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# SISSO: Selecting Sparsifying Operators from a Computational and Data Efficiency Perspective

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Mario Boley<sup>1,2</sup>

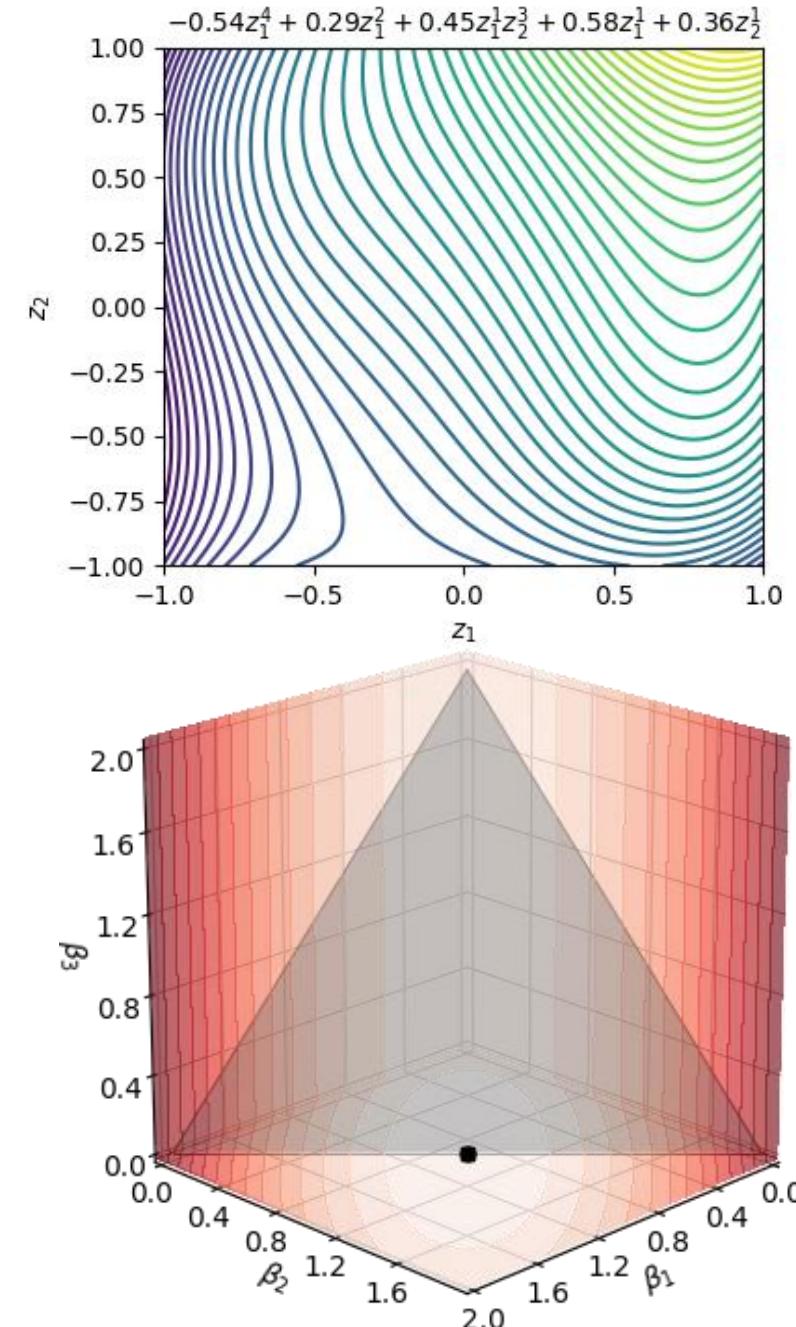
[mboley@is.haifa.ac.il](mailto:mboley@is.haifa.ac.il)

Simon Teshuba<sup>1</sup>, Felix Luong<sup>1</sup>, Daniel Schmidt<sup>1</sup>, Lucas Foppa<sup>3</sup>, and Matthias Scheffler<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Information Systems, University of Haifa

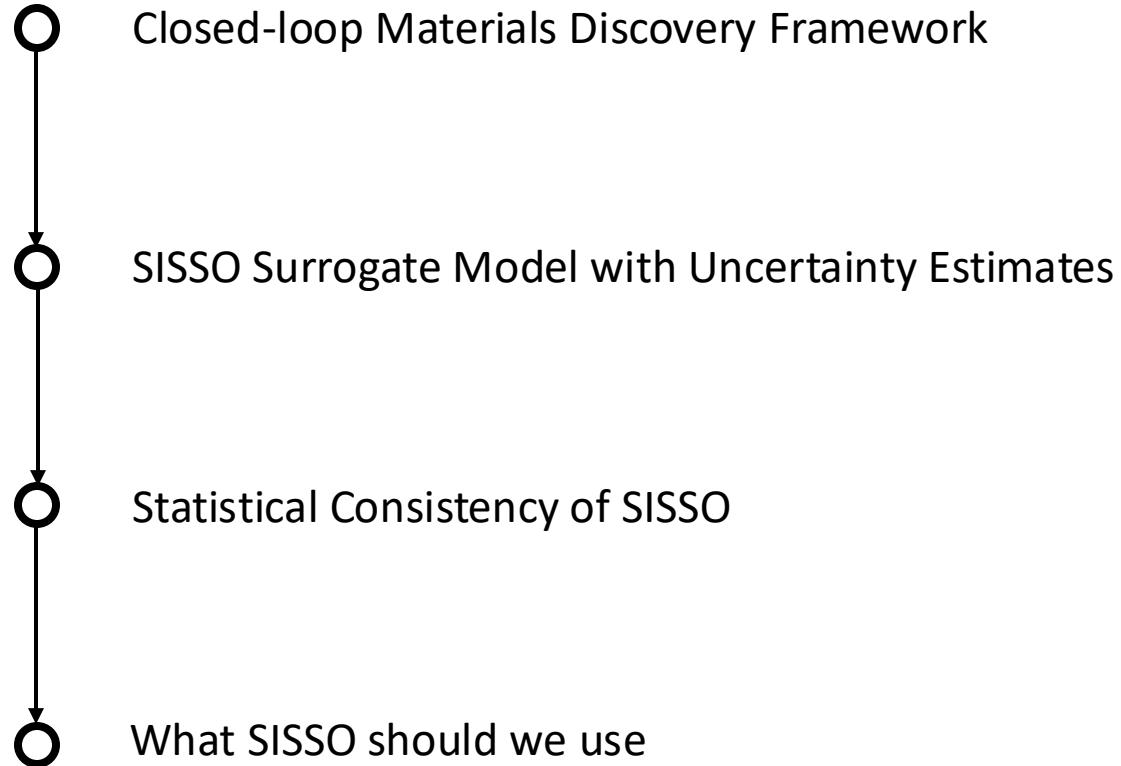
<sup>2</sup>Department of Data Science and AI, Monash University

<sup>3</sup>NOMAD Laboratory at FHI of Max-Planck-Gesellschaft



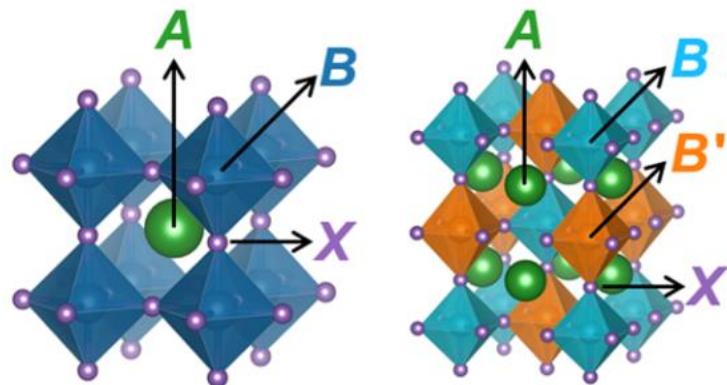
# How it all connects

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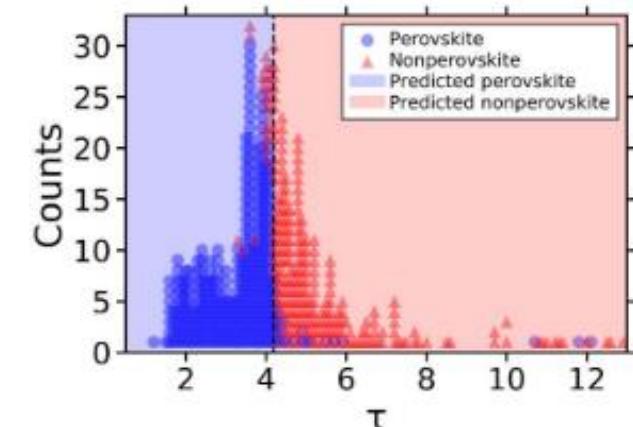


