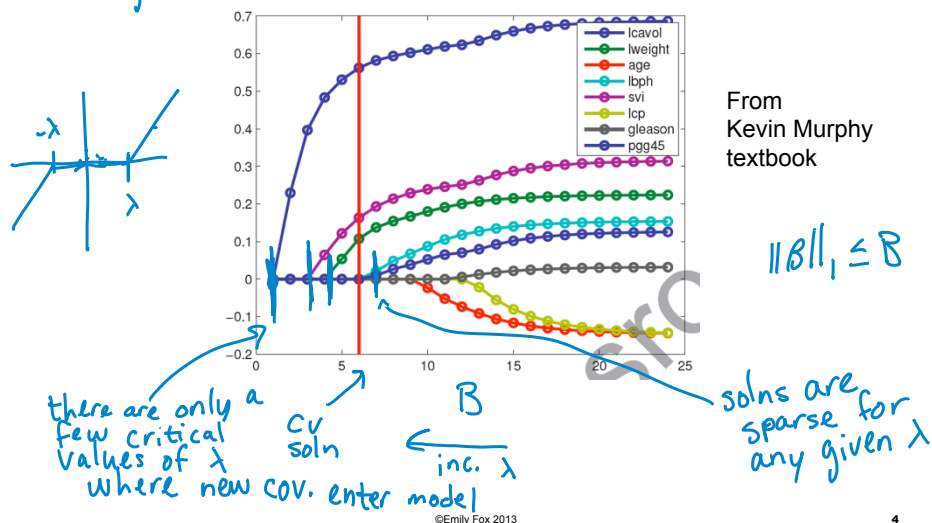


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## Now: LASSO Coefficient Path

Again, each  $\lambda$  indexes a diff. soln



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# LASSO Algorithms

- Standard convex optimizer
- Least angle regression (LAR)
  - Efron et al. 2004
  - Computes entire path of solutions
  - State-of-the-art until 2008
- Pathwise coordinate descent – new
- More on these “shooting” algorithms next time...

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## LARS – Efron et al. 2004

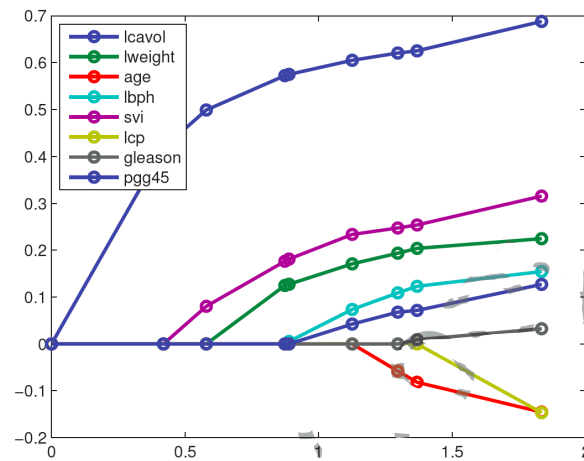
- LAR is an efficient stepwise variable selection algorithm
  - “useful and less greedy version of traditional forward selection methods”
- Can be modified to compute regularization path of LASSO
  - → LARS (Least angle regression and *shrinkage*)
- Increasing upper bound  $B$ , coefficients gradually “turn on”
  - Few critical values of  $B$  where support changes
  - Non-zero coefficients increase or decrease linearly between critical points
  - Can solve for critical values analytically
- Complexity:

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## LASSO Coefficient Path



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## LARS – Algorithm

- Assumptions:
  - Response has 0 mean
  - Covariates are normalized

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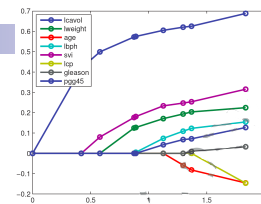
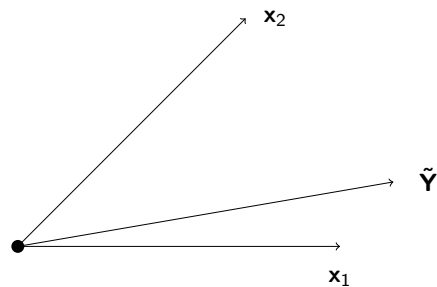
# LARS – Algorithm Overview

