Validity First, Optimality Next An Approach to Valid Post-selection Inference in Assumption-lean Linear Regression

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¹Joint work with Wharton Group, including, Larry Brown, Andreas Buja, Richard Berk, Ed George, Linda Zhao.

Arun Kumar, PoSI Group (Wharton School)

Valid PoSI with Random X

Outline

Introduction

- Assumption-lean Linear Regression
- Some Notation and Uniform Results

Post-selection Inference Problem

- PoSI-Dantzig
- PoSI-Lasso
- PoSI-SqrtLasso

3 Multiplier Bootstrap



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4 Some Comments and Extensions

- Suppose (X_i, Y_i) ∈ ℝ^p × ℝ (1 ≤ i ≤ n) are random vectors available as data.
- We apply linear regression on this data.
- The least squares estimator of "slope" vector is $\hat{\beta}$ given by

$$\hat{\beta} = \left(\mathbb{E}_n[XX^\top]\right)^{-1} (\mathbb{E}_n[XY]).$$

(\mathbb{E}_n represents empirical mean.)

• If the random vectors satisfy weak law of large numbers, then this estimator converges (in probability) to

$$\beta_0 = \left(\mathbb{E}[XX^{\top}]\right)^{-1} (\mathbb{E}[XY]).$$

 β₀ has an interpretation as best linear predictor (slope) in terms of squared error loss.

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$$\beta_0 = \left(\mathbb{E}[XX^\top] \right)^{-1} (\mathbb{E}[XY]).$$

 β₀ has an interpretation as best linear predictor (slope) in terms of squared error loss.

- It is important to recognize that to use linear regression, we do NOT need any model or distributional assumptions.
- We do NOT even require independence or identical distributions for random vectors. Existence of LLN is enough.
- This perspective also works if the covariate vectors *X_i* are treated as fixed.
- The target β_0 coincides with the usual model parameter under a true linear model.
- <u>CLT</u>: If the random vectors (*X_i*, *Y_i*) are independent with finite fourth moments, then

$$n^{1/2}\left(\hat{\beta}-\beta_0
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with $J = \mathbb{E}[XX^{\top}]$ and $K = \mathbb{E}[XX^{\top}(Y - X^{\top}\beta_0)^2]$.

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- We have *p* covariates and *model selection* refers to choosing a subset *M* ⊆ {1,2,...,*p*} stating which covariates to consider in the model.
- For any vector $v \in \mathbb{R}^{p}$ and model *M*, the vector $v(M) \in \mathbb{R}^{|M|}$ denotes the sub-vector of *v* with indices in *M*.
- For instance, if v = (1,0,5,−1), M = {2,4} and p = 4, then v(M) = (0,−1).
- Let for any model $M \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, p\}$,

 $\Sigma_n(M) := \mathbb{E}_n \left[X(M) X^{\top}(M) \right] \text{ and } \Sigma(M) := \mathbb{E} \left[X(M) X^{\top}(M) \right].$

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• Define the least squares estimator and target as

$$\hat{\beta}_{M} := \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^{|M|}} \mathbb{E}_{n} \left[(Y - X^{\top}(M)\theta)^{2} \right]$$
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- No matter whether *M* is fixed or random, $\hat{\beta}_M$ is estimating β_M . What it means is secondary.
- For any $1 \le k \le p$, define

$$\mathcal{M}(k) = \{ M \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, p\} \text{ such that } |M| \le k \}.$$

• Define, finally,

 $\mathcal{D}_{2n} := \|\Sigma_n - \Sigma\|_{\infty}$ and $\mathcal{D}_{1n} := \|\Gamma_n - \Gamma\|_{\infty}$.

• All the rates about $\hat{\beta}_M - \beta_M$ can be bounded in terms of \mathcal{D}_{1n} and \mathcal{D}_{2n} (possibly sub-optimally).

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Table: Uniform Rates of Convergence ($\bigvee_k \equiv \sup_{M \in \mathcal{M}(k)}$).

Quantity	Rate Bound	Sub-Gaussianity
$\boxed{\bigvee_{\mathbf{k}} \left\ \hat{\beta}_{\mathbf{M}} - \beta_{\mathbf{M}} \right\ _{1}}$	$k(\mathcal{D}_{1n} + \mathcal{D}_{2n}S_{1,k})$	$k\sqrt{\log p/n}$
$\bigvee_{k} \left\ \hat{\beta}_{M} - \beta_{M} \right\ _{2}$	$k^{1/2} \mathcal{D}_{1n} + k \mathcal{D}_{2n} S_{2,k}$	$\sqrt{k \log p/n}$
$\bigvee_{k} \left\ \Sigma_{n}(M) - \Sigma(M) \right\ _{op}$	kD _{2n}	$\sqrt{k \log p/n}$

Here

$$S_{1,k} := \sup_{M \in \mathcal{M}(k)} \left\| \beta_M \right\|_1 \quad \text{and} \quad S_{2,k} := \sup_{M \in \mathcal{M}(k)} \left\| \beta_M \right\|_2.$$

Two Famous Quotes ...

