11 Shrinkage Estimation

Shrinkage estimation is a highly valuable technique in the context of high-dimensional regression analysis. It allows for the estimation of regression models with more regressors than observations.

11.1 Mean squared error

The key measure of estimation accuracy is the **mean squared error (MSE)**. The MSE of an estimator $\hat{\theta}$ for a parameter θ is

$$mse(\hat{\theta}) = E[(\hat{\theta} - \theta)^2].$$

The MSE can be decomposed into the variance plus squared bias:

$$mse(\hat{\theta}) = \underbrace{E[(\hat{\theta} - E[\hat{\theta}])^2]}_{=Var[\hat{\theta}]} + \underbrace{(E[\hat{\theta}] - \theta)^2}_{=bias(\hat{\theta})^2}$$

Proof. Subtracting and adding $E[\hat{\theta}]$ gives

$$\begin{split} &(\hat{\theta}-\theta)^2 = (\hat{\theta}-E[\hat{\theta}]+E[\hat{\theta}]-\theta)^2 \\ &= (\hat{\theta}-E[\hat{\theta}])^2 + 2(\hat{\theta}-E[\hat{\theta}])(\underbrace{E[\hat{\theta}]-\theta}_{bias(\hat{\theta})}) + \underbrace{(E[\hat{\theta}]-\theta)^2}_{=bias(\hat{\theta})^2}. \end{split}$$

The middle term is zero after taking the expectation:

$$E[(\hat{\theta}-\theta)^2] = \underbrace{E[(\hat{\theta}-E[\hat{\theta}])^2]}_{=Var[\hat{\theta}]} + 2\underbrace{E[\hat{\theta}-E[\hat{\theta}]]}_{=0}bias(\hat{\theta}) + bias(\hat{\theta})^2.$$

 For instance, consider an i.i.d. sample X_1, \ldots, X_n with population mean $E[X_i] = \mu$ and variance $Var[X_i] = \sigma^2$. Let's study the sample mean

$$\hat{\mu} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i$$

as an estimator of μ . You will find that

$$E[\hat{\mu}] = \mu, \quad Var[\hat{\mu}] = \frac{\sigma^2}{n}.$$

Proof. By the linearity of the expectation, we have

$$E[\hat{\mu}] = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \underbrace{E[X_i]}_{\mu} = \mu$$

The independence of X_1,\ldots,X_n implies

$$Var[\hat{\mu}] = \frac{1}{n^2} Var\left[\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right] = \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n Var[X_i] = \frac{\sigma^2}{n}$$

_	

The sample mean is unbiased for μ , i.e., $bias(\hat{\mu}) = E[\hat{\mu}] - \mu = 0$. The MSE equals its variance:

$$mse(\hat{\mu}) = \frac{\sigma^2}{n}$$

The sample mean is the best unbiased estimator for the population mean in the MSE sense, but there exists estimators with a lower MSE if we allow for a small bias.

11.2 A simple shrinkage estimator

Let us shrink our sample mean a bit towards 0 and define the alternative estimator

$$\tilde{\mu} = (1-w)\hat{\mu}, \quad w \in [0,1].$$

Setting the shrinkage weight to w = 0 gives $\tilde{\mu} = \hat{\mu}$ (no shrinkage) and w = 1 gives $\tilde{\mu} = 0$ (full shrinkage). Our shrinkage estimator has the bias

$$bias(\tilde{\mu}) = E[(1-w)\hat{\mu}] - \mu = (1-w)\underbrace{E[\hat{\mu}]}_{=\mu} - \mu = -w\mu.$$

The variance is

$$Var[\tilde{\mu}] = Var[(1-w)\hat{\mu}] = (1-w)^2 Var[\hat{\mu}] = (1-w)^2 \frac{\sigma^2}{n},$$

and the MSE is

$$mse(\tilde{\mu}) = Var[\tilde{\mu}] + bias(\tilde{\mu})^2 = (1-w)^2 \frac{\sigma^2}{n} + w^2 \mu^2.$$

The optimal weight in terms of the MSE is

$$w^* = \frac{1}{1 + n\mu^2/\sigma^2}$$

Proof. We take the derivative of $mse(\tilde{\mu})$ across w to obtain the first order condition:

$$-2(1-w)\sigma^2/n + 2w\mu^2 = 0.$$

Solving for w gives $w(1 + n\mu^2/\sigma^2) = 1$. Then, w^* is the global minimum because the second derivative is $2\sigma^2/n + 2\mu^2 > 0$.

