

# Methods for Robust High Dimensional Graphical Model Selection

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# Motivation

- Availability of high-throughput data from various applications
- Need for methodology/tools for analyzing high-dimensional data
- Examples:
  - ▶ Biology: gene expression data
  - ▶ Environmental science: climate data on spatial grid
  - ▶ Finance: returns on thousands of stocks
  - ▶ Retail: consumer behavior
- Common goals:
  - ▶ Understand complex relationships & multivariate dependencies
  - ▶ Formulate correct models & develop inferential procedures

# Modeling relationships

- Correlation: basic measure of linear pairwise relationships
- Covariance matrix  $\Sigma$ : collection of relationships
- Estimates of  $\Sigma$  required in procedures such as PCA, CCA, MANOVA, etc.
- Estimating (functions of)  $\Sigma$  and  $\Omega = \Sigma^{-1}$  are of statistical interest
- Estimating  $\Sigma$  is difficult in high dimensions

## Sparse estimates

- Matrix  $\Sigma$  or  $\Omega$  of size  $p$ -by- $p$  has  $O(p^2)$  elements
- Estimating  $O(p^2)$  parameters with classical estimators is not viable, especially when  $n \ll p$
- **Reliably estimate small number of parameters** in  $\Sigma$
- Model selection: zero/non-zero structure recovery
- Gives rise to sparse estimates of  $\Sigma$  or  $\Omega$
- Sparsity pattern can be represented by graphs/networks

# Gaussian Graphical Models (GGM)

- Assume  $Y = (Y_1, \dots, Y_p)'$  has distribution  $N_p(0, \Sigma)$
- Denote  $V = \{1, 2, \dots, p\}$
- Covariance matrix  $\text{cov}(Y) = \Sigma$  encodes marginal dependencies

$$Y_i \perp\!\!\!\perp Y_j \iff \text{cov}(Y_i, Y_j) = [\Sigma]_{ij} = 0$$

- Inverse covariance matrix  $\Omega = \Sigma^{-1}$  encodes conditional dependencies given the rest

$$\underbrace{(Y_i \perp\!\!\!\perp Y_j \mid Y_{V \setminus \{i,j\}})}_{\text{conditional independence}} \iff \underbrace{[\Omega]_{ij} = 0}_{\text{matrix element}}$$

- Also known as Markov Random Fields (MRF)

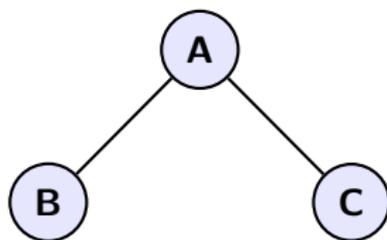
# Gaussian Graphical Models (GGM)

- Graph summarizes relationships with nodes  $V = \{1, \dots, p\}$  and set  $E$  of edges

$$\underbrace{[\Omega]_{ij} = 0}_{\text{matrix element}} \iff \underbrace{i \not\sim j}_{\text{network/graph}}$$

- Build a graph from sparse  $\Omega$

$$\Omega = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} A & B & C \end{matrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0.2 & 0.3 \\ 0.2 & 2 & 0 \\ 0.3 & 0 & 1.2 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{matrix} A \\ B \\ C \end{matrix} \end{matrix}$$



# GGM estimation algorithms

- **Regularized Gaussian likelihood methods**

- ▶ Block coordinate descent (COVSEL) [Banerjee et al., 2008]
- ▶ Graphical lasso (GLASSO) [Friedman, Hastie, & Tibshirani, 2008]
- ▶ Large-scale GLASSO [Mazumder & Hastie, 2012]
- ▶ QUIC [Hsieh et al., 2011]
- ▶ G-ISTA [Guillot, Rajaratnam et al., 2012]
- ▶ Graphical Dual Proximal Gradient Methods [Dalal & Rajaratnam, 2013]
- ▶ Others

- **Bayesian methods**

- ▶ Dawid & Lauritzen, 1993, Annals of Statistics
- ▶ Letac & Massam, 2007, Annals of Statistics
- ▶ Rajaratnam, Massam & Carvalho, 2008, Annals of Statistics
- ▶ Khare & Rajaratnam, 2011, Annals of Statistics
- ▶ Others

- **Testing-based methods**

- ▶ Hero & Rajaratnam, 2011, JASA
- ▶ Hero & Rajaratnam, 2012, IEEE, Information Theory

# Regularized Gaussian likelihood graphical model selection

- All  $\ell_1$ -regularized Gaussian-likelihood methods solve

$$\hat{\Omega} = \arg \max_{\Omega \succ 0} \{ \log \det(\Omega) - \text{tr}(\Omega S) - \lambda \|\Omega\|_1 \}$$

- $S$ : sample covariance matrix
- Graphical Lasso [Friedman, Hastie, & Tibshirani, 2008]
- $\Omega$  can be computed by solving optimization problem
- Adding  $\ell_1$ -regularization term  $\lambda \|\Omega\|_1$  introduces sparsity
- Penalty parameter  $\lambda$  controls level of sparsity
- Dependency on Gaussianity
  - ▶ Parametric model
  - ▶ Sensitivity to outliers
  - ▶ Log-concave function

# Regularized pseudo-likelihood graphical model selection

- Two main main approaches:
  1.  $\ell_1$ -regularized **likelihood** methods
  2.  $\ell_1$ -regularized **regression-based/pseudo-likelihood** methods
- Series of linear regressions form a pseudo-likelihood function
- Objective function is the  $\ell_1$ -penalized pseudo-likelihood
- Pseudo-likelihood assumes less about distribution of the data
- Applicable to wider range of data