# SISSO: Symbolic Regression for Materials Properties

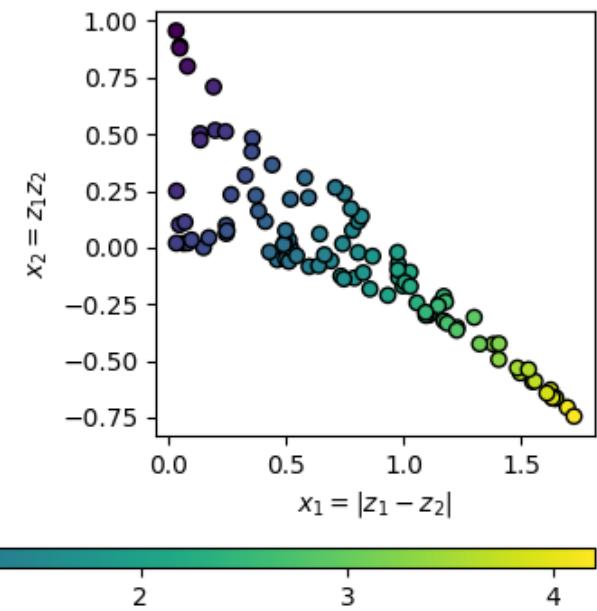
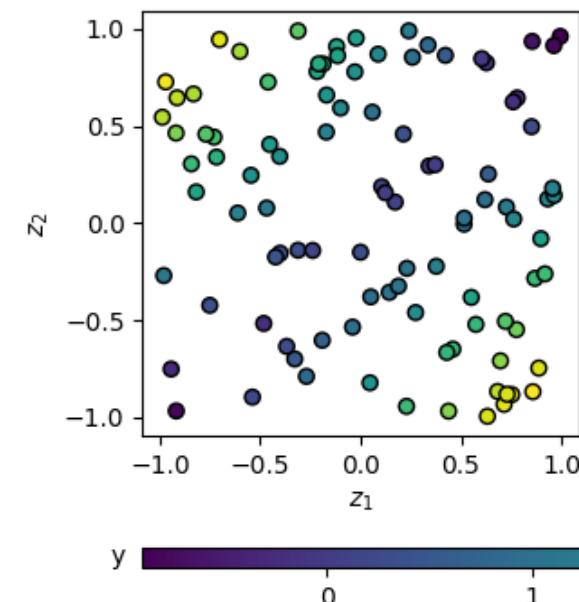
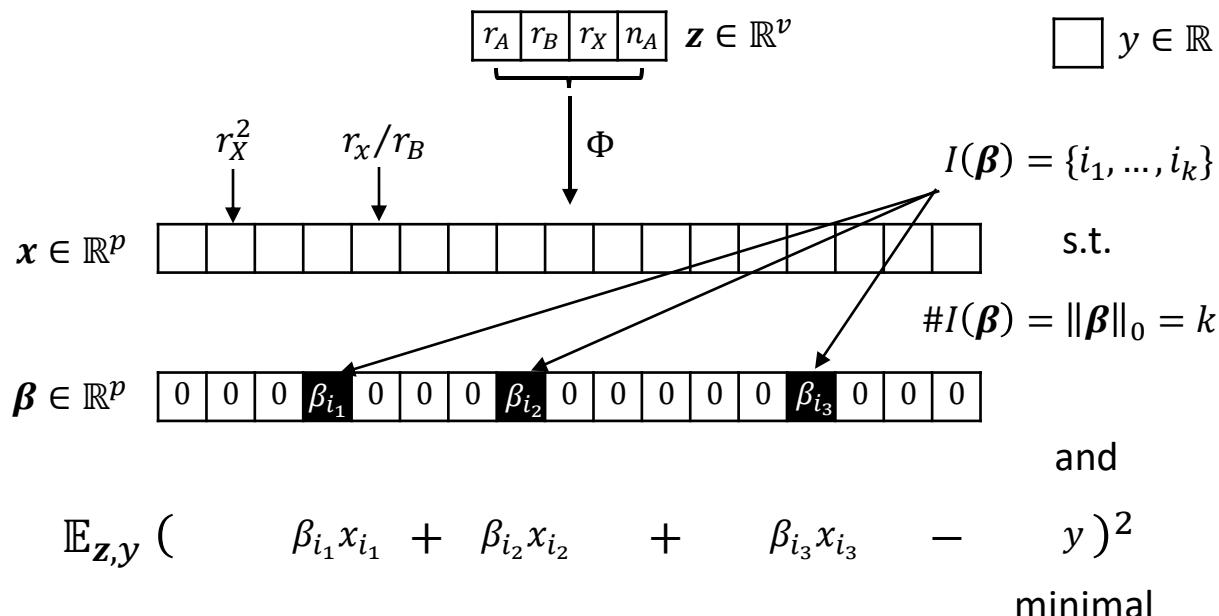
3



$$\log \frac{P(\text{stable})}{1 - P(\text{stable})} = \beta_1 \frac{r_X}{r_B} + \beta_2 n_A^2 - \beta_3 \frac{n_A r_A / r_B}{\ln(r_A / r_B)}$$



[Bartel, C. J., et al. (2019). New tolerance factor to predict the stability of perovskite oxides and halides. Sci. Adv. 5(2).]



[Ouyang et al. (2018). SISSO: A compressed-sensing method for low-dimensional descriptors. Phys. Rev. Mater. 2(8)]

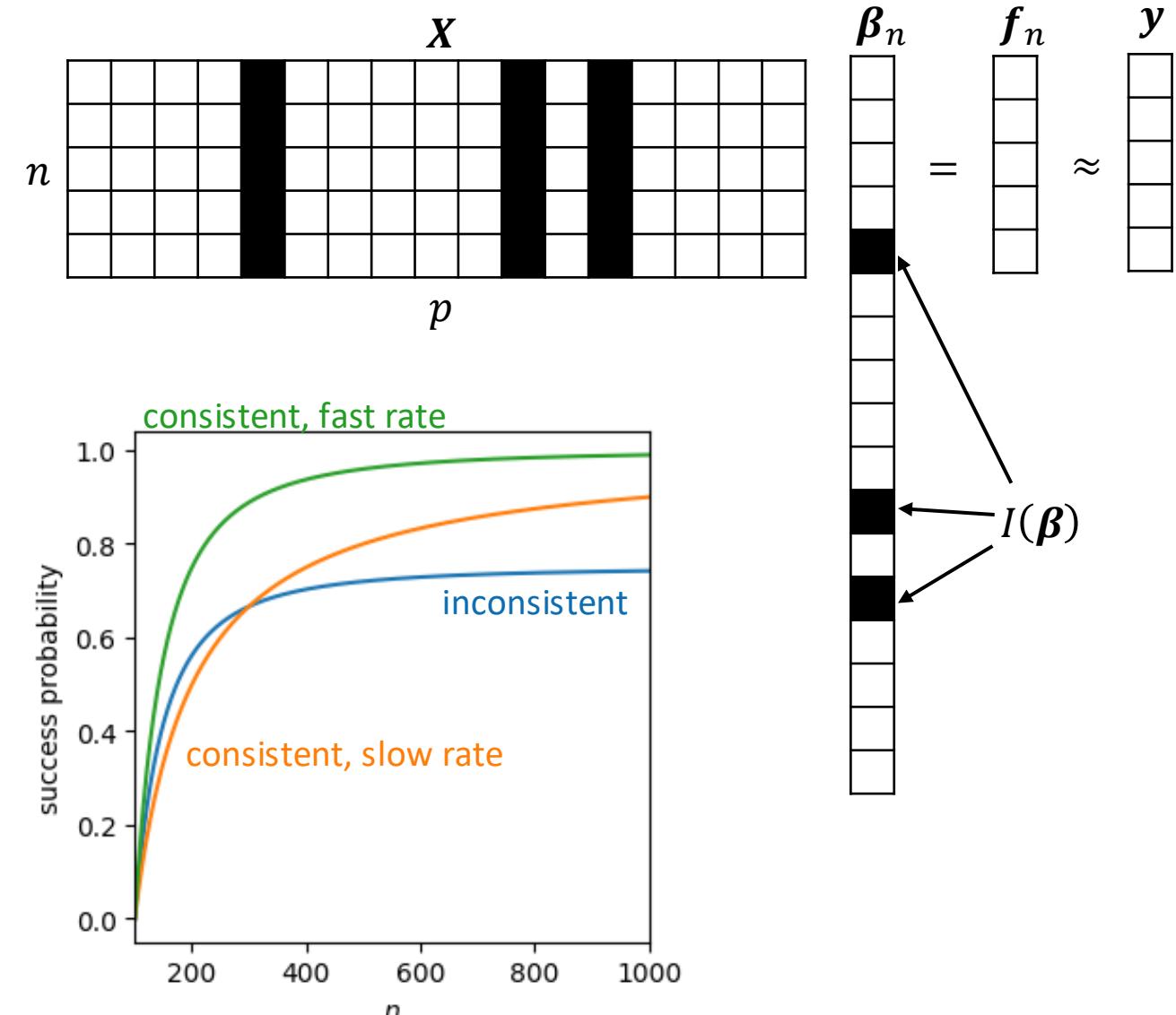
# Need to Select Subset via Data Sample

**Given:**

- input matrix  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$ , output vector  $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$  with rows sampled w.r.t. joint  $x, y$  distribution
- prescribed sparsity/complexity  $k \in \mathbb{N}$
- typically assume  $k < n \ll p$