For instance, if $\mu = 1$, $\sigma^2 = 1$, and n = 99, we have $w^* = 0.01$.

The shrinked sample mean

$$\tilde{\mu}^* = (1-w^*)\hat{\mu} = \frac{n\mu^2/\sigma^2}{1+n\mu^2/\sigma^2} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$$

has a lower MSE than the usual sample mean:

$$mse(\tilde{\mu}^*) = (1-w^*)\frac{\sigma^2}{n} + w^2\mu^2 < \frac{\sigma^2}{n} = mse(\hat{\mu})$$

This is a remarkable result because it tells us that the sample mean is not the best we can do to estimate a population mean. The shrinked estimator is more efficient. Is biased, but the biased vanishes asymptotically since $\lim_{n\to\infty} w^* = 0$.

The optimal shrinkage parameter w^* is infeasible because we do not know μ^2/σ^2 . It is not very useful for empirical practice, and taking sample means is still recommended.

However, the shrinkage principle can be very useful in the context of high-dimensional regression.

11.3 High-dimensional regression

Least squares regression works well when the number of regressors k is small relative to the number of observations n. In a previous section on "too many regressors", we discussed how ordinary least squares (OLS) can overfit when k is too large compared to n. Specifically, if k = n, the OLS regression line perfectly fits the data.

Many economic applications involve categorical variables that are transformed into a large number of dummy variables. If we include pairwise interaction terms among J variables, we get another $\sum_{i=1}^{J-1} i = J(J-1)/2$ regressors (for example, 190 for J=20 and 4950 for J=100).

Accounting for further nonlinearities by adding squared and cubic terms or higher-order interactions can result in thousands or even millions of regressors. Many of these regressors may provide low informational value, but it is difficult to determine a priori which are relevant and which are irrelevant.

If k > n, the OLS estimator is not uniquely defined because $\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X}$ does not have full rank. If $k \approx n$ the matrix $\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X}$ can be near singular, resulting in numerically unstable OLS coefficients or high variance.

For the vector-valued (k-variate) estimator $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{ols}$ the (conditional) MSE is

$$\begin{split} mse(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{ols}|\boldsymbol{X}) &= E[(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{ols} - \boldsymbol{\beta})'(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{ols} - \boldsymbol{\beta})|\boldsymbol{X}] \\ &= Var[\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{ols}|\boldsymbol{X}] + bias(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{ols}|\boldsymbol{X})(bias(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{ols}|\boldsymbol{X}))', \end{split}$$

where, under random sampling, OLS is unbiased:

$$bias(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{ols}|\boldsymbol{X}) = E[\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{ols}|\boldsymbol{X}] - \boldsymbol{\beta} = \boldsymbol{0}.$$

Consequently, the MSE of OLS equals its variance:

$$mse(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{ols}|\boldsymbol{X}) = Var[\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{ols}|\boldsymbol{X}] = (\boldsymbol{X}'\boldsymbol{X})^{-1}\boldsymbol{X}'\boldsymbol{D}\boldsymbol{X}(\boldsymbol{X}'\boldsymbol{X})^{-1}.$$

11.4 Ridge Regression

To avoid that $(\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X})^{-1}$ becomes very large or undefined for large k, we can introduce a shrinkage parameter λ and define the **ridge regression estimator**

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{ridge} = (\boldsymbol{X}'\boldsymbol{X} + \lambda \boldsymbol{I}_k)^{-1}\boldsymbol{X}'\boldsymbol{Y}. \tag{11.1}$$

This estimator is well defined and does not suffer from multicollinearity problems, even if k > n. The inverse $(\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X} + \lambda \mathbf{I}_k)^{-1}$ exists as long as $\lambda > 0$. For $\lambda = 0$, the ridge estimator coincides with the OLS estimator.