## Partial covariance and correlation

- Matrix  $\mathbf{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$  denotes iid observations of random variable with mean zero, covariance  $\Sigma = \Omega^{-1}$ .
- **Goal:** estimate partial correlation graph
- Partial correlation in terms of  $\Omega = [\omega_{ij}]$ :

$$\rho^{ij} = -\frac{\omega_{ij}}{\sqrt{\omega_{ii}\omega_{jj}}}$$

- Called “partial” because correlation of residuals  $r_k$ , where  $r_k = \mathbf{Y}_k - \mathbf{Y}\hat{\beta}^{(k)}$ , where  $\hat{\beta}^{(k)} = \arg \min_{\beta: \beta_k=0} \{\|\mathbf{Y}_k - \mathbf{Y}\beta\|_2^2\}$ .

Now, partial correlation is  $\rho^{ij} = \text{cor}(r_i, r_j)$

- It can be shown that  $\underbrace{\rho^{ij} \sqrt{\frac{\omega_{jj}}{\omega_{ii}}}}_{\beta_{ij}}$

- Zero/non-zero pattern of  $[\rho^{ij}]$  is identical to that of  $\Omega$
- Partial correlation graph is given by sparsity pattern of  $\Omega$

## Regularized regression-based graphical model selection

- Neighborhood selection (NS)[Meinshausen and Bühlmann, 2006]

$$\hat{\omega}^{(i)} = \arg \min_{\beta: \beta_i=0} \{ \|\mathbf{Y}_i - \mathbf{Y}\beta\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\beta\|_1 \}$$

- Neighborhood of  $i$  is defined as

$$\hat{\text{ne}}^{(i)} = \{k : \hat{\omega}_k^{(i)} \neq 0\}$$

- MB does not take into account symmetry of  $\Omega$

$$j \in \hat{\text{ne}}^{(i)} \not\Rightarrow i \in \hat{\text{ne}}^{(j)}$$

- Current state-of-the-art methods address this issue
  - ▶ SPACE [Peng et al., 2009]
  - ▶ SYMLASSO [Friedman, Hastie, & Tibshirani, 2010]
  - ▶ SPLICE [Rocha et al., 2008]

# Sparse Partial Correlation Estimation [Peng et al., 2009]

**SPACE objective function:** ( $w_i = 1$  or  $w_i = \omega_{ii}$ )

$$Q_{\text{spc}}(\Omega) =: -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^p n \log \omega_{ii} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^p w_i \left\| \mathbf{Y}_i - \sum_{j \neq i} \underbrace{\rho^{ij} \sqrt{\frac{\omega_{jj}}{\omega_{ii}}}}_{\beta_{ij}} \mathbf{Y}_j \right\|_2^2 + \lambda \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq p} |\rho^{ij}|$$

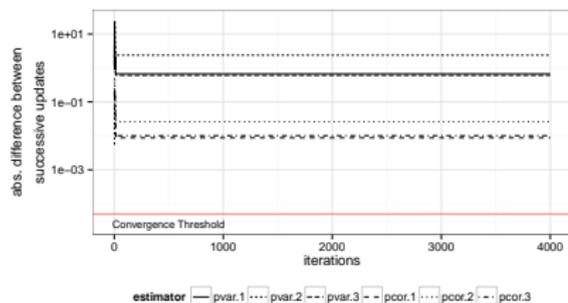
1. **Update**  $[\rho^{ij}]$  coordinate-wise (using current estimates  $[\hat{\omega}_{ii}]$ ):

$$[\rho^{ij}] \leftarrow \min_{[\rho^{ij}]} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^p w_i \left\| \mathbf{Y}_i - \sum_{j \neq i} \rho^{ij} \sqrt{\frac{\hat{\omega}_{jj}}{\hat{\omega}_{ii}}} \mathbf{Y}_j \right\|_2^2 + \lambda \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq p} |\rho^{ij}| \right\}$$

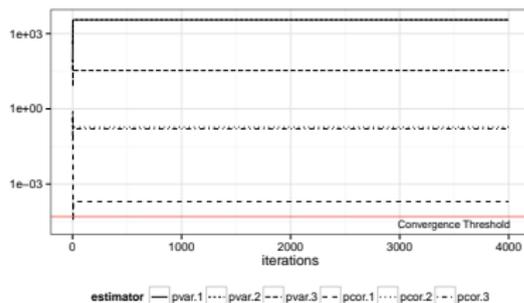
2. **Update**  $[\omega_{ii}]$  (using current estimates  $[\hat{\rho}^{ij}]$  and  $[\hat{\omega}_{ii}]$ ):

$$\omega_{ii} \leftarrow \left( \left\| \mathbf{Y}_i - \sum_{j \neq i} \hat{\rho}^{ij} \sqrt{\frac{\hat{\omega}_{jj}}{\hat{\omega}_{ii}}} \mathbf{Y}_j \right\|_2^2 \right)^{-1}$$

# Non-converging example: $p = 3$ case



(a) SPACE ( $w_i = \omega_{ii}$ )



(b) SPACE ( $w_i = 1$ )

Figure:  $\mathbf{Y}^{(i)} \sim \mathcal{N}_3(0, \Omega^{-1})$ , (left)  $n = 4$ , (right)  $n = 100$

# Non-convergence of SPACE

- Investigate the nature and extent of convergence issues:
  1. Are such examples pathological? How widespread are they?
  2. When do they occur ?
- Consider a sparse  $100 \times 100$  matrix  $\Omega$  with edge density 4% and condition number of 100.
- Generate 100 multivariate Gaussian datasets (with  $n = 100$ ),  $\mu = 0$  and  $\Sigma = \Omega^{-1}$ .
- Record the number of times (out of 100) for which SPACE1 (uniform weights) and SPACE2 (partial variance weights) do not converge within 1500 iterations.
- Original implementation of SPACE by [Peng et al., 2009] claims only 3 iterations are sufficient.

