# Abundant Inverse Regression using Sufficient Reduction and its Applications



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Figure: Dynamic feature weights for three tasks: ambient temperature prediction (left), age estimation (middle) on Lifespan database (Meredith et al., 2004, Guo, et al., 2012.), and AD classification (right). AD classification accuracy of 86.17% by simple thresholding of continuous prediction by AIR comparing to SVM+PCA (80%-85%) (Hwang et al., 2015). AIR provides a way to determine, at test time, which features are most important to the prediction. Our results are competitive, which demonstrates that we achieve this capability without sacrificing accuracy.

## **O**BJECTIVE

**Goal:** Develop a regression model explaining why a particular prediction was made at the level of specific examples/samples **Strategy:** Inverse Regression and Sufficient Reduction in the "abundant" feature setting.

# MAIN IDEA

**Desired:** Relevance of individual covariates at the level of specific samples for a given regression task.

**Challenge** ("Chicken-or-egg problem"): Relevance/confidence score to individual covariates  $x^j$  should condition the estimate based on knowledge of all other (uncorrupted) covariates  $x^{-j}$ .

 $f(x^1|x^2, x^3, \ldots, y)$  is high-dimensional requiring large amount of data.

## ALGORITHM

#### 1: Training

- Estimate a joint distribution for each covariate,  $f(x^j, y)$
- Find sufficient reduction  $\phi' : x' \to y$  for each subset of features x'
- 4: Estimate the prior/weight for  $\phi_l(\cdot)$  as  $w_{\phi'} = \mathbb{E}[(y \phi'(x'))^2]^{-1}$
- 5: Estimate cond. confidence of feature  $w_{x^j} := \sum_I w_{\phi'} f(x^j |\hat{y}') / \sum_I w_{\phi'}$
- Fit a feature confidence aware regressor  $h : [\{x^j\}_{j=1}^K, \{w_{x^j}\}_{j=1}^K] \to Y$

#### 7: **Prediction**

- Evaluate  $w_{x^j} := \mathbb{E}f(x^j | \phi'(x'))$  by lines 3 and 5, with learned  $w_{\phi'}$ .
- 9:  $\hat{y} = h(\{x^j\}_{j=1}^K, \{W_{x^j}\}_{j=1}^K)$

# LEMMA 1: OPTIMAL GLOBAL WEIGHTS FOR $\phi'$

Suppose we have K random variables (sufficient reduction),

 $f(x^{1}|x^{2}, y), f(x^{1}|x^{3}, y), f(x^{1}|x^{4}, y), \dots f(x^{1}|x^{p}, y)$  too many cases.

Solution: sufficient reduction

 $f(x^i|\phi(X))$ , where  $x^i|X, \phi(X) \sim x^i|\phi(X)$ 

**Desired:** Robust regression model which allows missing or randomly corrupted covariates with their dynamic weights.

Solution: distance measure with dynamic weights.

# **SUFFICIENT REDUCTION AND INVERSE REGRESSION**

► Given a regression model  $h : X \to Y$ , a reduction  $\phi : \mathbb{R}^{p} \to \mathbb{R}^{q}, q \leq p$ , is a **sufficient reduction** if it satisfies one of the following conditions:

**1)** inverse reduction,  $X|(Y, \phi(X)) \sim X|\phi(X)$ ,

**2)** forward reduction,  $Y|X \sim Y|\phi(X)$ ,

**3)** joint reduction,  $X \perp Y | \phi(X)$ ,

where  $\bot$  indicates independence,  $\sim$  means identically distributed, and A|B refers to the random vector A given the vector B.

- Forward regression  $\mathbb{E}[Y|X]$ :  $f : X \to Y$
- ► Inverse regression  $\mathbb{E}[X|Y]$ :  $f : Y \to X$
- Sliced Inverse Regression (Li, 1991) estimates  $\phi(X)$  by PCA over

$$\phi^{1}(x_{1}) \sim \mathcal{N}(y, \sigma_{1}^{2}), \ldots, \ \phi^{K}(x_{K}) \sim \mathcal{N}(y, \sigma_{K}^{2}),$$
 (3)

where  $\sigma_I^2 > 0, \forall I \in \{1, ..., K\}$ . Consider a convex combination of  $\phi^I$ . Its expectation is *y*. Assuming that the errors of all sufficient reductions are independent, the problem to find the optimal weights for the convex combination with the minimal variance can be formulated as

$$\min_{w} \sum_{l=1}^{K} \sigma_{l}^{2}(w_{l})^{2} \text{ s.t.} |w|_{1} = 1 \text{ and } w_{l} \ge 0, \text{ for all } l \in 1, \dots, K.$$
 (4)

The unique global optimum of Eq. (4) is  $W_l = \sigma_l^{-2} / \sum_{k=1}^{K} \sigma_k^{-2}$ .

# **EXPERIMENTS: AMBIENT TEMPERATURE PREDICTION**









 $\mathbb{E}[X|Y].$ 

Relevance (dynamic weights) in our model:

 $\mathbb{E}_{j}[f(x^{i}|\phi^{j}(X))],$  where  $x^{i}|X, \phi^{j}(X) \sim x^{i}|\phi^{j}(X)$ 

#### **DISTANCE MEASURE WITH RELEVANCE**

$$\mathsf{d}_{w}(x_{1}, x_{2}, w_{1}, w_{2}) := \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{j} w_{x_{1}^{j}} w_{x_{2}^{j}} \left[\mathsf{d}(x_{1}^{j}, x_{2}^{j})^{2} - 2\sigma_{x^{j}|z^{j}}^{2}\right]}{\sum_{j} w_{x_{1}^{j}} w_{x_{2}^{j}}}}.$$

Relevance of covariates  $w_{x^j} := \sum_{i} w_{\phi'} f(x^j | \hat{y}^i) / \sum_{i} w_{\phi'}$ Global weight,  $w_{\phi'} := \mathbb{E}[(y - \phi'(x^i))^2]^{-1}$ ,  $\sigma_{x^j | z^j}^2 := \mathbb{E}[(x^j - \mathbb{E}[x^j | x^{-j}])^2]$ 



#### Actual 25.6° C, Est. 21.6° C

(1)

(2)



Actual 3.3° C, Est. 10.0° C



Actual –0.6° C, Est. 2.8° C





time-specific (dynamic) weights  $w_{x^{j}}$ 



time-specific (dynamic) weights  $W_{x^{j}}$ 

Figure: Qualitative results on scene (a) from the Hot or Not dataset (Glasner et al., 2015).

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