While the OLS estimator is motivated from the minimization problem

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{\beta}}(\boldsymbol{Y}-\boldsymbol{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})'(\boldsymbol{Y}-\boldsymbol{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}),$$

the ridge estimator is the minimizer of

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{\beta}} (\boldsymbol{Y} - \boldsymbol{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})' (\boldsymbol{Y} - \boldsymbol{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}) + \lambda \boldsymbol{\beta}' \boldsymbol{\beta}.$$
(11.2)

The minimization problem introduces a penalty for large values of β . The solution is then shrunk towards zero by $\lambda > 0$.

11.5 Standardization

The regressors and dependent variables are typically standardized:

$$\widetilde{X}_{ij} = \frac{X_{ij} - \boldsymbol{X}_j}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{n-1}\sum_{i=1}^n (X_{ij} - \overline{\boldsymbol{X}}_j)^2}}, \quad \overline{\boldsymbol{X}}_j = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n X_{ij}$$

It is common practice to standardize the regressors (and dependent variable) in ridge regression.

Without standardization, variables with larger scales (i.e., larger variances) will disproportionately influence the penalty term through $\lambda \beta' \beta = \lambda \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_j^2$. Variables with smaller variance may be under-penalized, while those with larger variance may be over-penalized.

Standardization ensures that each variable contributes equally to the penalty term, making the penalty independent of the scale of the variables.

Standardizing makes the coefficient estimates more interpretable, as they will all be on the same scale, which helps in understanding the relative importance of each variable.

11.6 Ridge Properties

The bias of the ridge estimator is

$$bias(\hat{\pmb{\beta}}_{ridge}|\pmb{X}) = -\lambda(\pmb{X}'\pmb{X} + \lambda\pmb{I}_k)^{-1}\pmb{\beta}$$

and the covariance matrix is

$$Var[\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{ridae}|\boldsymbol{X}] = (\boldsymbol{X}'\boldsymbol{X} + \lambda \boldsymbol{I}_k)^{-1}\boldsymbol{X}'\boldsymbol{D}\boldsymbol{X}(\boldsymbol{X}'\boldsymbol{X} + \lambda \boldsymbol{I}_k)^{-1}.$$

In the homoskedastic linear regression model, we have

$$mse(\boldsymbol{\beta}_{ridge}|\boldsymbol{X}) < mse(\boldsymbol{\beta}_{ols}|\boldsymbol{X})$$

if $0 < \lambda < 2\sigma^2 / \beta' \beta$.

Similarly to the sample mean case, the upper bound $2\sigma^2/\beta'\beta$ does not give practical guidance for selecting λ because β and σ^2 are unknown.

11.7 Mean squared prediction error

The optimal value for λ minimizes the MSE, but estimating the MSE of the ridge estimator is not straightforward because it depends on the parameter β being estimated. Instead, it is better to focus on the out-of-sample mean squared prediction error (MSPE).

Let $(Y_1, \boldsymbol{X}_1), \dots, (Y_n, \boldsymbol{X}_n)$ be our data set (in-sample observations) with ridge estimator Equation 11.1, and let $(Y^{oos}, \boldsymbol{X}^{oos})$ be another observation pair (out-of-sample observation) that is independently drawn from the same population as $(Y_1, \boldsymbol{X}_1), \dots, (Y_n, \boldsymbol{X}_n)$.

The mean squared prediction error (MSPE) is

$$MSPE(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{ridge}) = E[(Y^{oos} - (\boldsymbol{X}^{oos})'\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{ridge})^2].$$

Note that $(Y^{oos}, \mathbf{X}^{oos})$ is independent of $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{ridge}$ because it has not been used for estimation. $\widehat{Y}(\mathbf{X}^{oos}) = (\mathbf{X}^{oos})'\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{ridge}$ is the predicted value of Y^{oos} .

To estimate the MSPE, we can use a **split sample**.