## Non-convergence of SPACE

SPACE1 ( $w_i = 1$ )			SPACE2 ( $w_i = \omega_{ii}$ )		
$\lambda^*$	NZ	NC	$\lambda^*$	NZ	NC
0.026	60.9%	92	0.085	79.8%	100
0.099	19.7%	100	0.160	28.3%	0
0.163	7.6%	100	0.220	10.7%	0
0.228	2.9%	100	0.280	4.8%	0
0.614	0.4%	0	0.730	0.5%	97

**Table:** Number of simulations (out of 100) that do not converge within 1500 iterations (NC) for select values of penalty parameter ( $\lambda^* = \lambda/n$ ). Average percentage of non-zeros (NZ) in  $\hat{\Omega}$  are also shown.

- SPACE exhibits extensive non-convergence behavior
- Problem exacerbated when condition number is high
- Typical of high dimensional sample starved settings

# Symmetric Lasso and SPLICE

**SYMLASSO** [Friedman, Hastie, & Tibshirani, 2010]:

$$Q_{\text{sym}}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}, \check{\Omega}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^p \left[ n \log \alpha_{ii} + \frac{1}{\alpha_{ii}} \left\| \mathbf{Y}_i + \sum_{j \neq i} \omega_{ij} \alpha_{ii} \mathbf{Y}_j \right\|^2 \right] + \lambda \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq p} |\omega_{ij}|,$$

where  $\alpha_{ii} = 1/\omega_{ii}$ .

**SPLICE** [Rocha et al., 2008]:

$$Q_{\text{spl}}(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{D}) = \frac{n}{2} \sum_{i=1}^p \log(d_{ii}^2) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^p \frac{1}{d_{ii}^2} \left\| \mathbf{Y}_i - \sum_{j \neq i} \beta_{ij} \mathbf{Y}_j \right\|^2 + \lambda \sum_{i < j} |\beta_{ij}|,$$

where  $d_{ii}^2 = \omega_{ii}$ .

Also, alternating (off-diagonal vs diagonal) iterative algorithms

No convergence guarantees

## Regularized regression-based graphical model selection

- **Advantage:** Regression-based methods perform better model selection than likelihood-based methods in finite sample
- **Advantage:** Regression-based methods are less restrictive than Gaussian likelihood-based methods
- **Disadvantage:**  $\hat{\Omega}$  may not be positive definite (can be fixed)
- **Disadvantage:** Solution may not be computable
- **Cause:** Iterative algorithms SPACE, SYMLASSO and SPLICE are not guaranteed to converge

## Regression-based methods: summary

Property	METHOD			
	NS	SPACE	SYMLASSO	SPLICE
Symmetry		+	+	+
Convergence guarantee	N/A			
Asymptotic consistency ( $n, p \rightarrow \infty$ )	+	+		

**How can we obtain all of the good properties simultaneously?**

## Design goals of a new pseudo-likelihood approach

- Can we design a regression-based approach that guarantees existence of a solution?
- Is there a better chance of guaranteeing a well defined solution if a convex formulation is developed?
- Advantages of a convex formulation:
  - ▶ Easier analysis of theoretical properties
  - ▶ Better chance of algorithmic convergence
  - ▶ Global minimum is guaranteed to exist
- Can we leverage convex optimization theory?
- Current pseudo-likelihood methods are not jointly convex (in the parametrization proposed in the respective papers)
- Can we develop a convex formulation of pseudo-likelihood graphical model selection problem?

# Convex formulation of graphical model selection problem

Revisit the SPACE objective function

$$Q_{\text{spc}}(\Omega) =: -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^P n \log \omega_{ii} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^P w_i \|\mathbf{Y}_i - \sum_{j \neq i} \underbrace{\rho^{ij} \sqrt{\frac{\omega_{jj}}{\omega_{ii}}}}_{\beta_{ij}} \mathbf{Y}_j\|_2^2 + \lambda \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq P} |\rho^{ij}|$$

- $Q_{\text{spc}}(\Omega)$  is not jointly convex in elements of  $\Omega$
- Since  $\beta_{ij} = \rho^{ij} \sqrt{\frac{\omega_{jj}}{\omega_{ii}}} = -\frac{\omega_{ij}}{\omega_{ii}}$ , regression term is not convex
- Since  $|\rho^{ij}| = \left| -\frac{\omega_{ij}}{\sqrt{\omega_{ii}\omega_{jj}}} \right|$ , penalty term is not convex

## Convex formulation of graphical model selection problem

Consider,

$$\begin{aligned}w_i \|\mathbf{Y}_i - \sum_{j \neq i} \rho^{ij} \sqrt{\frac{\omega_{jj}}{\omega_{ii}}} \mathbf{Y}_j\|_2^2 &= w_i \|\mathbf{Y}_i + \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{\omega_{ij}}{\omega_{ii}} \mathbf{Y}_j\|_2^2 \quad \left( \because \rho^{ij} = \frac{-\omega_{ij}}{\sqrt{\omega_{ii}\omega_{jj}}} \right) \\ &= w_i \left\| \frac{1}{\omega_{ii}} (\omega_{ii} \mathbf{Y}_i + \sum_{j \neq i} \omega_{ij} \mathbf{Y}_j) \right\|_2^2 \\ &= \frac{w_i}{\omega_{ii}^2} \left\| \sum_{j=1}^p \omega_{ij} \mathbf{Y}_j \right\|_2^2\end{aligned}$$