**Goal:**

- identify  $\beta_* = \operatorname{argmin}\{\mathbb{E}(y - x^T \beta)^2 : \#I(\beta) = k\}$
- via sparse estimate  $\beta_n$  with  $\#I(\beta_n) = k$
- computationally efficiently, i.e., in time  $O(knp)$
- consistently, i.e.,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(I(\beta_n) = I(\beta_*)) = 1$
- with as fast a rate as possible



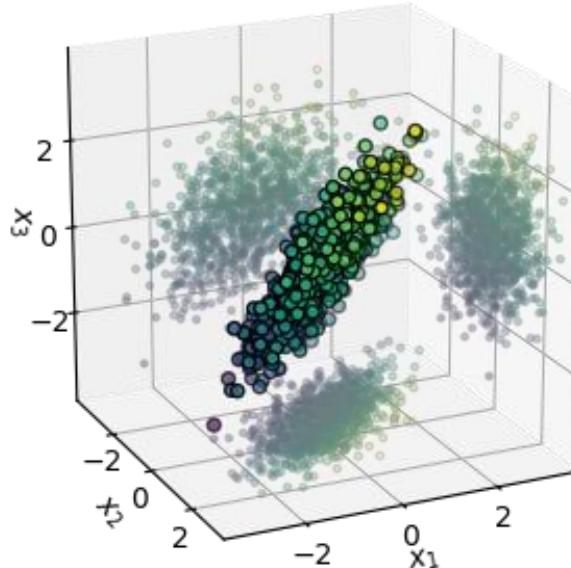
# There are many methods... that fail to reach goals

**Best-subset-search:**

$$\text{find } \boldsymbol{\beta}_n^{\text{BSS}} = \operatorname{argmin}\{\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}\|^2 : \#I(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = k\}$$

consistent (ordinary least squares parameter consistency)

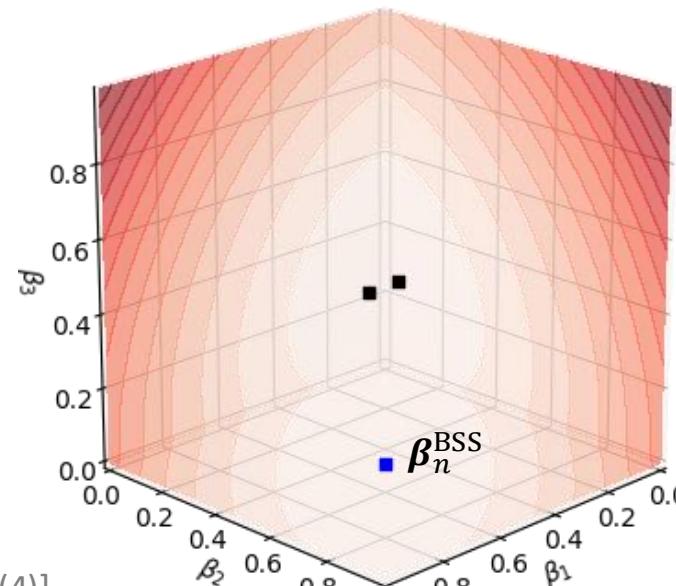
but computationally inefficient  $O(C_{p,k}(nk^2 + k^3))$



$$y = 0.5x_1 + 0.5x_2$$

$$x \sim N_3(0, C)$$

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3/4 & 0.3 \\ -3/4 & 1 & 0.3 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



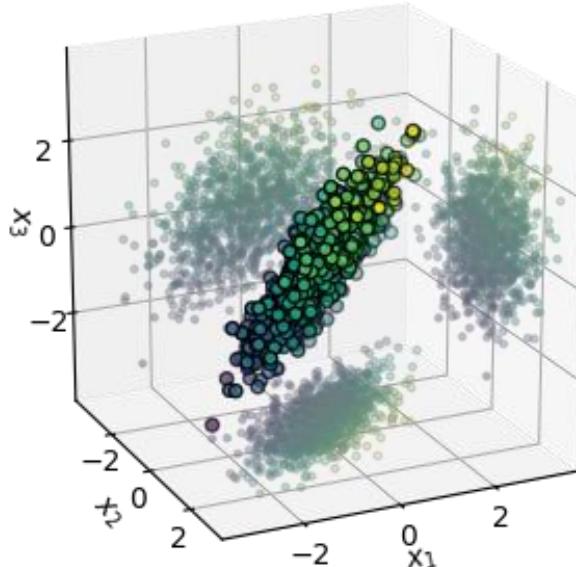
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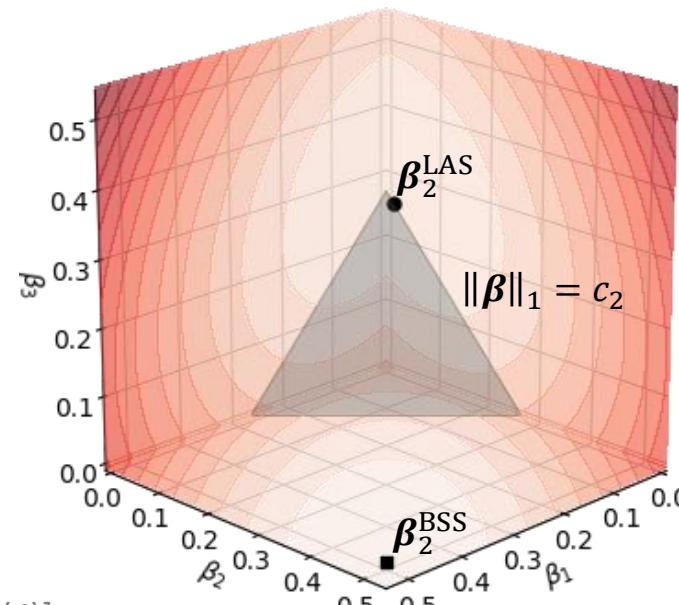
$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -3/4 & 0.3 \\ -3/4 & 1 & 0.3 \\ 0.3 & 0.3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

## LASSO:

find  $\beta_n^{\text{LAS}} = \operatorname{argmin}\{\|y - X\beta\|^2 : \|\beta\|_1 \leq c_k\}$

computationally **efficient**  $O(knp + k^3)$

but **inconsistent** for non-trivial correlation structure



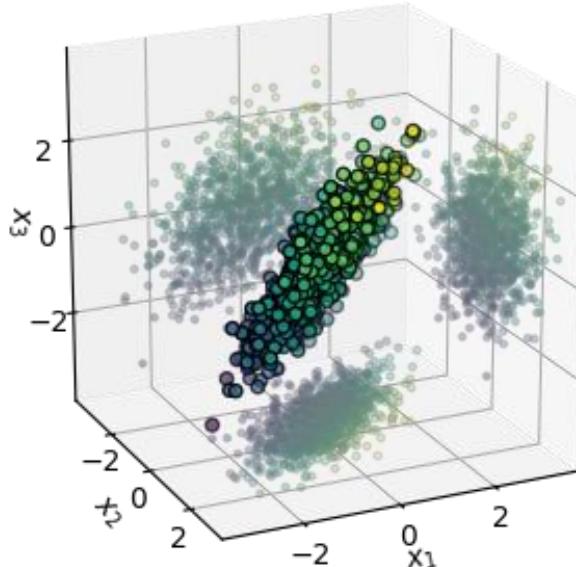
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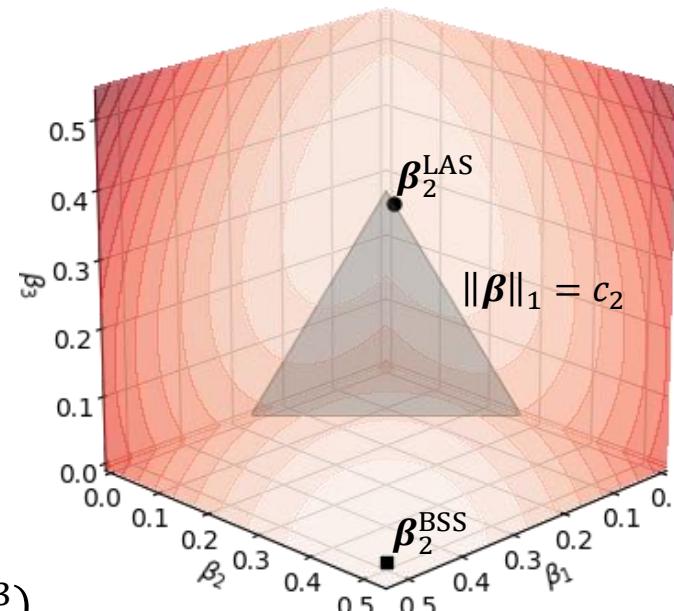
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computationally **efficient**  $O(knp + k^3)$

but **inconsistent** for non-trivial correlation structure



## Thresholded Minimum-Norm Least Squares:

find  $\beta = \operatorname{argmin} \left\{ \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0_+} \|y - X\beta\|^2 + \lambda \|\beta\|_2^2 \right\}$

and set  $\beta_j^{\text{TLS}} = \begin{cases} \beta_j, & \text{if } |\beta_j| \text{ among } k \text{ largest} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