- Start with all coefficient estimates
- Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be the “active set” of covariates most correlated with the “current” residual
- Initially,  $\mathcal{A} = \{x_{j_1}\}$  for some covariate  $x_{j_1}$
- Take the largest possible step in the direction of  $x_{j_1}$  until another covariate  $x_{j_2}$  enters  $\mathcal{A}$
- Continue in the direction equiangular between  $x_{j_1}$  and  $x_{j_2}$  until a third covariate  $x_{j_3}$  enters  $\mathcal{A}$
- Continue in the direction equiangular between  $x_{j_1}, x_{j_2}, x_{j_3}$  until a fourth covariate  $x_{j_4}$  enters  $\mathcal{A}$
- This procedure continues until all covariates are added at which point

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# LARS – Illustration for $p=2$ covariates

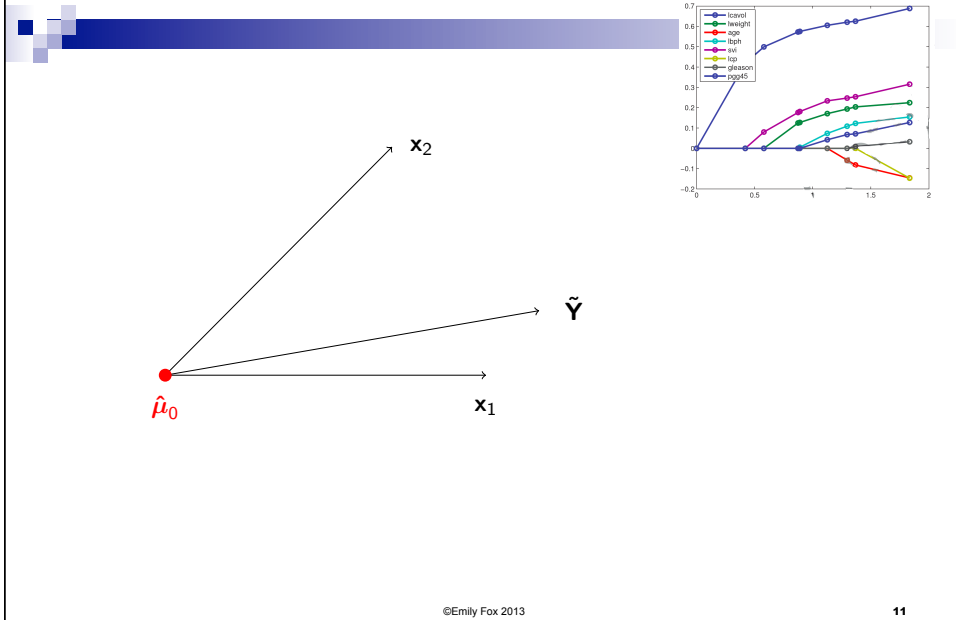


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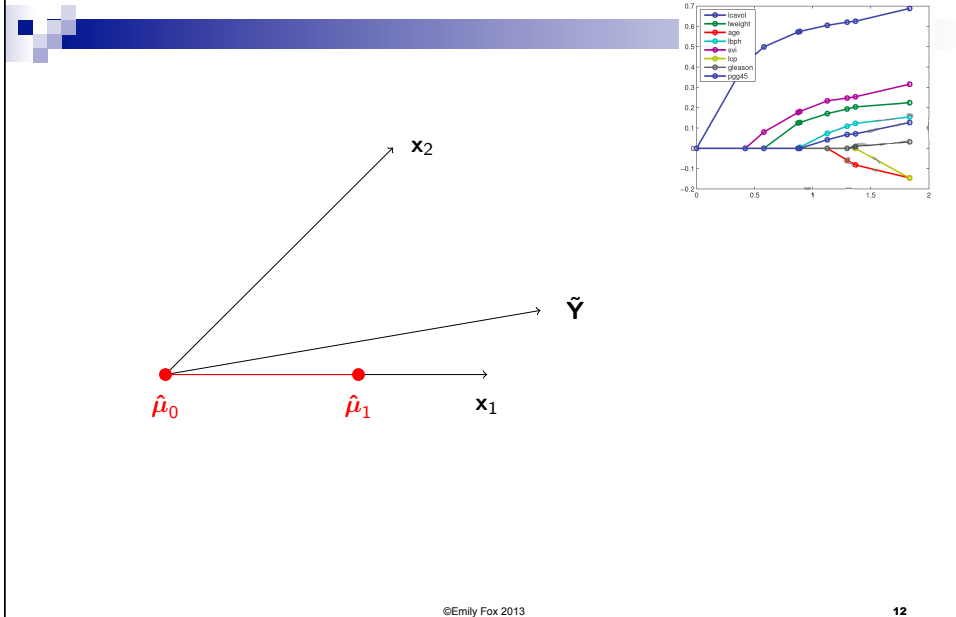
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# LARS – Illustration for $p=2$ covariates