1) We divide our observations randomly into a training sample (in-sample) of size n_{train} and a testing sample (out-of-sample) of size n_{test} with $n = n_{train} + n_{test}$:

$$(Y_1^{ins}, \pmb{X}_1^{ins}), \dots (Y_{n_{train}}^{ins}, \pmb{X}_{n_{train}}^{ins}), \quad (Y_1^{oos}, \pmb{X}_1^{oos}), \dots (Y_{n_{test}}^{oos}, \pmb{X}_{n_{test}}^{oos})$$

2) We estimate β using the training sample:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{ridge}^{ins} = \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n_{train}} \boldsymbol{X}_{i}^{ins}(\boldsymbol{X}_{i}^{ins})' + \lambda \boldsymbol{I}_{k}\right)^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n_{train}} \boldsymbol{X}_{i}^{ins} Y_{i}^{ins}.$$

3) We evaluate the empirical MSPE using the testing sample,

$$\widehat{MSPE}_{split} = \frac{1}{n_{test}} \sum_{i=1}^{n_{test}} \left(Y_i^{oos} - \left(\boldsymbol{X}_i^{oos} \right)' \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{ridge}^{ins} \right)^2$$
(11.3)

Steps 2 and 3 are repeated for different values for λ . We select the value for λ that gives the smallest estimated MSPE.

11.8 Cross validation

A problem with the split sample estimator is that it highly depends on the choice of the two subsamples. An alternative is to select m subsamples (folds) and evaluate the MSPE using each fold separately:

m-fold cross validation

1) Divide the sample into j = 1, ..., m randomly chosen folds/subsamples of approximately equal size:

$$\begin{split} & (Y_1^{(1)}, \pmb{X}_1^{(1)}), \dots, (Y_{n_1}^{(1)}, \pmb{X}_{n_1}^{(1)}) \\ & (Y_1^{(2)}, \pmb{X}_1^{(2)}), \dots, (Y_{n_2}^{(2)}, \pmb{X}_{n_2}^{(2)}) \\ & \vdots \\ & (Y_1^{(m)}, \pmb{X}_1^{(m)}), \dots, (Y_{n_m}^{(m)}, \pmb{X}_{n_m}^{(m)}) \end{split}$$

- 2) Select $j \in \{1, ..., m\}$ as left-out test sample and use the other subsamples to compute the ridge estimator $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{ridge}^{(-j)}$, where the *j*-th fold is not used.
- 3) Compute Equation 11.3 using the j-th folds as a test sample, i.e.,

$$\widehat{MSPE}_{j} = \frac{1}{n_{j}} \sum_{i=1}^{n_{j}} \left(Y_{i}^{(j)} - \left(\boldsymbol{X}_{i}^{(j)} \right)' \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{ridge}^{(-j)} \right)^{2}$$

4) The m-fold cross validation estimator is the weighted average over the m subsample estimates of the MSPE:

$$\widehat{MSPE}_{mfold} = \sum_{j=1}^{m} \frac{n_j}{n} \widehat{MSPE}_j,$$

where $n = \sum_{j=1}^{m} n_j$ is the total number of observations.

5) Repeat these steps over a grid of tuning parameters for λ , and select the value for λ that minimizes $\widehat{MSPE}_{m\,fold}$.

Common values for m are m = 5 and m = 10. The larger m, the less biased the estimation of the MSPE is, but also the more computationally expensive the cross validation becomes.

The largest possible value for m is m = n, where each observation represents a fold. This is also known as leave-one-out cross validation (LOOVC). LOOVC might be useful for small datasets but is often infeasible for large dataset because of the large computation time.

11.9 L2 Regularization: Ridge

The ℓ_p -norm of a vector $\boldsymbol{a} = (a_1, \dots, a_k)'$ is defined as

$$\|\boldsymbol{a}\|_p = \left(\sum_{j=1}^k |a_j|^p\right)^{1/p}.$$

Important special cases are the ℓ_1 -norm and ℓ_2 -norm:

$$\|\boldsymbol{a}\|_1 = \sum_{j=1}^k |a_j|, \quad \|\boldsymbol{a}\|_2 = \left(\sum_{j=1}^k a_j^2\right)^{1/2} = \sqrt{\boldsymbol{a}'\boldsymbol{a}}.$$

The ℓ_1 -norm is the sum of absolute values, and the ℓ_2 -norm, also known as the Euclidean norm, represents the length of the vector in the Euclidean space.