Now, let  $w_i = \omega_{ii}^2$ , then

$$\left\| \sum_{j=1}^p \omega_{ij} \mathbf{Y}_j \right\|_2^2 = \omega_{\bullet,i} \mathbf{Y}' \mathbf{Y} \omega_{\bullet,i} \geq 0, \text{ (quadratic form)}$$

Therefore,  $Q_{\text{con}}$  below is jointly convex:

$$Q_{\text{con}}(\Omega) =: - \sum_{i=1}^p n \log \omega_{ii} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^p \left\| \omega_{ii} \mathbf{Y}_i + \sum_{j \neq i} \omega_{ij} \mathbf{Y}_j \right\|_2^2 + \lambda \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq p} |\omega_{ij}|$$

# Establishing properties of CONCORD

## Optimization properties

- Task 1: (**Optimization algorithm**) Can we find an effective algorithm to minimize the  $Q_{\text{con}}(\Omega)$  so that a solution always exists and is computable?
- Task 2: (**Guarantee of convergence to global optimum**) Can we establish convergence? Do we have a globally optimal solution?
- Task 3: (**Computational complexity**) What is the computational complexity of the optimization method? Is it competitive with other methods?
- Task 4: (**Running time comparison**) How do the actual running times compare with other methods?

# Establishing properties of CONCORD

## Statistical Properties

- Task 5: (**Consistency and Large Sample properties**) Are Concord estimates guaranteed to recover the true underlying partial correlation graphs for data generated from such models?
- Task 6: (**Finite sample properties**) How does CONCORD perform in terms of recovering the partial correlation graph in finite sample settings?
- Task 7: (**Applications**) How does CONCORD perform in applications in comparison with other methods where high dimensional covariance estimates are required?

**Goal: To investigate the above questions systematically**

# CONvex CORrelation selection methoD (CONCORD)

**CONCORD objective function:**

$$Q_{\text{con}}(\Omega) =: - \sum_{i=1}^p n \log \omega_{ii} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^p \left\| \omega_{ii} \mathbf{Y}_i + \sum_{j \neq i} \omega_{ij} \mathbf{Y}_j \right\|_2^2 + \lambda \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq p} |\omega_{ij}|$$

**Coordinate-wise iterative algorithm**

1. **Update**  $[\omega_{ij}]^1$  (other coefficients held constant):

$$\omega_{ij} \leftarrow \frac{S_{\frac{\lambda}{n}} \left( - \left( \sum_{j' \neq j} \omega_{ij'} S_{jj'} + \sum_{i' \neq i} \omega_{i'j} S_{ii'} \right) \right)}{S_{ii} + S_{jj}}$$

2. **Update**  $[\omega_{ii}]$  (other coefficients held constant):

$$\omega_{ii} \leftarrow \frac{- \sum_{j \neq i} \omega_{ij} S_{ij} + \sqrt{\left( \sum_{j \neq i} \omega_{ij} S_{ij} \right)^2 + 4S_{ii}}}{2S_{ii}}$$

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<sup>1</sup>Soft-thresholding operator:  $S_{\lambda}(x) = \text{sign}(x)(|x| - \lambda)_+$

## Optimization aspects of CONCORD algorithm

**Theorem:** Let  $\mathcal{A}_p$  denote space of  $p \times p$  symmetric matrices. Also, let  $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathcal{A}_p$  denote a subspace such that

$$\mathcal{M} := \{\Omega \in \mathcal{A}_p : \omega_{ii} > 0, \text{ for every } 1 \leq i \leq p\}.$$

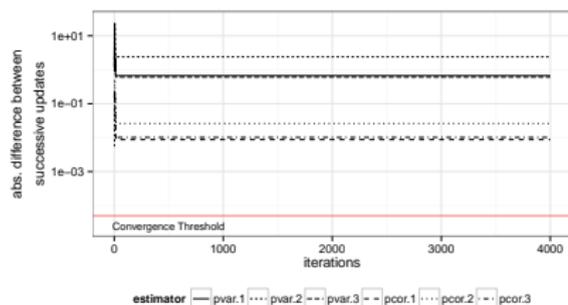
If  $Y_i \neq 0$  for every  $1 \leq i \leq p$ , the sequence of iterates  $\{\hat{\Omega}^{(r)}\}_{r \geq 0}$  obtained by the CONCORD algorithm converges to a global minimum of  $Q_{\text{con}}(\Omega)$ . More specifically,

$$\hat{\Omega}^{(r)} \rightarrow \hat{\Omega} \in \mathcal{M} \text{ as } r \rightarrow \infty$$

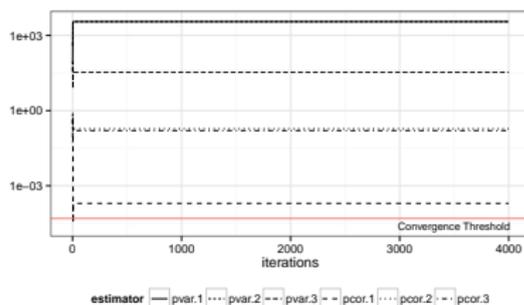
for some  $\hat{\Omega}$ , and furthermore

$$Q_{\text{con}}(\hat{\Omega}) \leq Q(\Omega) \text{ for all } \Omega \in \mathcal{M}.$$

