

# Package ‘CVglasso’

July 21, 2025

**Type** Package

**Title** Lasso Penalized Precision Matrix Estimation

**Version** 1.0

**Date** 2018-05-31

**Description** Estimates a lasso penalized precision matrix via the blockwise coordinate descent (BCD). This package is a simple wrapper around the popular 'glasso' package that extends and enhances its capabilities. These enhancements include built-in cross validation and visualizations.  
See Friedman et al (2008) <[doi:10.1093/biostatistics/kxm045](https://doi.org/10.1093/biostatistics/kxm045)> for details regarding the estimation method.

**URL** <https://github.com/MGallow/CVglasso>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/MGallow/CVglasso/issues>

**License** GPL (>= 2)

**ByteCompile** TRUE

**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyData** true

**RoxxygenNote** 6.0.1

**Imports** stats, parallel, foreach, ggplot2, dplyr, glasso

**Depends** doParallel

**Suggests** testthat

**NeedsCompilation** no

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**Repository** CRAN

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CVglasso

*Penalized precision matrix estimation***Description**

Penalized precision matrix estimation using the graphical lasso (glasso) algorithm. Consider the case where  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  are iid  $N_p(\mu, \Sigma)$  and we are tasked with estimating the precision matrix, denoted  $\Omega \equiv \Sigma^{-1}$ . This function solves the following optimization problem:

**Objective:**  $\hat{\Omega}_\lambda = \arg \min_{\Omega \in S_+^p} \{Tr(S\Omega) - \log \det(\Omega) + \lambda \|\Omega\|_1\}$

where  $\lambda > 0$  and we define  $\|A\|_1 = \sum_{i,j} |A_{ij}|$ .

**Usage**

```
CVglasso(X = NULL, S = NULL, nlam = 10, lam.min.ratio = 0.01,
  lam = NULL, diagonal = FALSE, path = FALSE, tol = 1e-04,
  maxit = 10000, adjmaxit = NULL, K = 5, crit.cv = c("loglik", "AIC",
  "BIC"), start = c("warm", "cold"), cores = 1, trace = c("progress",
  "print", "none"), ...)
```

**Arguments**

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| X             | option to provide a nxp data matrix. Each row corresponds to a single observation and each column contains n observations of a single feature/variable.                                                                                                                                                               |
| S             | option to provide a pxp sample covariance matrix (denominator n). If argument is NULL and X is provided instead then S will be computed automatically.                                                                                                                                                                |
| nlam          | number of lam tuning parameters for penalty term generated from lam.min.ratio and lam.max (automatically generated). Defaults to 10.                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| lam.min.ratio | smallest lam value provided as a fraction of lam.max. The function will automatically generate nlam tuning parameters from lam.min.ratio*lam.max to lam.max in log10 scale. lam.max is calculated to be the smallest lam such that all off-diagonal entries in Omega are equal to zero (alpha = 1). Defaults to 1e-2. |
| lam           | option to provide positive tuning parameters for penalty term. This will cause nlam and lam.min.ratio to be disregarded. If a vector of parameters is provided, they should be in increasing order. Defaults to NULL.                                                                                                 |
| diagonal      | option to penalize the diagonal elements of the estimated precision matrix ( $\Omega$ ). Defaults to FALSE.                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| path          | option to return the regularization path. This option should be used with extreme care if the dimension is large. If set to TRUE, cores must be set to 1 and errors and optimal tuning parameters will be based on the full sample. Defaults to FALSE.                                                                |
| tol           | convergence tolerance. Iterations will stop when the average absolute difference in parameter estimates is less than tol times multiple. Defaults to 1e-4.                                                                                                                                                            |
| maxit         | maximum number of iterations. Defaults to 1e4.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>adjmaxit</code> | adjusted maximum number of iterations. During cross validation this option allows the user to adjust the maximum number of iterations after the first <code>lam</code> tuning parameter has converged. This option is intended to be paired with <code>warm</code> starts and allows for 'one-step' estimators. Defaults to <code>NULL</code> . |
| <code>K</code>        | specify the number of folds for cross validation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <code>crit.cv</code>  | cross validation criterion ( <code>loglik</code> , <code>AIC</code> , or <code>BIC</code> ). Defaults to <code>loglik</code> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <code>start</code>    | specify <code>warm</code> or <code>cold</code> start for cross validation. Default is <code>warm</code> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <code>cores</code>    | option to run CV in parallel. Defaults to <code>cores = 1</code> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <code>trace</code>    | option to display progress of CV. Choose one of <code>progress</code> to print a progress bar, <code>print</code> to print completed tuning parameters, or <code>none</code> .                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <code>...</code>      | additional arguments to pass to <code>glasso</code> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

### Details

For details on the implementation of the 'glasso' function, see Tibshirani's website. <http://statweb.stanford.edu/~tibs/glasso/>.