Ridge regression is also called **L2 regularization** because it penalizes the sum of squared errors by the squared ℓ_2 -norm of the coefficient vector, $\|\boldsymbol{\beta}\|_2^2 = \boldsymbol{\beta}' \boldsymbol{\beta}$. Ridge is the solution to the minimization problem Equation 11.2, which can be written as

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{ridge} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\boldsymbol{\beta}} (\boldsymbol{Y} - \boldsymbol{X} \boldsymbol{\beta})' (\boldsymbol{Y} - \boldsymbol{X} \boldsymbol{\beta}) + \lambda \|\boldsymbol{\beta}\|_2^2$$

11.10 L1 Regularization: Lasso

An alternative approach is **L1 regularization**, also known as **lasso**. The lasso estimator is defined as

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{lasso} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\boldsymbol{\beta}} (\boldsymbol{Y} - \boldsymbol{X} \boldsymbol{\beta})' (\boldsymbol{Y} - \boldsymbol{X} \boldsymbol{\beta}) + \lambda \|\boldsymbol{\beta}\|_{1},$$

where $\|\boldsymbol{\beta}\|_1 = \sum_{j=1}^k |\beta_j|$.

The elastic net estimator is a hybrid method. It combines L1 and L2 regularization using a weight $0 \le \alpha \le 1$:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{net,\alpha} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\boldsymbol{\beta}} (\boldsymbol{Y} - \boldsymbol{X} \boldsymbol{\beta})' (\boldsymbol{Y} - \boldsymbol{X} \boldsymbol{\beta}) + \lambda \big(\alpha \| \boldsymbol{\beta} \|_1 + (1 - \alpha) \| \boldsymbol{\beta} \|_2^2 \big).$$

This includes ridge $(\alpha = 0)$ and lasso $(\alpha = 1)$ as special cases.

Ridge has a closed form solution given by Equation 11.1. Lasso and elastic net with $\alpha > 0$ require numerical solutions by means of quadratic programming. The solution typically involves some zero coefficients.

11.11 Implementation in R

Let's consider the mtcars dataset, which is available in base R. Have a look at ?mtcars to see the data description. We estimate a ridge regression model to predict the variable mpg (miles per gallon) using the other variables. We consider the values $\lambda = 0.5$ and $\lambda = 2.5$.

Ridge, lasso, and elastic net are implemented in the glmnet package. The glmnet() function requires matrix-valued data as input. The model.matrix() command is useful because it produces the regressor matrix X and converts categorical variables into dummy variables.

```
library(glmnet)
Y = mtcars$mpg
X = model.matrix(mpg ~., data = mtcars)[,-1]
dim(X)
[1] 32 10
fit.ridge1 = glmnet(x=X, y=Y, alpha=0, lambda = 0.5)
fit.ridge1$beta
10 x 1 sparse Matrix of class "dgCMatrix"
               s0
cyl -0.250698757
disp -0.001893223
hp
     -0.013079878
drat 0.978514241
     -1.902328296
wt
qsec 0.316107066
      0.472551434
vs
      2.113922488
am
gear 0.631836101
carb -0.661215998
fit.ridge2 = glmnet(x=X, y=Y, alpha=0, lambda = 2.5)
fit.ridge2$beta
10 x 1 sparse Matrix of class "dgCMatrix"
               s0
cyl -0.368541841
```

disp -0.005184086

hp	-0.011710951
drat	1.052837310
wt	-1.264016952
qsec	0.164790158
vs	0.755205256
am	1.655241565
gear	0.546732963
carb	-0.560023425

You can use the command coef(fit.ridge1) to also display the intercept. By default, the regressors are standardized. You can turn off this setting by using the argument standardize = FALSE. The ℓ_2 norm of the coefficients is small for larger values of λ :

```
c(sqrt(sum(fit.ridge1$beta)),
    sqrt(sum(fit.ridge2$beta)))
```