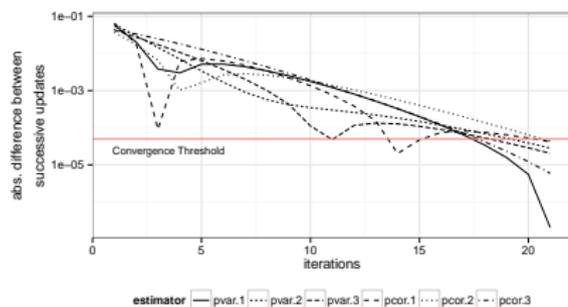
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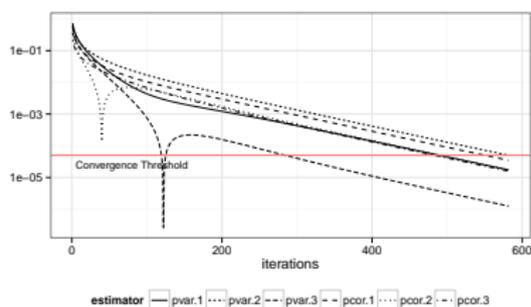
(a) SPACE ( $w_i = \omega_{ij}$ )



(b) SPACE ( $w_i = 1$ )



(c) CONCORD



(d) CONCORD

Figure:  $\mathbf{Y}^{(i)} \sim \mathcal{N}_3(0, \Omega^{-1})$ , (left)  $n = 4$ , (right)  $n = 100$

## Computational complexity of CONCORD algorithm

- GLASSO:  $O(p^3)$
- SPACE:  $\min(O(np^2), O(p^3))$
- SYMLASSO:  $\min(O(np^2), O(p^3))$
- CONCORD:  $\min(O(np^2), O(p^3))$

## Running time of CONCORD: I

$p = 1000, n = 200$					
GLASSO			CONCORD		
$\lambda$	NZ	Time	$\lambda^*$	NZ	Time
0.14	4.77%	87.60	0.12	4.23%	6.12
0.19	0.87%	71.47	0.17	0.98%	5.10
0.28	0.17%	5.41	0.28	0.15%	5.37
0.39	0.08%	5.30	0.39	0.07%	4.00
0.51	0.04%	6.38	0.51	0.04%	4.76

$p = 1000, n = 200$					
SPACE1 ( $w_i = 1$ )			SPACE2 ( $w_i = \omega_{ij}$ )		
$\lambda$	NZ	Time	$\lambda^*$	NZ	Time
0.10	4.49%	101.78	0.16	100.00%	19206.55
0.17	0.64%	99.20	0.21	1.76%	222.00
0.28	0.14%	138.01	0.30	0.17%	94.59
0.39	0.07%	75.55	0.40	0.08%	108.61
0.51	0.04%	49.59	0.51	0.04%	132.34

**Table:** Timing comparison (seconds) for  $p = 1000$ ,  $\lambda =$  penalty parameter,  $\lambda^* = \lambda/n$  for CONCORD/SPACE. NZ = the percentage of non-zero entries

## Running time of CONCORD: II

$p = 3000, n = 600$					
GLASSO			CONCORD		
$\lambda$	NZ	Time	$\lambda^*$	NZ	Time
0.09	2.71%	1842.74	0.09	2.10%	266.69
0.10	1.97%	1835.32	0.10	1.59%	235.49
0.10	1.43%	1419.41	0.10	1.19%	232.67

$p = 3000, n = 900$					
GLASSO			CONCORD		
$\lambda$	NZ	Time	$\lambda^*$	NZ	Time
0.09	0.70%	1389.96	0.09	0.64%	298.21
0.10	0.44%	1395.42	0.10	0.41%	298.00
0.10	0.27%	1334.78	0.10	0.26%	302.15

**Table:** Timing comparison (seconds) for  $p = 3000$ ,  $\lambda =$  penalty parameter,  $\lambda^* = \lambda/n$  for CONCORD. NZ = the percentage of non-zero entries

- CONCORD is highly competitive.
- Orders of magnitude faster in high dimensional settings.
- SPACE is slow to converge when  $n \ll p$ .

## Large sample properties: Assumptions

For sample size  $n$  and number of feature  $p = p_n$ , assume

True inverse covariance matrix:  $\bar{\Omega}_n = [\bar{\omega}_{n,ij}]$ ,  $1 \leq i, j \leq p_n$ , and  $\bar{\omega}_n^o$  denotes the off-diagonal elements.

Assumptions:

- A0: Accurate estimates of diagonals  $\hat{\alpha}_{n,ii}$ :

$$\max_{1 \leq i \leq p_n} |\hat{\alpha}_{n,ii} - \bar{\omega}_{ii}| \leq C \left( \sqrt{\frac{\log n}{n}} \right),$$

holds with probability larger than  $1 - O(n^{-\eta})$ .

- A1: Bounded eigenvalues: eigenvalues of  $\bar{\Omega}_n$  are such that

$$\lambda_{\min} > 0 \text{ and } \lambda_{\max} < \infty, \text{ for all } n$$

- A2: Sub-Gaussianity,
- A3: Incoherence condition

## Large sample properties: Theorem

Suppose that assumptions (A0)-(A3) are satisfied. Suppose  $p_n = O(n^\kappa)$  for some  $\kappa > 0$ ,  $q_n = o(\sqrt{n} \log n)$ ,  $\sqrt{\frac{q_n \log n}{n}} = o(\lambda_n)$ ,  $\lambda_n \sqrt{n} \log n \rightarrow \infty$ , and  $\sqrt{q_n} \lambda_n \rightarrow 0$ , as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

Then there exists a constant  $C$  such that for any  $\eta > 0$ , the following events hold with probability at least  $1 - O(n^{-\eta})$ .