... and two ways of invalidating inference!!

• John. W. Tukey:

The greatest value of a picture is when it forces us to notice what we never expected to see.

... more emphasis needed to be placed on using data to suggest hypotheses to test.

• George E. P. Box:

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The PoSI Problem

We concentrate on the problem of constructing valid confidence regions which readily allows us to get valid tests of hypotheses.
The PoSI problem is given by

Problem

Construct a set of confidence regions (depending on α)

 $\{\hat{\mathcal{R}}_M: M \in \mathcal{M}\}$

for some non-random set of models, \mathcal{M} , such that for any random model \hat{M} with $\mathbb{P}(\hat{M} \in \mathcal{M}) \to 1$,

$$\liminf_{n\to\infty} \mathbb{P}\left(\beta_{\hat{\boldsymbol{M}}}\in\hat{\mathcal{R}}_{\hat{\boldsymbol{M}}}\right)\geq 1-\alpha.$$

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$$\liminf_{n\to\infty} \mathbb{P}\left(\beta_{\hat{\boldsymbol{M}}} \in \hat{\mathcal{R}}_{\hat{\boldsymbol{M}}}\right) \geq 1 - \alpha.$$

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The Basic Lemma

Lemma

For any set of confidence regions

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and any random model \hat{M} satisfying $\mathbb{P}(\hat{M} \in \mathcal{M}) = 1$, the following lower bound holds:

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\beta_{\widehat{M}} \in \widehat{\mathcal{R}}_{\widehat{M}}\right) \geq \mathbb{P}\left(\bigcap_{M \in \mathcal{M}} \left\{\beta_M \in \widehat{\mathcal{R}}_M\right\}\right).$$

- We will provide confidence regions such that the right hand probability is bounded below by 1α (asymptotically).
- This Lemma is also the basis for valid PoSI in (fixed covariate) setting of Berk et al. (2013).

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Some More Notation

Recall

 $\mathcal{D}_{1n} := \left\| \Gamma_n - \Gamma \right\|_{\infty}$ and $\mathcal{D}_{2n} := \left\| \Sigma_n - \Sigma \right\|_{\infty}$.

• Define $C_1(\alpha)$ and $C_2(\alpha)$ by

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\mathcal{D}_{1n} \leq C_1(\alpha) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{D}_{2n} \leq C_2(\alpha)\right) \geq 1 - \alpha.$$

- In the following, we give three different confidence regions that satisfy the validity.
- If $k = o(\sqrt{n/\log p})$, then

$$\liminf_{n\to\infty} \mathbb{P}\left(\bigcap_{M\in\mathcal{M}(k)}\left\{\beta_M\in\hat{\mathcal{R}}_M\right\}\right)\geq 1-\alpha$$

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• Define for any model $M \subseteq \{1, 2..., p\}$, $\hat{\mathcal{R}}_M := \left\{ \theta \in \mathbb{R}^{|M|} : \left\| \Sigma_n(M) \left(\hat{\beta}_M - \theta \right) \right\|_{\infty} \le C_1(\alpha) + C_2(\alpha) \left\| \hat{\beta}_M \right\|_1 \right\}.$

Note the left hand side is

$$\Sigma_n(M)\left(\hat{\beta}_M-\theta\right)=\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n X_i(M)\left(Y_i-X_i^{\top}(M)\theta\right).$$

- Thus, the confidence set is very similar to the constraint set of Dantzig selector and so the name PoSI-Dantzig.
- Validity does not require either independence or identical distribution for the random vectors.
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- For the cases of independent random vectors and certain dependence settings, (with log *p* = *o*(*n*^{1/5})) multiplier bootstrap works and gives correct estimators of (*C*₁(*α*), *C*₂(*α*)).
- If w₁, w₂, ..., w_n are mean zero independent random variables with Ew_i² = Ew_i³ = 1, then it can be proved that with high probability,

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\left\|\mathbb{E}_{n}[Z] - \mathbb{E}[Z]\right\|_{\infty} \le t\right)$$
$$\le \mathbb{P}\left(\left\|\mathbb{E}_{n}\left[w\left(Z - \mathbb{E}_{n}Z\right)\right]\right\|_{\infty} \le t\left|Z_{1}^{n}\right) + O_{p}\left(\frac{(\log p)^{5}}{n}\right)^{1/6}\right)$$

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- We proved some new uniform rates of convergence results in linear regression with NO model/distributional assumptions.
- These results apply to various structurally dependent random vectors with rates accordingly affected.
- We described three different confidence regions that have valid coverage no matter how the model is chosen.
- All these methods are computationally efficient and only require computation of C₁(α), C₂(α) once for the dataset.
- The construction of these confidence regions (for now) seems very specific to the quadratic structure of the objective function.
- We also developed two different approaches (based on *t* and *F*-tests) that apply to most of the *M*-estimation problems, including, generalized linear models.

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Thank You! Questions?

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