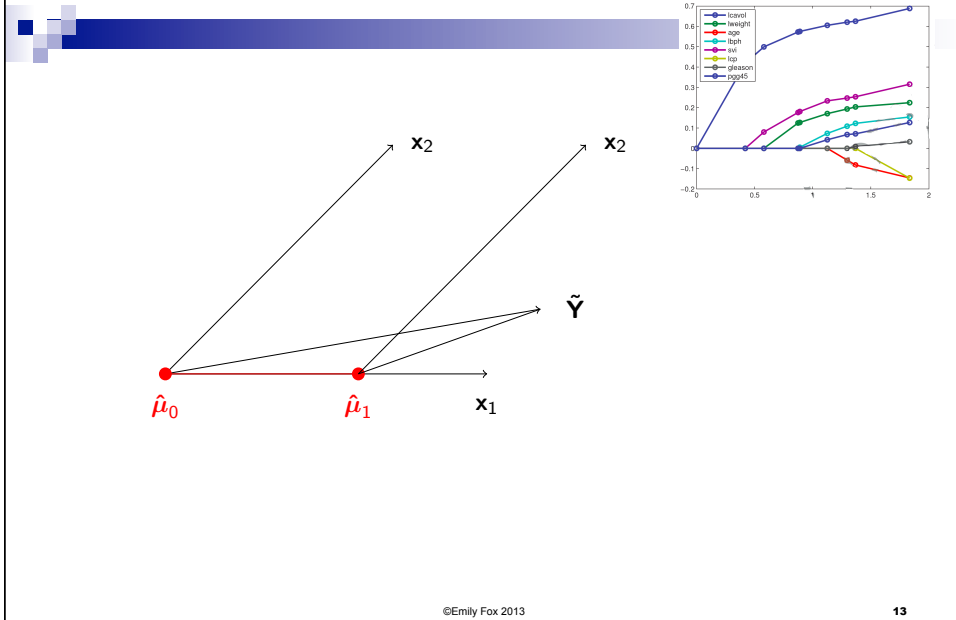


# LARS – Illustration for $p=2$ covariates

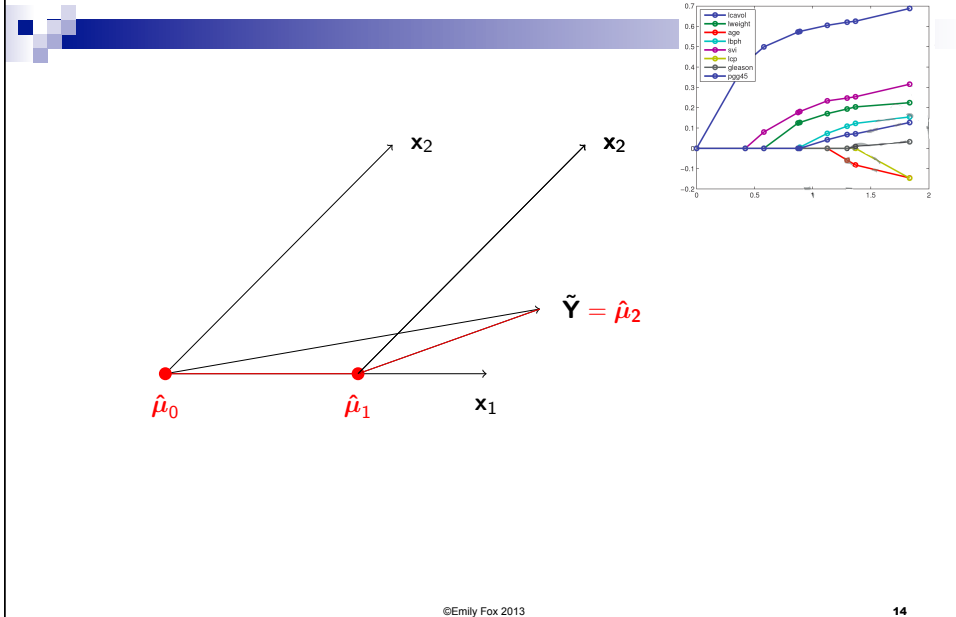




# LARS – Illustration for $p=2$ covariates



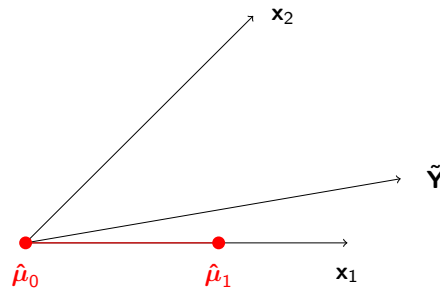
# LARS – Illustration for $p=2$ covariates





# LARS-LASSO Relationship

- Let  $\mu(\gamma) = X\beta(\gamma)$  with
- We showed that for active covariate  $j$ :  $\text{sign}(\hat{\beta}_j) = \text{sign}(x'_j(y - \hat{\mu}))$



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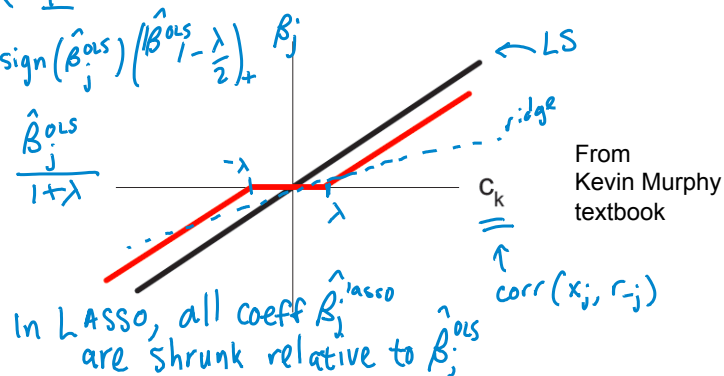
# Soft Thresholding

$$\hat{\beta}_j = \begin{cases} (c_j + \lambda)/a_j & c_j < -\lambda \\ 0 & c_j \in [-\lambda, \lambda] \\ (c_j - \lambda)/a_j & c_j > \lambda \end{cases} = \text{sign}(c_j/a_j) \left( \frac{|c_j|}{a_j} - \frac{\lambda}{a_j} \right)_+$$