**consistent** (although rate can be slow)

computationally **inefficient**  $O(np^2 + p^3)$  or  $O(n^2p + n^3)$

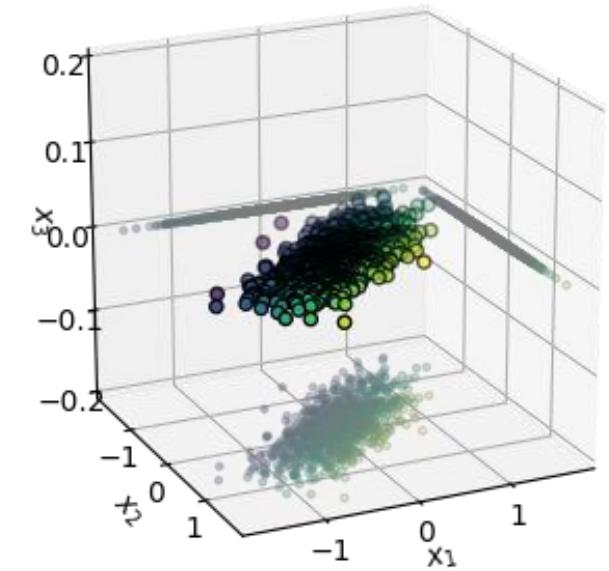
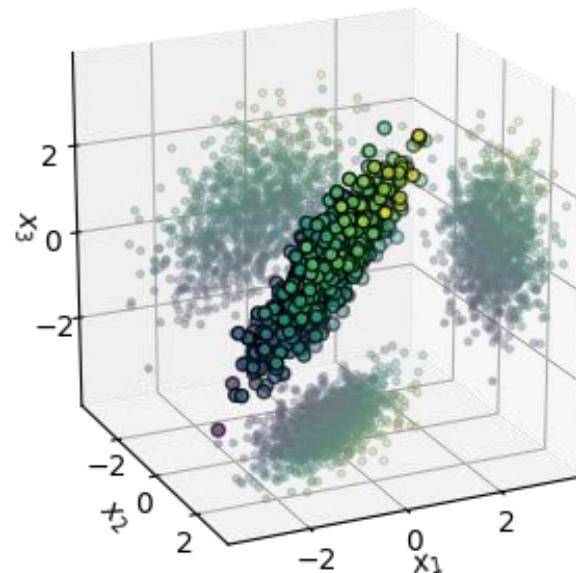
# There are many methods... that fail to reach goals

## Best-subset-search:

find  $\beta_n^{BSS} = \operatorname{argmin}\{\|y - X\beta\|^2 : \#I(\beta) = k\}$

**consistent** (ordinary least squares parameter consistency)

but computationally **inefficient**  $O(C_{p,k}(nk^2 + k^3))$



## LASSO:

find  $\beta_n^{LAS} = \operatorname{argmin}\{\|y - X\beta\|^2 : \|\beta\|_1 \leq c_k\}$

computationally **efficient**  $O(knp + k^3)$

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## Adaptive LASSO

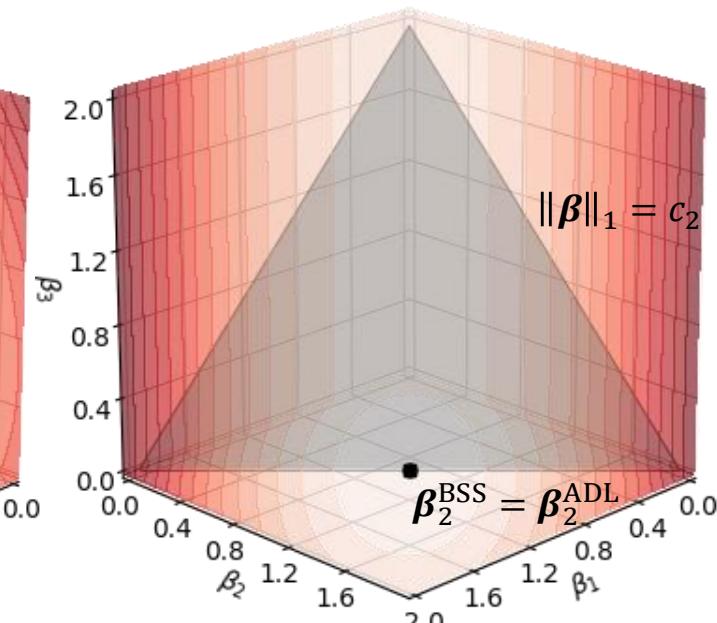
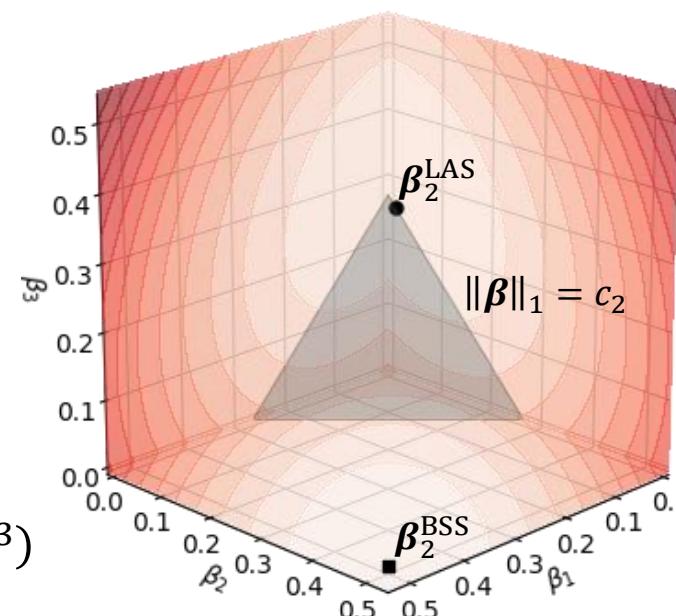
find  $\alpha = \operatorname{argmin} \left\{ \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0+} \|y - X\alpha\|^2 + \lambda \|\alpha\|_2^2 \right\}$

and  $\beta' = \operatorname{argmin} \|y - Z\beta'\|^2 + \lambda_k \|\beta'\|_1$

and  $\beta_j = |\alpha_j| \beta'_j$  where  $z_{i,j} = |\alpha_j| x_{i,j}$

**consistent** (oracle rate in parameter reconstruction)

computationally **inefficient**  $O(np^2 + p^3)$  or  $O(n^2p + n^3)$



# SIS or "Correlation Learning" Reduces Complexity

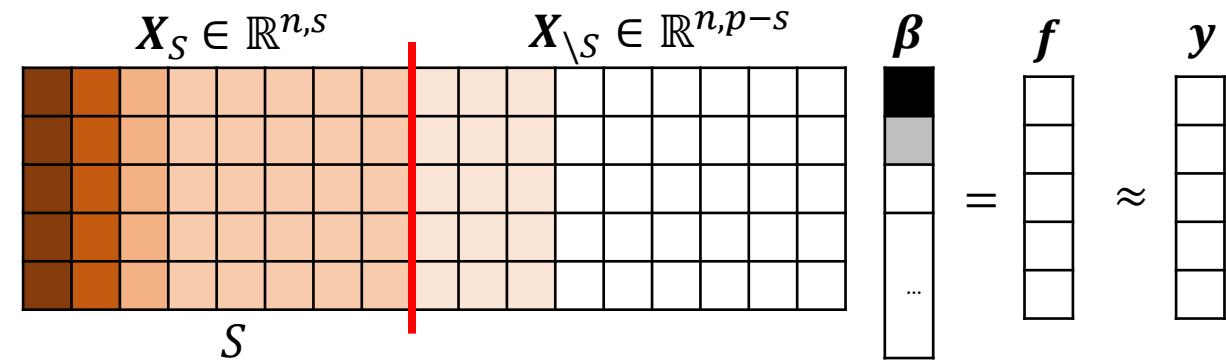
**SIS+SO:**

find  $S = \{j_1, \dots, j_s\}$  where  $|\tilde{x}_j^T y| \geq |\tilde{x}_{j+1}^T y|$  for  $1 \leq j < p$