- There exists a minimizer  $\hat{\omega}_n^o = ((\hat{\omega}_{n,ij}))_{1 \leq i < j \leq p_n}$  of  $Q_{\text{con}}(\omega^o, \hat{\alpha}_n)$ .
- Any minimizer  $\hat{\omega}_n^o$  of  $Q_{\text{con}}(\omega^o, \hat{\alpha}_n)$  satisfies

$$\|\hat{\omega}_n^o - \bar{\omega}_n^o\|_2 \leq C \sqrt{q_n} \lambda_n \quad (\text{Parameter consistency})$$

and

$$\text{sign}(\hat{\omega}_{n,ij}) = \text{sign}(\bar{\omega}_{n,ij}), \quad \forall 1 \leq i < j \leq p_n \quad (\text{Sign consistency}).$$

## Model selection in finite samples

- A  $p \times p$  sparse positive definite matrix  $\Omega$  (with  $p = 1000$ ) with condition number 13.6.
- Sample size  $n = 200, 400, 800$ , 50 datasets, each having *i.i.d.* multivariate- $t$  distribution with  $\mu = 0$ ,  $\Sigma = \Omega^{-1}$ .
- Compare model selection performance: area-under-the-curve (AUC) of ROC curves

	<b>n = 200</b>		<b>n = 400</b>		<b>n = 800</b>	
Solver	Median	IQR	Median	IQR	Median	IQR
GLASSO	0.745	0.032	0.819	0.030	0.885	0.029
CONCORD	0.811	0.011	0.887	0.012	0.933	0.013

**Table:** Median and IQR of AUC for 50 simulations.

- CONCORD has a higher AUC for each of the 150 datasets.
- CONCORD not only recovers the sparsity structure more accurately, it also has much less variation.

## CONCORD method: summary

Property	METHOD				
	NS	SPACE	SYMLASSO	SPLICE	CONCORD
Symmetry		+	+	+	+
Convergence guarantee (fixed $n$ )	N/A				+
Asymptotic consistency ( $n, p \rightarrow \infty$ )	+	+			+

Yes! CONCORD retains all good properties

# CONCORD method: summary

- Optimization aspects
  - ▶ **Jointly convex formulation**
  - ▶ Theoretical **guarantee of convergence**
  - ▶ Converges to **globally optimal solution**
- Statistical properties
  - ▶ **Asymptotically consistent** estimator as  $n, p \rightarrow \infty$
  - ▶ **Competitive with other pseudo-likelihood methods** in finite sample
- Computational cost
  - ▶ **Computationally complexity is competitive**

**Unifying framework  
for regression-based/pseudo-likelihood  
graphical model selection**

## What are we solving exactly?

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{con}}(\Omega) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^p \left[ -n \log \omega_{ii}^2 + \left\| \omega_{ii} \mathbf{Y}_i + \sum_{j \neq i} \omega_{ij} \mathbf{Y}_j \right\|_2^2 \right]$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{spc},1}(\Omega_D, \rho) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^p \left[ -n \log \omega_{ii} + \left\| \mathbf{Y}_i - \sum_{j \neq i} \rho^{ij} \sqrt{\frac{\omega_{jj}}{\omega_{ii}}} \mathbf{Y}_j \right\|_2^2 \right]$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{spc},2}(\Omega_D, \rho) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^p \left[ -n \log \omega_{ii} + \omega_{ii} \left\| \mathbf{Y}_i - \sum_{j \neq i} \rho^{ij} \sqrt{\frac{\omega_{jj}}{\omega_{ii}}} \mathbf{Y}_j \right\|_2^2 \right]$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{sym}}(\alpha, \Omega_F) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^p \left[ n \log \alpha_{ii} + \frac{1}{\alpha_{ii}} \left\| \mathbf{Y}_i + \sum_{j \neq i} \omega_{ij} \alpha_{ij} \mathbf{Y}_j \right\|_2^2 \right]$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{spl}}(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{D}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^p \left[ n \log(d_{ii}^2) + \frac{1}{d_{ii}^2} \left\| \mathbf{Y}_i - \sum_{j \neq i} \beta_{ij} \mathbf{Y}_j \right\|_2^2 \right],$$

## Unifying framework lemma: part 1

The above pseudo-likelihoods (up to reparameterization) can be expressed in matrix form as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}_{\text{con}}(\Omega) &= \frac{n}{2} \left[ -\log \det \Omega_D^2 + \text{tr}(\mathbf{S}\Omega^2) \right] \\ \mathcal{L}_{\text{spc},1}(\Omega) &= \frac{n}{2} \left[ -\log \det \Omega_D + \text{tr}(\mathbf{S}\Omega\Omega_D^{-2}\Omega) \right] \\ \mathcal{L}_{\text{spc},2}(\Omega) &= \frac{n}{2} \left[ -\log \det \Omega_D + \text{tr}(\mathbf{S}\Omega\Omega_D^{-1}\Omega) \right] \\ \mathcal{L}_{\text{sym}}(\Omega) &= \frac{n}{2} \left[ -\log \det \Omega_D + \text{tr}(\mathbf{S}\Omega\Omega_D^{-1}\Omega) \right] \\ \mathcal{L}_{\text{spl}}(\Omega) &= \frac{n}{2} \left[ -\log \det \Omega_D + \text{tr}(\mathbf{S}\Omega\Omega_D^{-1}\Omega) \right],\end{aligned}$$

where  $\Omega_D = \text{diag}(\Omega)$

## Unifying framework lemma: part 2

Generalized form of pseudo-log-likelihood

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{uni}}(G(\Omega), H(\Omega)) = \frac{n}{2} [-\log \det G(\Omega) + \text{tr}(\mathbf{S}H(\Omega))],$$

where  $G(\Omega)$  and  $H(\Omega)$  are functions of  $\Omega$ .