If  $X^T X = I$

$$\hat{\beta}_j^{\text{lasso}} = \text{sign}(\hat{\beta}_j^{\text{ols}}) \left( \frac{|\hat{\beta}_j^{\text{ols}}| - \frac{\lambda}{2}}{1} \right)_+$$

$$\hat{\beta}_j^{\text{ridge}} = \frac{\hat{\beta}_j^{\text{ols}}}{1 + \lambda}$$



From Kevin Murphy textbook

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# LARS-LASSO Relationship

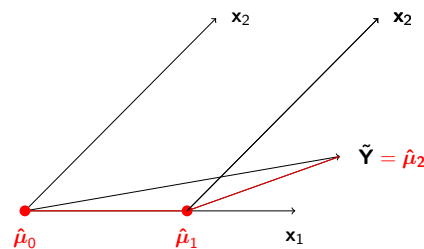
- Let  $\mu(\gamma) = X\beta(\gamma)$  with  $\beta_j(\gamma) = \hat{\beta}_j + \gamma\hat{d}_j$
- We showed that for active covariate  $j$ :  $\text{sign}(\hat{\beta}_j) = \text{sign}(x'_j(y - \hat{\mu}))$
- $\beta_j(\gamma)$  changes sign at
- 1<sup>st</sup> sign change occurs at  $\tilde{\gamma} = \min_{\gamma_j > 0} \{\gamma_j\}$  for covariate

