

# Prism: Multiple spline regression with regularization, dimensionality reduction, and feature selection

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**Software Repository:** <https://github.com/cMadan/prism>

**Software Archive:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.56821>

## Summary

Prism uses a combination of statistical methods to conduct spline-based multiple regression. Prism conducts this regression using regularization, dimensionality reduction, and feature selection, through a combination of smoothing spline regression, PCA, and RVR/LASSO. Smoothing splines can be used to model non-parametric relationships using piece-wise cubic functions (Wahba and Wold 1975; Fox 2000). Relevance vector regression (RVR) refers to application of a relevance vector machine (RVM) to a regression problem; broadly, RVM is similar to multiple linear regression with regularization, using automatic relevance determination for feature selection (Tipping 2000). RVM shares many commonalities with SVM, and is implemented as a special case of a Sparse Bayesian framework (Tipping 2001; Tipping and Faul 2003).

Prism has been tested in MATLAB 2015b and requires three first-party toolboxes: (1) Curve Fitting Toolbox; (2) Statistics and Machine Learning Toolbox; (3) Signal Processing Toolbox. Relevance vector regression requires the SparseBayes V2 toolbox, which can be obtained from <http://www.relevancevector.com>.

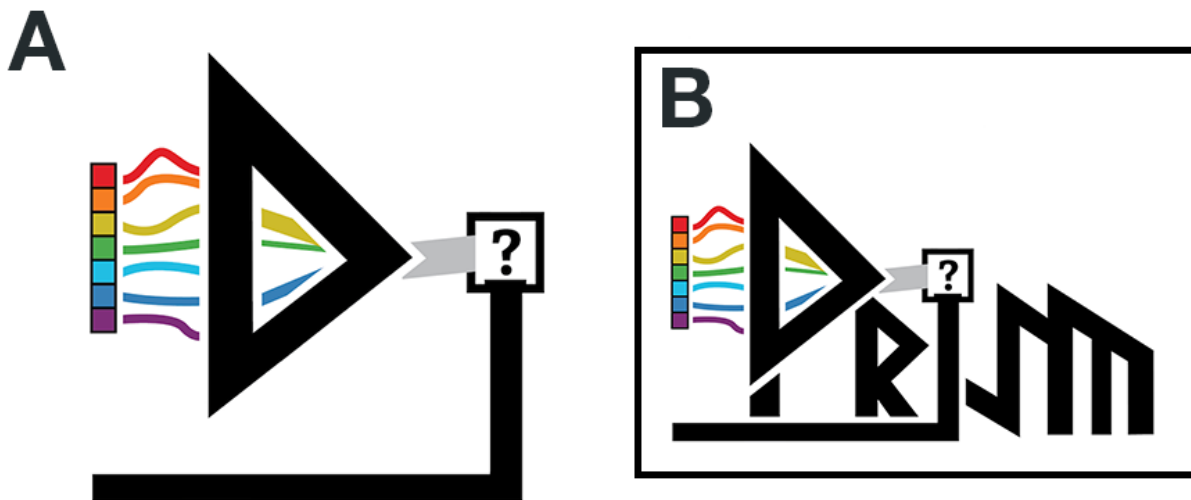


Figure 1: Illustration of Prism regression procedure, first conducting spline regression for each predictor,

followed by dimensionality reduction and feature selection (panel A). The logo for Prism is shown in panel B.

Prism was implemented for conducting multiple regression investigating age-related differences in brain morphology. While linear and quadratic regression are often used (e.g., Sowell et al. (2003); Hogstrom et al. (2013); Madan and Kensinger (2016)), it has been shown that non-linear (spline) regression is more appropriate (Fjell et al. 2010; Fjell et al. 2013).

## Example implementation

To provide an example of Prism’s implementation, see the ‘demo’ folder. `demo.mat` was generated using brain morphology data, where each column corresponds to a brain morphology measure. The test and training data are derived from independent MR sites, and the dependent variable is age. The data is from an unpublished study and the pre-processing pipeline is not finalized (e.g., correcting for site effects), so further information of the dataset is not provided at this time.

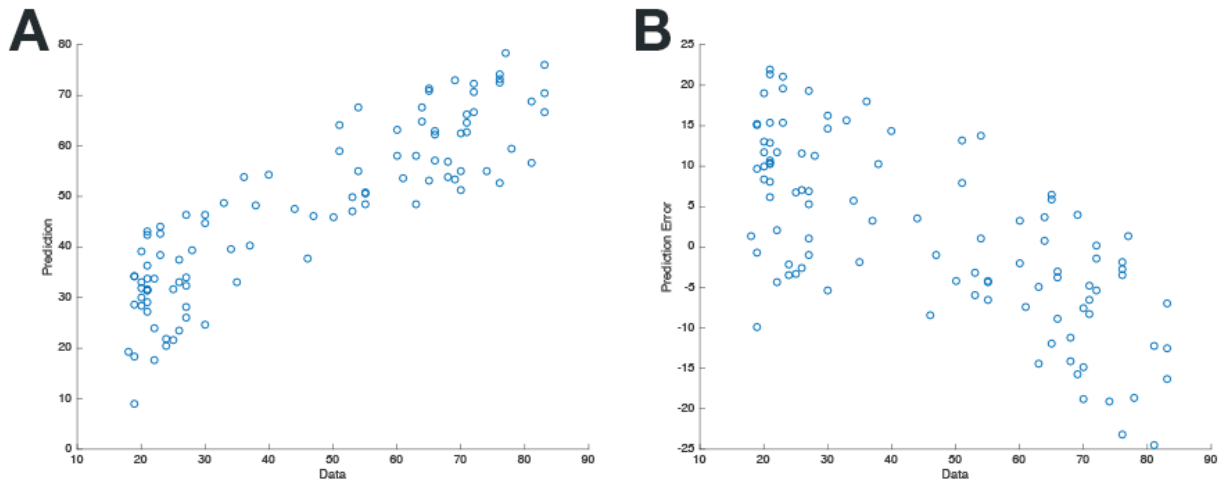


Figure 2: Output scatter plots for code in `demo.m`.

See README.md for further details.

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