Standard Gaussian log-likelihood when  $G(\Omega) = H(\Omega) = \Omega$ :

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Gaussian}}(\Omega) = \mathcal{L}_{\text{uni}}(\Omega, \Omega) = \frac{n}{2} [-\log \det \Omega + \text{tr}(\mathbf{S}\Omega)]$$

# Insights for SPACE2, SYMLASSO and SPLICE

## SPACE2, SYMLASSO and SPLICE formulations:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{uni}}(\Omega_D, \Omega \Omega_D^{-1} \Omega) = \frac{n}{2} [-\log \det \Omega_D + \text{tr}(\mathbf{S} \Omega \Omega_D^{-1} \Omega)]$$

- Three of the four pseudo-likelihoods are equivalent up to reparameterizations
- Three methods apply different  $\ell_1$ -penalties

**Applications of  
graphical model selection and  
(inverse) covariance estimation**

## Biological application: gene co-expression of breast cancer

- Breast cancer gene expression study [Cheng et al., 2009]
- $n = 248$  and other clinical data (metastasis, tumor size, etc..)
- Reduce to  $\sim 1100$  genes by survival analysis (from  $\sim 20000$ )
- Select  $\lambda$  such that 200 non-zero elements remain in  $\hat{\Omega}$
- Identify most highly connected (hub) genes  
[Carter et al., 2004, Jeong et al., 2001, Han et al., 2004]

## Biological application: gene co-expression of breast cancer

Gene Symbol	CONCORD	SYMLASSO	SPACE1	SPACE2	Reference
<i>HNF3A (FOXA1)</i>	+	+	+	+	[Koboldt and Others, 2012, Albergaria et al., 2009, Davidson et al., 2011, Lacroix and Leclercq, 2004, Robinson et al., 2011]
<i>TONDU</i>	+	+	+	+	
<i>FZD9</i>	+	+	+	+	[Kato, 2008, Rønneberg et al., 2011]
<i>KIAA0481</i>	+	+	+	+	[Gene record discontinued]
<i>KRT16</i>	+	+	+	+	[Glinsky et al., 2005, Joosse et al., 2012, Pellegrino et al., 1988]
<i>KNSL6 (KIF2C)</i>	+			+	[Eschenbrenner et al., 2011, Shimo et al., 2007, Shimo et al., 2008]
<i>FOXC1</i>	+	+	+	+	[Du et al., 2012, Sizemore and Keri, 2012, Wang et al., 2012, Ray et al., 2011, Tkocz et al., 2012]
<i>PSA</i>	+	+		+	[Kraus et al., 2010, Mohajeri et al., 2011, Sauter et al., 2004, Yang et al., 2002]
<i>GATA3</i>	+	+	+	+	[Koboldt and Others, 2012, Davidson et al., 2011, Albergaria et al., 2009, Eeckhoute et al., 2007, Jiang et al., 2010, Licata et al., 2010, Yan et al., 2010]
<i>C20ORF1 (TPX2)</i>	+				[Maxwell and Others, 2011, Bibby et al., 2009]
<i>E48</i>		+	+	+	
<i>ESR1</i>				+	[Zheng et al., 2012]

[Maxwell and Others, 2011] identifies a regulatory mechanism involving TPX2, Aurora A, RHAMM and BRCA1 genes in breast cancer

## TPX2 gene in breast cancer

- [Maxwell and Others, 2011] is an extensive study involving thousands of breast cancer patients
- Breast cancer type 1 susceptibility protein (BRCA1), a known gene related to breast cancer
- TPX2 gene is identified as having strong link to BRCA1
- **“Reorganization (of microtubules) is facilitated by BRCA1 and impaired by AURKA, which is regulated by negative feedback involving RHAMM and TPX2.”**  
[Maxwell et al., 2011]

# Financial application: portfolio optimization

## Dow-Jones Index:

- Index of 30 stocks
- Mean-variance portfolio (MVP) theory uses covariance matrix to hedge risk
- Simplest variant: minimum variance portfolio (given  $\Sigma$ )

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && w^T \Sigma w \\ & \text{subject to} && \mathbf{1}^T w = 1 \end{aligned}$$

Analytical solution:  $w^* = (\mathbf{1}^T \Sigma^{-1} \mathbf{1})^{-1} \Sigma^{-1} \mathbf{1}$

- Due to non-stationarity, use rebalancing strategy:  
Every 4 weeks, use past  $N_{\text{est}}$  days for  $\hat{\Sigma} = \hat{\Omega}^{-1}$

# Financial application: portfolio optimization



Figure:  $N_{\text{est}} = 75$  days, rebalance every 4 weeks

## Finance: Minimum variance portfolio returns

Return measure: mean excess return per unit of risk

$$\text{Sharpe ratio} = \frac{\mathbb{E}(R_t - R_f)}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(R_t)}}, \text{ where } R_f = 3\% \text{ (annual) is chosen}$$