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# LARS-LASSO Relationship

- If  $\tilde{\gamma}$  occurs before  $\hat{\gamma}$ , then next LARS step is not a LASSO solution



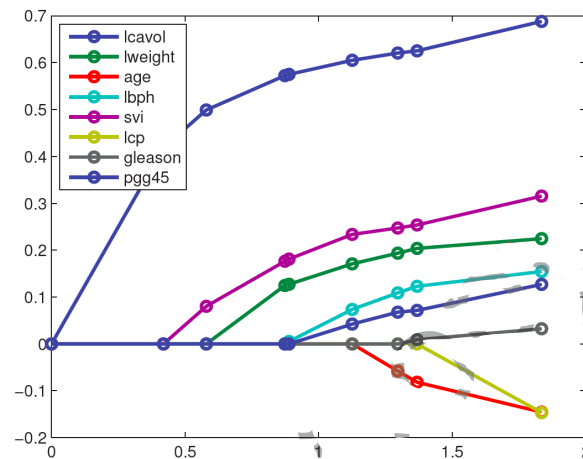
- **LASSO modification:**

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# LASSO Coefficient Path



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## Comments

- LARS increases  $\mathcal{A}$ , but LASSO allows it to decrease
- Only involves a single index at a time
- If  $p > N$ , LASSO returns at most  $N$  variables
- If group of variables are highly correlated, LASSO tends to choose one to include rather arbitrarily
  - Straightforward to observe from LARS algorithm....Sensitive to noise.

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## Comments

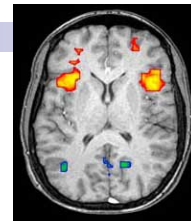
- In general, can't solve analytically for GLM (e.g., logistic reg.)
  - Gradually decrease  $\lambda$  and use efficiency of computing  $\hat{\beta}(\lambda_k)$  from  $\hat{\beta}(\lambda_{k-1})$  = warm-start strategy
  - See Friedman et al. 2010 for coordinate ascent + warm-starting strategy
- If  $N > p$ , but variables are correlated, ridge regression tends to have better predictive performance than LASSO (Zou & Hastie 2005)
  - Elastic net is hybrid between LASSO and ridge regression

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## Fused LASSO

- Might want coefficients of neighboring voxels to be similar
- How to modify LASSO penalty to account for this?
- Graph-guided fused LASSO
  - Assume a 2d lattice graph connecting neighboring pixels in the fMRI image
  - Penalty:



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# Generalized LASSO

- Assume a structured linear regression model:
- If  $D$  is invertible, then get a new LASSO problem if we substitute
- Otherwise, not equivalent
- For solution path, see  
Ryan Tibshirani and Jonathan Taylor, "The Solution Path of the Generalized Lasso." Annals of Statistics, 2011.

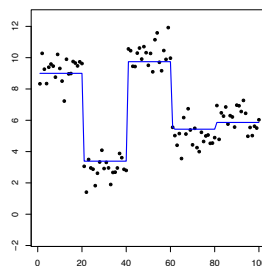
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# Generalized LASSO

$$\hat{\beta}_\lambda = \operatorname{argmin}_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{2} \|y - \beta\|_2^2 + \lambda \|D\beta\|_1$$

Let  $D = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 & \dots \\ \vdots & & & & \end{bmatrix}$ . This is the **1d fused lasso**.



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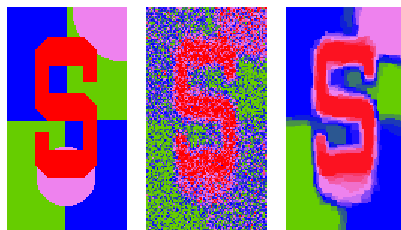
# Generalized LASSO

$$\hat{\beta}_\lambda = \operatorname{argmin}_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{2} \|y - \beta\|_2^2 + \lambda \|D\beta\|_1$$

Suppose  $D$  gives “adjacent” differences in  $\beta$ :

$$D_i = (0, 0, \dots, -1, \dots, 1, \dots, 0),$$

where adjacency is defined according to a graph  $\mathcal{G}$ . For a 2d grid, this is the **2d fused lasso**.