### Value

returns class object `CVglasso` which includes:

|                         |                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>Call</code>       | function call.                                                                                         |
| <code>Iterations</code> | number of iterations                                                                                   |
| <code>Tuning</code>     | optimal tuning parameters ( <code>lam</code> and <code>alpha</code> ).                                 |
| <code>Lambdas</code>    | grid of <code>lambda</code> values for CV.                                                             |
| <code>maxit</code>      | maximum number of iterations for outer (blockwise) loop.                                               |
| <code>Omega</code>      | estimated penalized precision matrix.                                                                  |
| <code>Sigma</code>      | estimated covariance matrix from the penalized precision matrix (inverse of <code>Omega</code> ).      |
| <code>Path</code>       | array containing the solution path. Solutions will be ordered by ascending <code>lambda</code> values. |
| <code>MIN.error</code>  | minimum average cross validation error ( <code>cv.crit</code> ) for optimal parameters.                |
| <code>AVG.error</code>  | average cross validation error ( <code>cv.crit</code> ) across all folds.                              |
| <code>CV.error</code>   | cross validation errors ( <code>cv.crit</code> ).                                                      |

### Author(s)

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## References

- Friedman, Jerome, Trevor Hastie, and Robert Tibshirani. 'Sparse inverse covariance estimation with the graphical lasso.' *Biostatistics* 9.3 (2008): 432-441.
- Banerjee, Onureen, Ghauoui, Laurent El, and d'Aspremont, Alexandre. 2008. 'Model Selection through Sparse Maximum Likelihood Estimation for Multivariate Gaussian or Binary Data.' *Journal of Machine Learning Research* 9: 485-516.
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- Tibshirani, Robert, Bien, Jacob, Friedman, Jerome, Hastie, Trevor, Simon, Noah, Jonathan, Taylor, and Tibshirani, Ryan J. 'Strong Rules for Discarding Predictors in Lasso-Type Problems.' *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series B (Statistical Methodology)*. Wiley Online Library 74 (2): 245-266.
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- Osborne, Michael R, Presnell, Brett, and Turlach, Berwin A. 'On the Lasso and its Dual.' *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics*. Taylor and Francis 9 (2): 319-337.
- Rothman, Adam. 2017. 'STAT 8931 notes on an algorithm to compute the Lasso-penalized Gaussian likelihood precision matrix estimator.'

## See Also

[plot.CVglasso](#)

## Examples

```
# generate data from a sparse matrix
# first compute covariance matrix
S = matrix(0.7, nrow = 5, ncol = 5)
for (i in 1:5){
  for (j in 1:5){
    S[i, j] = S[i, j]^abs(i - j)
  }
}

# generate 100 x 5 matrix with rows drawn from iid N_p(0, S)
Z = matrix(rnorm(100*5), nrow = 100, ncol = 5)
out = eigen(S, symmetric = TRUE)
S.sqrt = out$vectors %*% diag(out$values^0.5)
S.sqrt = S.sqrt %*% t(out$vectors)
X = Z %*% S.sqrt

# lasso penalty CV
CVglasso(X)
```

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|               |                             |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| plot.CVglasso | <i>Plot CVglasso object</i> |
|---------------|-----------------------------|

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### Description

Produces a plot for the cross validation errors, if available.

### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'CVglasso'
plot(x, type = c("line", "heatmap"), footnote = TRUE,
     ...)
```

### Arguments

|          |                                                               |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| x        | class object CVglasso                                         |
| type     | produce either 'heatmap' or 'line' graph                      |
| footnote | option to print footnote of optimal values. Defaults to TRUE. |
| ...      | additional arguments.                                         |

### Examples

```
# generate data from a sparse matrix
# first compute covariance matrix
S = matrix(0.7, nrow = 5, ncol = 5)
for (i in 1:5){
  for (j in 1:5){
    S[i, j] = S[i, j]^abs(i - j)
  }
}

# generate 100 x 5 matrix with rows drawn from iid N_p(0, S)
Z = matrix(rnorm(100*5), nrow = 100, ncol = 5)
out = eigen(S, symmetric = TRUE)
S.sqrt = out$vectors %*% diag(out$values^0.5)
S.sqrt = S.sqrt %*% t(out$vectors)
X = Z %*% S.sqrt

# produce line graph for CVglasso
plot(CVglasso(X))

# produce CV heat map for CVglasso
plot(CVglasso(X), type = 'heatmap')
```

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