$N_{\text{est}}$	DJIA	Sample	GLASSO	Concord	CondReg	LedoitWolf
35	2.09	2.77	4.01	<b>4.12</b>	4.06	<b>4.10</b>
40	2.09	3.44	3.93	<b>4.10</b>	<b>3.98</b>	3.91
45	2.09	2.43	3.78	<b>3.98</b>	<b>3.85</b>	3.59
50	2.09	2.31	3.81	<b>4.06</b>	<b>3.89</b>	3.71
75	2.09	3.40	3.70	<b>4.04</b>	<b>3.89</b>	3.49
	References		Sparse models		Dense estimates	

**Table:** Penalty  $\lambda$  chosen with cross-validation to minimize RSS, (values multiplied by 100)

# Applications: summary

- Biological example: hub gene discovery
  - ▶ Discovered empirically validated genes
  - ▶ Other methods are useful too!
- Finance example: minimum variance portfolio selection
  - ▶ CONCORD estimator yields best Sharpe ratio even better than Ledoit-Wolf
  - ▶ Graphical model selection methods adapt to changing covariance structure

**Thank you!**

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# Simulation: Pseudo-likelihood methods

## Datasets:

- True  $\Omega$  has 2.4% non-zero elements (placed at random)

$$\mathbf{Y} \sim \mathcal{N}_{100}(0, \Omega^{-1})$$

- Generate 100 independent datasets,  $p = 100$ ,  $n = 200$
- Grid of 50 penalty parameter ( $\lambda$ ) values

## Model selection performance metrics:

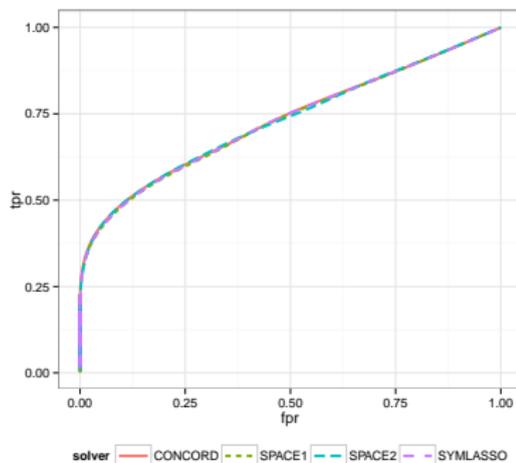
- Measures performance of **zero vs. non-zero structure** recovery
- False Positive Rate (FPR) vs. True Positive Rate (TPR):

$$FPR = \frac{FP}{FP + TN} \quad \text{and} \quad TPR = \frac{TP}{TP + FN}$$

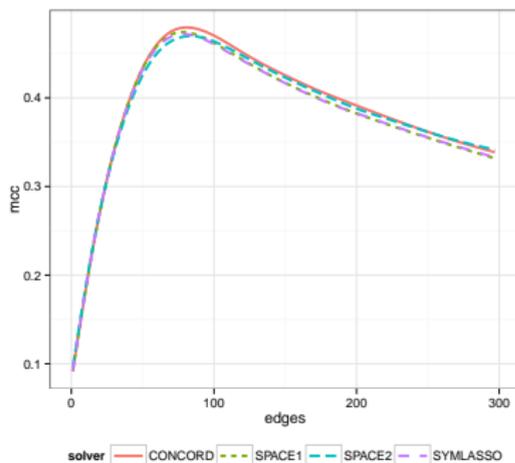
- # of non-zeros vs. Matthew's correlation coefficient (MCC):

$$MCC = \frac{TP \times TN - FP \times FN}{\sqrt{(TP + FP)(TP + FN)(TN + FP)(TN + FN)}}$$

# Simulation: Pseudo-likelihood methods



(a) FPR vs. TPR



(b) # of non-zeros in  $\hat{\Omega}$  vs. MCC

CONCORD has competitive model selection performance

## Insights for CONCORD: part 1

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{con}}(\Omega_D, \Omega^2) = \frac{n}{2} [-\log \det \Omega_D + \text{tr}(\mathbf{S}\Omega^2)]$$

- $\log |\Omega| \longrightarrow \log |\Omega_D|$
- $\text{tr}(\mathbf{S}\Omega) \longrightarrow \text{tr}(\Omega\mathbf{S}\Omega) = \text{tr}(\mathbf{S}\Omega^2)$
- Modify the log determinant term to balance

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{uni}}(\Omega_D^2, \Omega^2) = \frac{n}{2} (-\log \det \Omega_D^2 + \text{tr}(\mathbf{S}\Omega^2))$$

- Penalized pseudo-likelihood of CONCORD

$$Q_{\text{con}}(\Omega) := \mathcal{L}_{\text{uni}}(\Omega_D^2, \Omega^2) + \lambda \sum_{i < j} |\omega_{ij}|$$

- Modification gives better parameter estimates

## Insights for CONCORD: part 2

Generated Gaussian dataset with following  $\Omega^*$  ( $n = 1000$ ).

$$\Omega^* = \begin{pmatrix} 1.0 & 0.3 & 0.0 \\ 0.3 & 1.0 & 0.3 \\ 0.0 & 0.3 & 1.0 \end{pmatrix}$$

For  $\lambda = 0$ ,

$$\Omega_{\text{uncorrected}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.675 & 0.089 & -0.015 \\ 0.089 & 0.658 & 0.117 \\ -0.015 & 0.117 & 0.668 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Omega_{\text{con}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.974 & 0.257 & 0.007 \\ 0.257 & 0.983 & 0.344 \\ 0.007 & 0.344 & 0.978 \end{pmatrix}$$

**Modified likelihood gives better parameter estimates!**