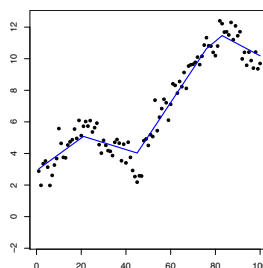
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# Generalized LASSO

$$\hat{\beta}_\lambda = \operatorname{argmin}_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{2} \|y - \beta\|_2^2 + \lambda \|D\beta\|_1$$

Let  $D = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 2 & -1 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & -1 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 2 & \dots \\ \vdots & & & & \end{bmatrix}$ . This is **linear trend filtering**.



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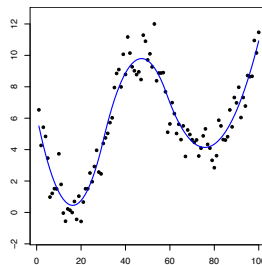
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# Generalized LASSO

$$\hat{\beta}_\lambda = \operatorname{argmin}_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{2} \|y - \beta\|_2^2 + \lambda \|D\beta\|_1$$

Let  $D = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 3 & -3 & 1 & \dots \\ 0 & -1 & 3 & -3 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 3 & \dots \\ \vdots & & & & \end{bmatrix}$ . Get **quadratic trend filtering**.

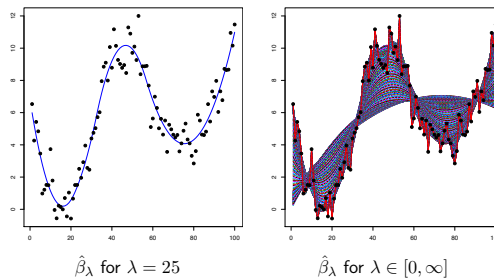


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# Generalized LASSO

- Tracing out the fits as a function of the regularization parameter



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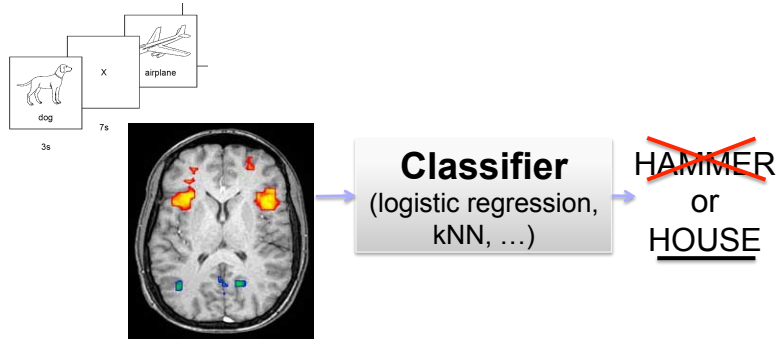
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# fMRI Prediction Task

- **Goal:** Predict word stimulus from fMRI image

*Can we read your brain?*



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# Zero-Shot Classification

- From training data, learn two mappings:

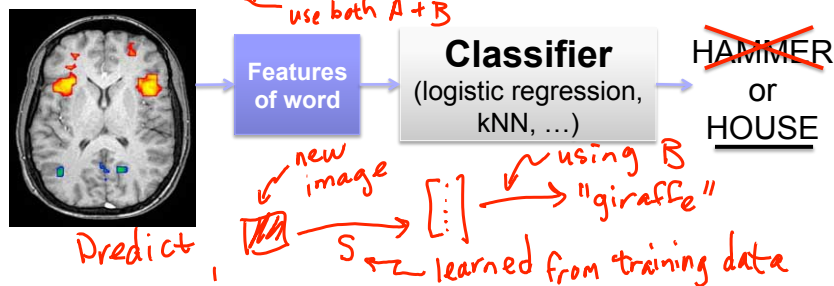
- key* →
- S: input image → semantic features
  - L: semantic features → word

*A = { [img] → "dog" }*  
*few*

*B = { [ :] → "dog" }*  
*many*

- Can use "cheap" co-occurrence data to help learn L

*Training = { [img] → [ :] → "dog" }* *N examples ... N small*  
*use both A + B*



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# Semantic Features

Google Trillion word corpus

Semantic feature values: "celery"