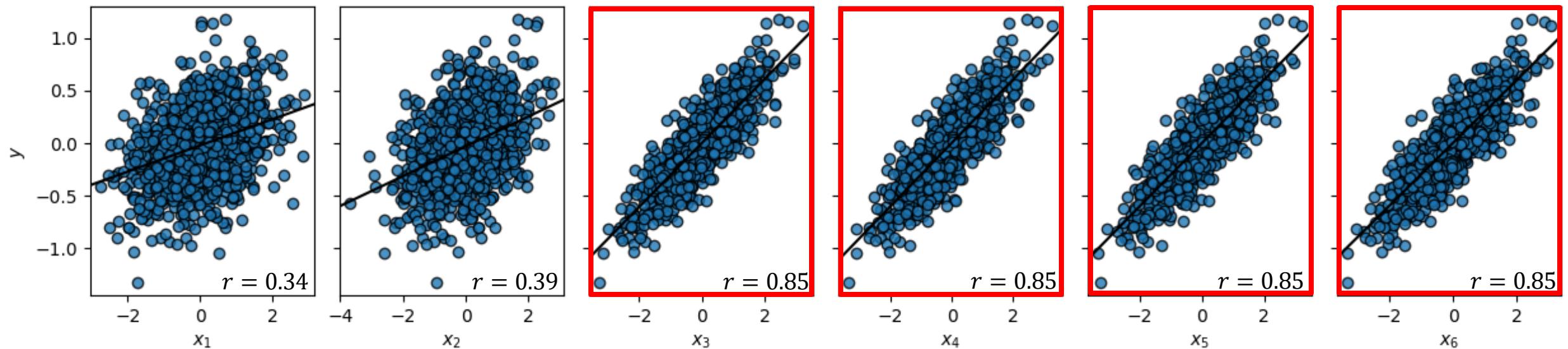
and apply SO to sub-matrix  $\beta_n^{SO}(X_S, y)$

computationally **efficient** for **small  $s$** :  $O(np + T_{SO}(k, n, s))$

but **inconsistent** if  $s$  too small



$$y = 0.5x_1 + 0.5x_2$$



# SISSO is an Iterative Correlation Learning Procedure

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**SISSO:**

set  $\mathbf{r}_1 = \mathbf{y}$

for  $l = 1, \dots, k$ :

find  $S_l = \{j_1, \dots, j_s\}$  s.t.  $|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_j^T \mathbf{r}_l| \geq |\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{j+1}^T \mathbf{r}_l|$  for  $1 \leq j < p$

set  $\boldsymbol{\beta}_{l,n}^{\text{SISSO}} = \boldsymbol{\beta}_{l,n}^{\text{SO}}(\mathbf{X}_S, \mathbf{y})$  with  $S = S_1 \cup \dots \cup S_l$

and  $\mathbf{r}_{l+1} = \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}_S \boldsymbol{\beta}_{l,n}^{\text{SISSO}}$

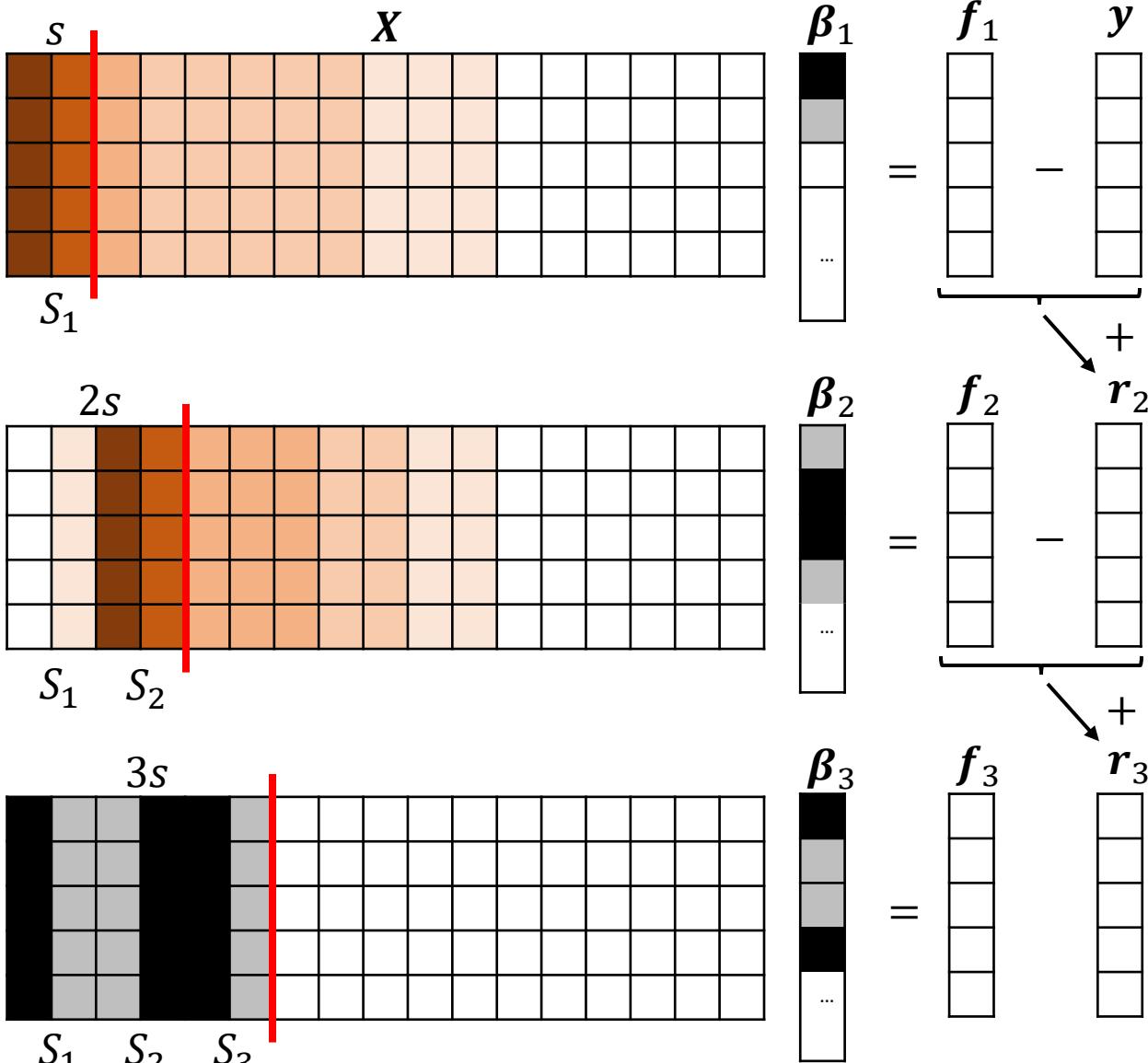
**Fundamental Questions:**

1. What  $s$  **computationally efficient**, i.e., what is  $s_{\max}$  st  $T_{\text{ICL}}^{\text{SO}} \in O(knp + \sum_{l=1}^k T_{\text{SO}}(l, n, ls_{\max})) \leq c_0 + c_1 knp$ ?
2. What SO is **consistent** / performs best when choosing **optimal  $s \leq s_{\max}$** ?
3. Can performance be retained when choosing  $s$  **data-driven**?

[Barut et al. (2016) *Conditional sure independence screening* JASA 111(515)]

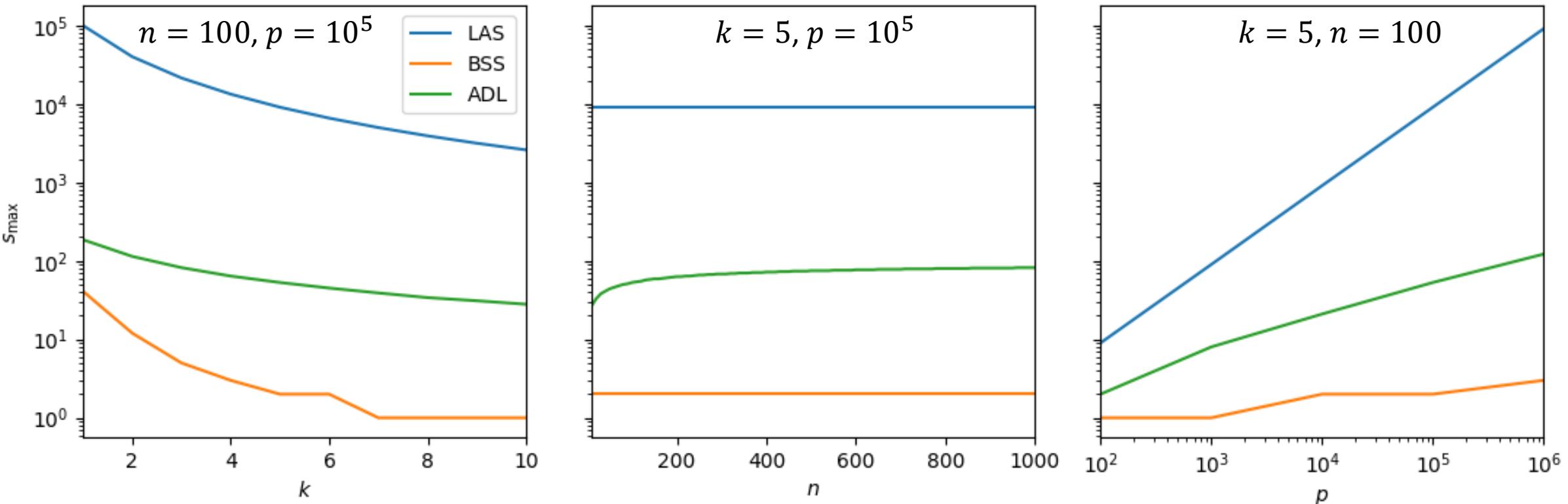
[Fan, J., Lv, J. (2008) *Sure independence screening* J. R. Stat. Soc. Ser. B 70(5)]

