

Exercise 7

Consider the pathwise algorithm for the elastic-net. At each step we compute $\hat{\beta}_k$ as

$$\frac{1}{1 + (1-\alpha)\lambda} S_{\alpha\lambda} \left(\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m z_{ik} r_i^{(d)} \right), \text{ with } r_i^{(d)} = y_i - \sum_{k \neq d} z_{ik} \beta_k$$

However, under orthogonal predictors, we get

$$\sum_{i=1}^m z_{ij} r_i^{(d)} = \sum_{i=1}^m z_{ij} y_i - \underbrace{\sum_{k \neq d} \sum_{i=1}^m z_{ij} z_{ik} \beta_k}_{=0!} = \sum_{i=1}^m z_{ij} y_i,$$

which does not depend on the other values of β . Hence we get convergence in one step and

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\beta}_d &= \frac{1}{1 + (1-\alpha)\lambda} S_{\alpha\lambda} \left(\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m z_{ij} y_i \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{1 + (1-\alpha)\lambda} S_{\alpha\lambda} (\text{cov}(z, y)). \end{aligned}$$

This covers both lasso and ridge as special cases.