0.8368, eat  
0.3461, taste  
0.3153, fill  
0.2430, see  
0.1145, clean  
0.0600, open  
0.0586, smell  
0.0286, touch  
...  
...  
0.0000, drive  
0.0000, wear  
0.0000, lift  
0.0000, break  
0.0000, ride

co-occurrence

Semantic feature values: "airplane"

0.8673, ride  
0.2891, see  
0.2851, say  
0.1689, near  
0.1228, open  
0.0883, hear  
0.0771, run  
0.0749, lift  
...  
...  
0.0049, smell  
0.0010, wear  
0.0000, taste  
0.0000, rub  
0.0000, manipulate

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## fMRI Prediction Results

- Palatucci et al., "Zero-Shot Learning with Semantic Output Codes", NIPS 2009
- fMRI dataset:
  - 9 participants
  - 60 words (e.g., *bear, dog, cat, truck, car, train, ...*)
  - 6 scans per word
  - Preprocess by creating 1 "time-average" image per word
- Knowledge bases
  - Corpus5000 – semantic co-occurrence features with 5000 most frequent words in Google Trillion Word Corpus
  - human218 – Mechanical Turk (Amazon.com)  
218 semantic features ("*is it manmade?*", "*can you hold it?*", ...) Scale of 1 to 5

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# fMRI Prediction Results

- **First stage:** Learn mapping from images to semantic features
- Ridge regression
- **Second stage:** 1-NN classification using knowledge base

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# fMRI Prediction Results

- Leave-two-out-cross-validation
  - Learn ridge coefficients using 58 fMRI images
  - Predict semantic features of 1<sup>st</sup> heldout image
  - Compare whether semantic features of 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> heldout image are closer

Table 1: Percent accuracies for leave-two-out-cross-validation for 9 fMRI participants (labeled P1-P9). The values represent classifier percentage accuracy over 3,540 trials when discriminating between two fMRI images, both of which were omitted from the training set.

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9	Mean
corpus5000	79.6	67.0	69.5	56.2	77.7	65.5	71.2	72.9	67.9	<b>69.7</b>
human218	90.3	82.9	86.6	71.9	89.5	75.3	78.0	77.7	76.2	<b>80.9</b>

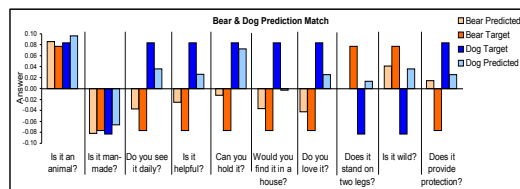


Figure 1: Ten semantic features from the human218 knowledge base for the words *bear* and *dog*. The true encoding is shown along with the predicted encoding when fMRI images for bear and dog were left out of the training set.

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# fMRI Prediction Results

- Leave-one-out-cross-validation
  - Learn ridge coefficients using 59 fMRI images
  - Predict semantic features of heldout image
  - Compare whether very large set of possible other words

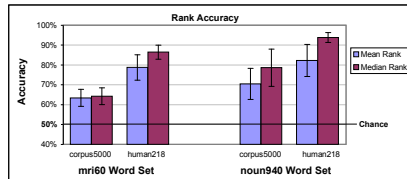


Figure 2: The mean and median rank accuracies across nine participants for two different semantic feature sets. Both the original 60 fMRI words and a set of 940 nouns were considered.

Table 2: The top five predicted words for a novel fMRI image taken for the word in bold (all fMRI images taken from participant P1). The number in the parentheses contains the rank of the correct word selected from 941 concrete nouns in English.

Bear	Foot	Screwdriver	Train	Truck	Celery	House	Pants
(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(5)	(6)	(21)
<i>bear</i>	<i>foot</i>	<i>screwdriver</i>	<i>train</i>	jeep	beet	supermarket	clothing
fox	feet	pin	jet	<i>truck</i>	artichoke	hotel	vest
wolf	ankle	nail	jail	minivan	grape	theater	t-shirt
yak	knee	wrench	factory	bus	cabbage	school	clothes
gorilla	face	dagger	bus	sedan	<i>celery</i>	factory	panties

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  - Tom Mitchell – fMRI
  - Rob Tibshirani – LASSO
  - Ryan Tibshirani – Fused LASSO

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