[Ouyang et al. (2018) *SISSO: A compressed-sensing method for low-dimensional descriptors* Phys. Rev. Mater. 2(8)]



# Computationally Feasible Pool Increment Values

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**General definition:**

$$s_{\max}(k, n, p) = \max\{s \in \mathbb{N}: T_{\text{ICL}}(k, n, p, s) \leq c_0 + c_1 knp\}$$

**Lasso:**

$$s_{\max}^{\text{LAS}} \in \Theta(p/k^2)$$

**Best-subset-search:**

$$s_{\max}^{\text{BSS}} \in \Theta(\sqrt[k]{p})$$

**Adaptive Lasso:**

$$s_{\max}^{\text{BSS}} \in O\left(\min\left((\sqrt{p}, \sqrt[3]{np})\right)/k\right) \cap \Omega\left(\sqrt[3]{p/k^2}\right)$$

# Evaluation over Wide Range of Functions

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Ten correlated **normal primary inputs**

$$\mathbf{z} \sim N_{10}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{C}), C_{i,j} = 0.8^{|i-j|}$$

Degree  $d = 1, 2, \dots, 7$  **multinomial feature maps**

$$\Phi_d = \{\boldsymbol{\varphi} \in \mathbb{N}^{10}: \|\boldsymbol{\varphi}\|_1 \leq d\}$$

$$x_{\boldsymbol{\varphi}} = \mathbf{z}^{\boldsymbol{\varphi}} = z_1^{\varphi_1} z_2^{\varphi_2} \dots z_{10}^{\varphi_{10}}$$

$$\mathbf{x} = (z_1^d, z_1^{d-1} z_2, z_1^{d-2} z_2 z_3, \dots, z_{10}^2, z_1, \dots, z_9, z_{10})$$

Random **sparse polynomials**

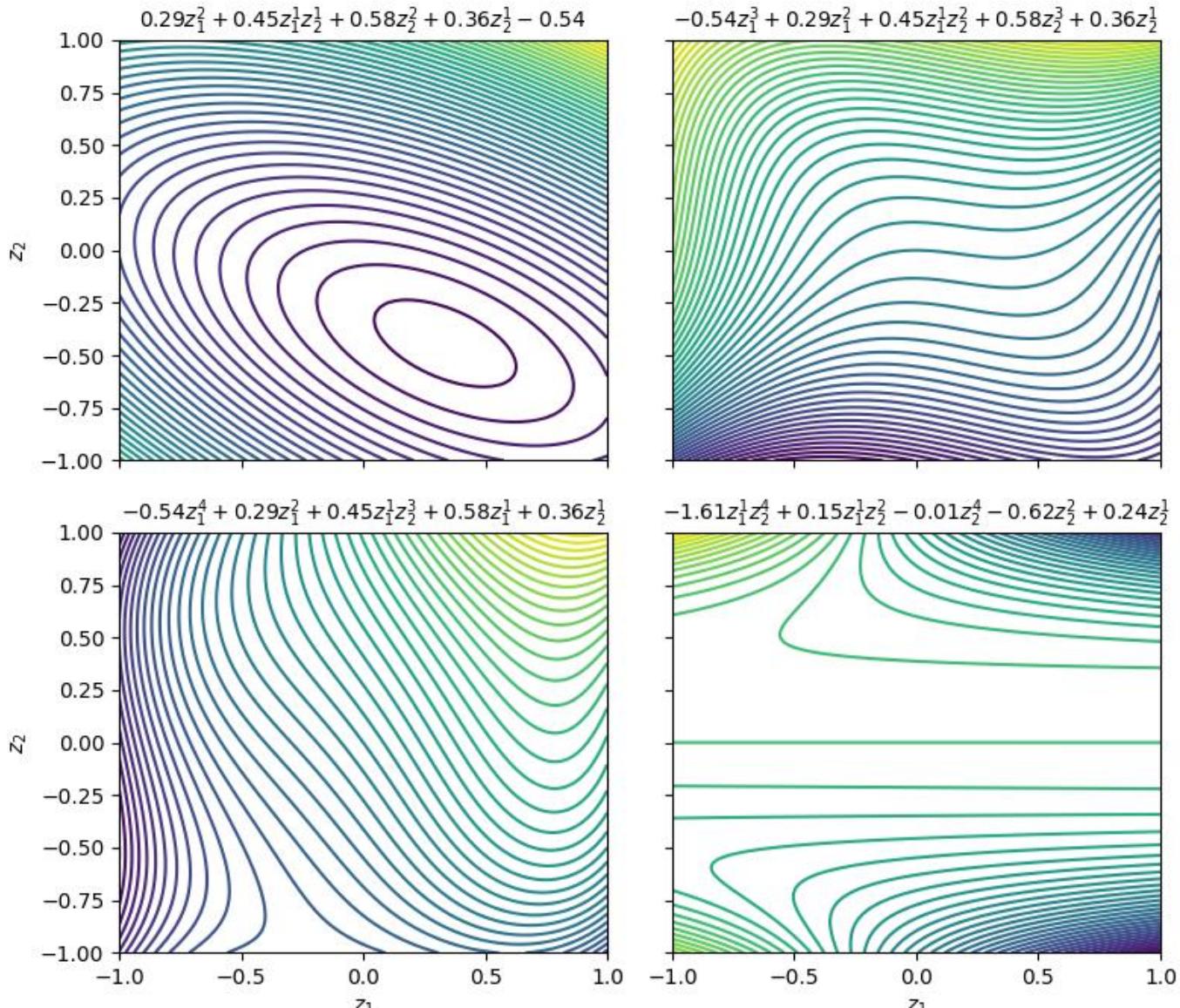
$$R = \{\boldsymbol{\varphi} \in \Phi: \varphi_6 = \dots = \varphi_{10} = 0\}$$

$$I^* \sim \text{Unif}(\{I \subseteq R: |I| = 5\})$$

$$\beta_j^* \sim N(0, \sigma_j^{-1}) \text{ for } j \in I^* \text{ and } \beta_j^* = 0 \text{ for } j \notin I^*$$