[1] 1.297581 1.401902

The lasso estimator ($\alpha = 1$) sets many coefficient equal to zero:

```
fit.lasso = glmnet(x=X, y=Y, alpha=1, lambda = 0.5)
coef(fit.lasso)
```

```
11 x 1 sparse Matrix of class "dgCMatrix"
                      s0
(Intercept) 35.88689755
cyl
            -0.85565434
disp
            -0.01411517
hp
drat
             0.07603453
wt
            -2.67338139
qsec
              .
vs
             0.48651385
am
gear
            -0.10722338
carb
```

The cv.glmnet() command estimates the optimal shrinkage parameter using 10-fold cross validation:

```
set.seed(123) ## for reproducibility
cv.glmnet(x=X, y=Y, alpha = 0)$lambda.min
```

[1] 2.746789

cv.glmnet(x=X, y=Y, alpha = 1)\$lambda.min

[1] 0.8007036

We can use ridge and lasso to estimate linear models with more variables than observations. The command 2 includes all pairwise interaction terms, which produces 55 variables in total. The dataset has n = 32 observations.

```
X.large = model.matrix(mpg ~. ^2, data = mtcars)[,-1]
dim(X.large)
```

[1] 32 55

```
fit.ridgelarge = glmnet(x=X.large, y=Y, alpha=0, lambda = 0.5)
coef(fit.ridgelarge)
```

```
56 x 1 sparse Matrix of class "dgCMatrix"
                        s0
(Intercept) 1.315259e+01
cyl
            -4.061218e-02
disp
            -8.137358e-04
            -5.588290e-03
hp
drat
             4.386174e-01
wt
            -5.547986e-01
             2.308772e-01
qsec
vs
             6.705889e-01
am
             4.379822e-01
             8.788479e-01
gear
carb
            -1.537294e-01
             6.830897e-05
cyl:disp
cyl:hp
             1.351742e-04
cyl:drat
             2.455464e-02
cyl:wt
            -2.621868e-03
cyl:qsec
             3.358094e-03
```

1.591177e-01
6.102385e-02
3.481957e-02
7.499023e-04
8.592521e-06
-9.421536e-05
2.191122e-04
-1.789464e-05
-1.280463e-03
-9.043597e-03
-3.601317e-04
-1.255358e-04
-2.086003e-03
4.404097e-04
-4.347470e-04
-1.858343e-02
-2.604620e-03
-3.464491e-04
9.107116e-04
-1.766081e-01
3.828881e-02
1.123963e-01
5.047132e-02
8.294201e-02
-4.770358e-02
-3.289204e-02
-3.239643e-01
-4.197733e-01
-1.890703e-01
-1.497574e-02
3.114409e-02
5.199239e-02
7.035311e-02
-1.859676e-02
8.688134e-01
3.311330e-01
-2.768199e-01
1.462749e-01
1.588431e-01
1.0001010

```
fit.lassolarge = glmnet(x=X.large, y=Y, alpha=1, lambda = 0.5)
coef(fit.lassolarge)
56 x 1 sparse Matrix of class "dgCMatrix"
                    s0
(Intercept) 23.655330629
     -0.036308043
cyl
disp
           .
hp
           •
drat
        .
-1.301739306
wt
qsec
          •
vs
           .
am
           .
gear
           .
carb
            •
cyl:disp
            •
cyl:hp
            .
cyl:drat
            .
cyl:wt
            .
cyl:qsec
           .
cyl:vs
            .
cyl:am
            •
cyl:gear
            •
cyl:carb
            •
disp:hp
            .
disp:drat
           •
disp:wt
            .
disp:qsec
           .
disp:vs
            .
disp:am
            •
disp:gear
          .
disp:carb
           .
hp:drat
          .
hp:wt
           .
hp:qsec -0.001328046
hp:vs
          .
hp:am
           .
hp:gear
          .
hp:carb
drat:wt -0.337667877
drat:qsec 0.073725291
```

drat:vs	
drat:am	
drat:gear	
drat:carb	
wt:qsec	
wt:vs	
wt:am	
wt:gear	
wt:carb	
qsec:vs	
qsec:am	
qsec:gear	0.041623415
qsec:carb	
vs:am	2.429571498
vs:gear	
vs:carb	
am:gear	
am:carb	
gear:carb	

11.12 R-codes

methods-sec11.R