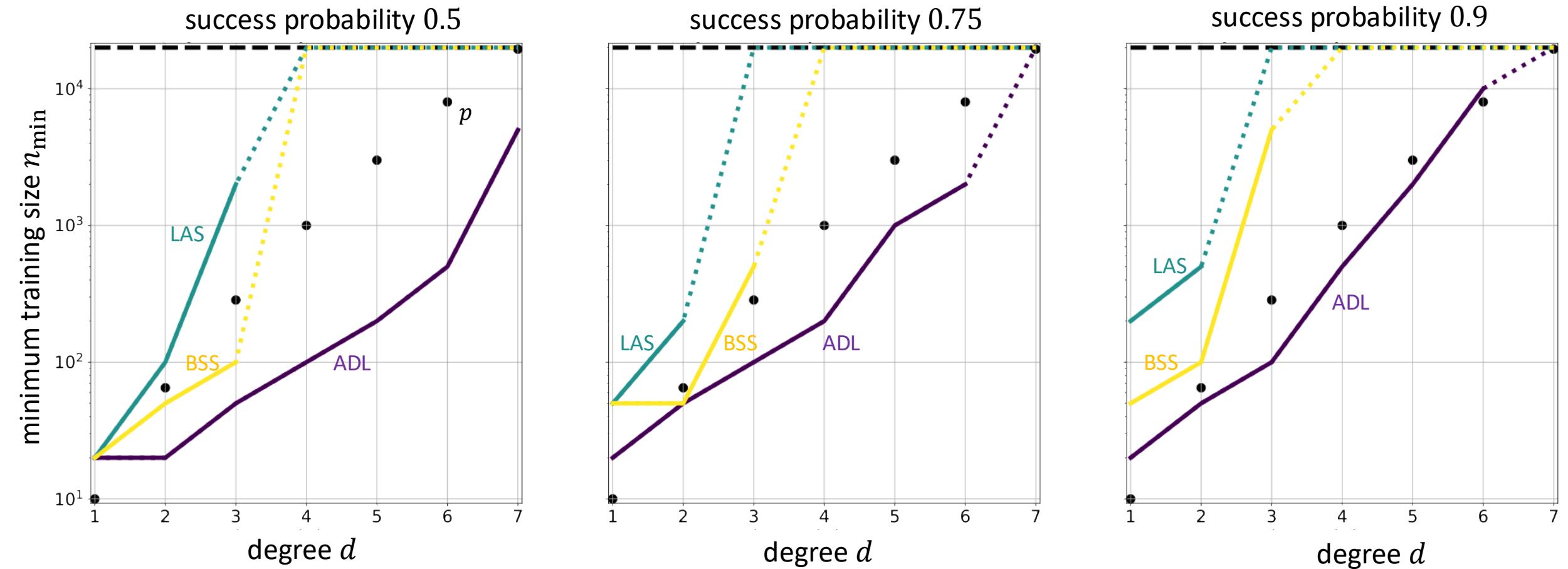
Ten polynomials per degree

Ten datasets per polynomial



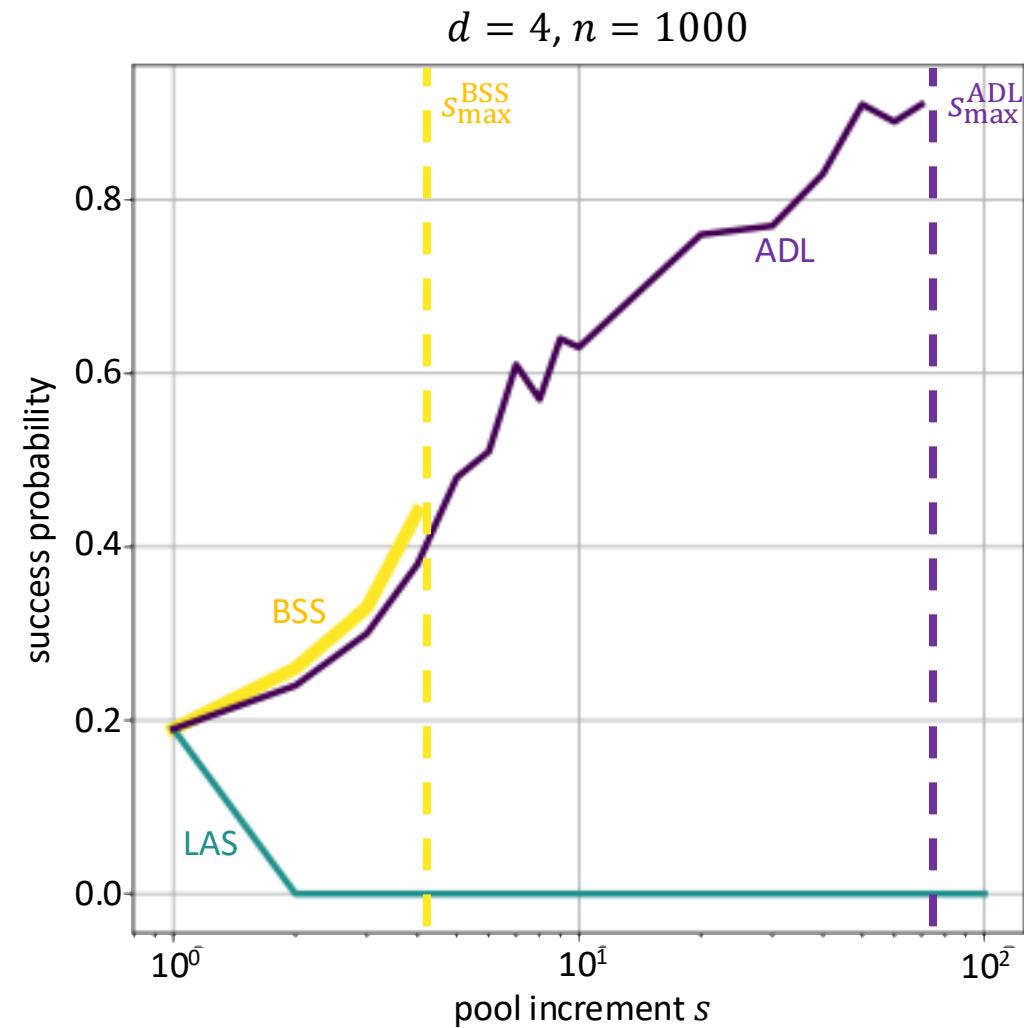
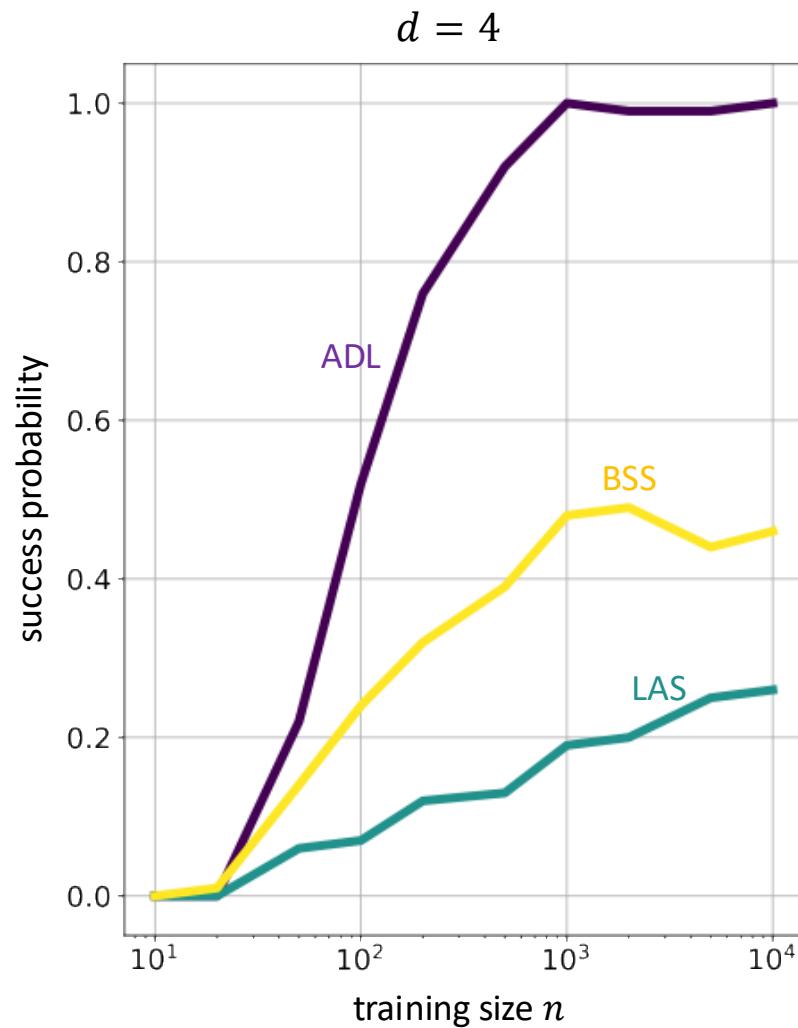
# Adaptive Lasso Best-performing Sparsifying Operator

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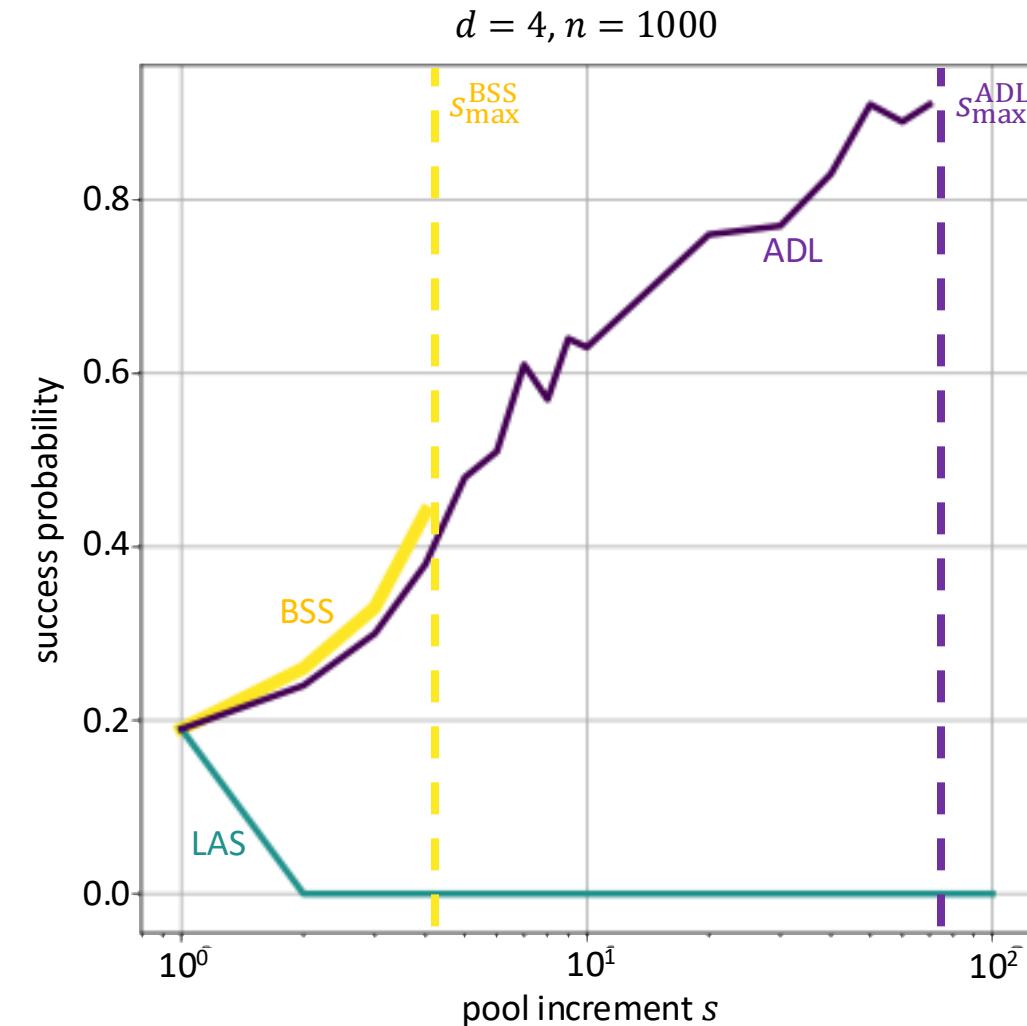
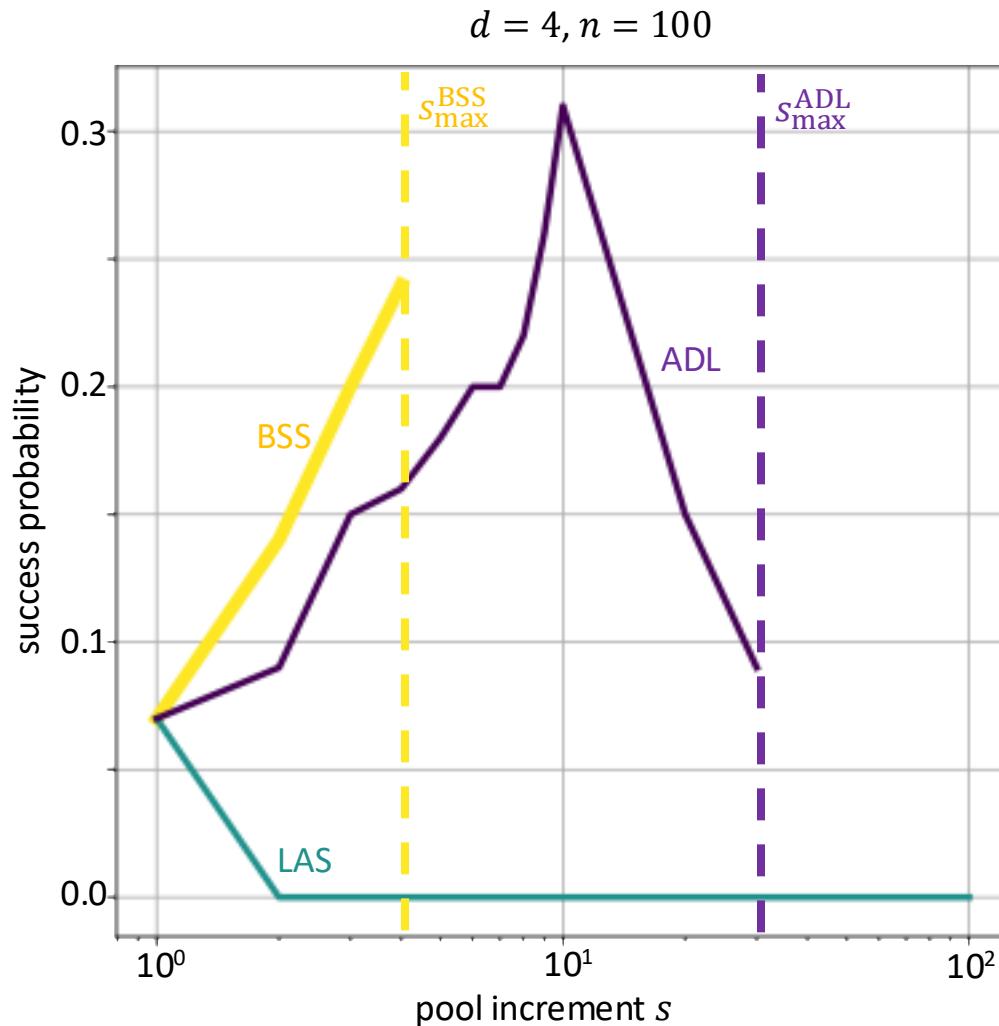
# Advantage due Larger Range of Available $s$ values

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# Maximum Pool Increment is not Always Optimal

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# Advantage Retained with Data-driven Selection

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**In practice:**  $s_*$  unknown and  $s$  needs to be selected based on fixed rule or data, e.g., via cross validation:

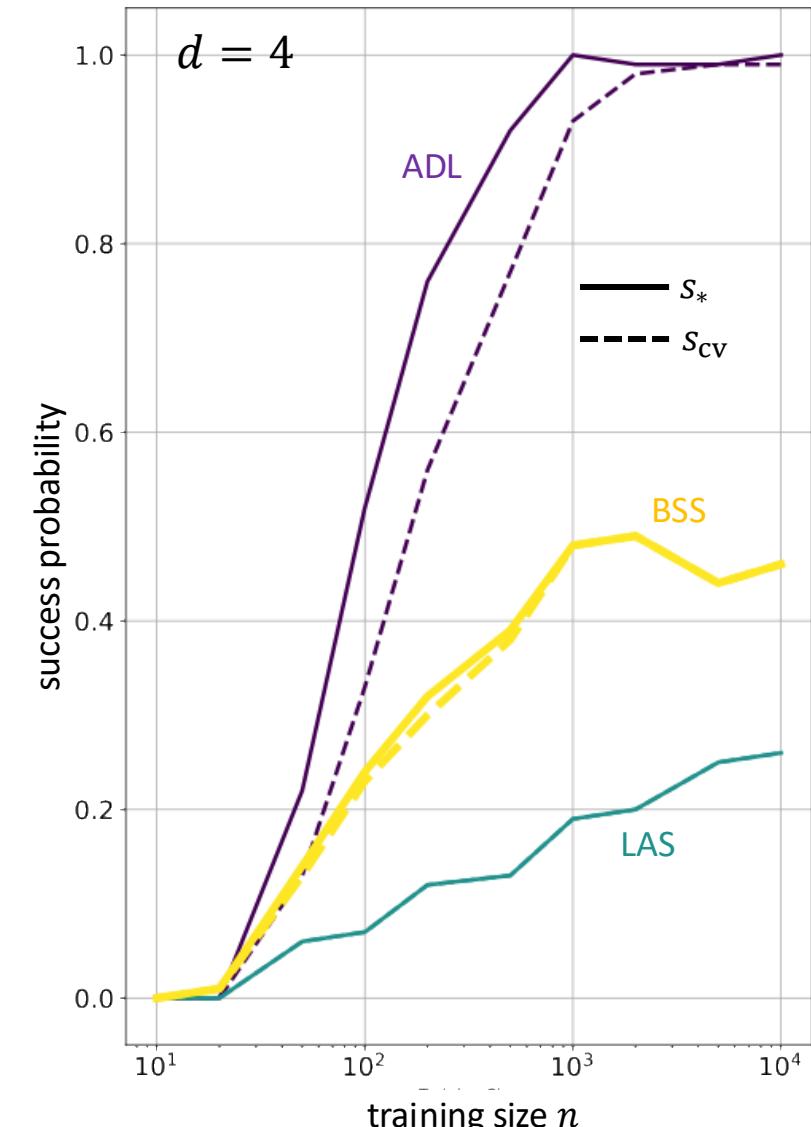
- $s_{cv} = \operatorname{argmin}\left\{\sum_{l=1}^{10} \|X_l \beta_l - y_l\|^2 : 1 \leq s \leq s_{max}\right\}$
- $\beta_l = \beta(X_{\setminus l}, y_{\setminus l}, s)$

**Note:** selection problem hardest for adaptive Lasso

- **BSS:** only few feasible  $s$  and  $s = s_{max}$  tends to work well
- **Lasso:** generally want very small  $s$  (1 or 2), i.e., slightly relaxed matching pursuit works better than Lasso
- **Adaptive Lasso:** relatively wide range available and need to trade off selection of relevant versus irrelevant variables

## Result

- While data-driven selection reduces adaptive Lasso performance, marked advantage retained over BSS
- ...at least for degree 4 polynomials (limit due to 10x comp. cost)



# Conclusion

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## Summary

- Investigate **identification consistency** and convergence rates of SISSO methods under explicit **computational constraint**
- **Adaptive Lasso** appears to be attractive SO, combining consistency with relative computational efficiency
- Indeed, **outperforms BSS and Lasso** in wide range of practical problems and retained when using **cross validation** to choose pool increment

## Future

- **Theoretical bounds** for SISSO success probability
- Translation to **materials properties** modelling
- **Sparse regression estimators** with computational cost between ADL and BSS, e.g., SCAD, Dantzig Selector, iterative thresholding?

