



# Regression Retrieval Overview

Larry McMillin

Climate Research and Applications Division  
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and  
Information Service  
Washington, D.C.

[Larry.McMillin@noaa.gov](mailto:Larry.McMillin@noaa.gov)



Pick one - This is

- All you ever wanted to know about regression
- All you never wanted to know about regression



## Overview

- What is regression?
- How correlated predictors affect the solution
- Synthetic regression or real regression?
- Regression with constraints
- Theory and applications
- Classification
- Normalized regression
- AMSU sample
- Recommendations

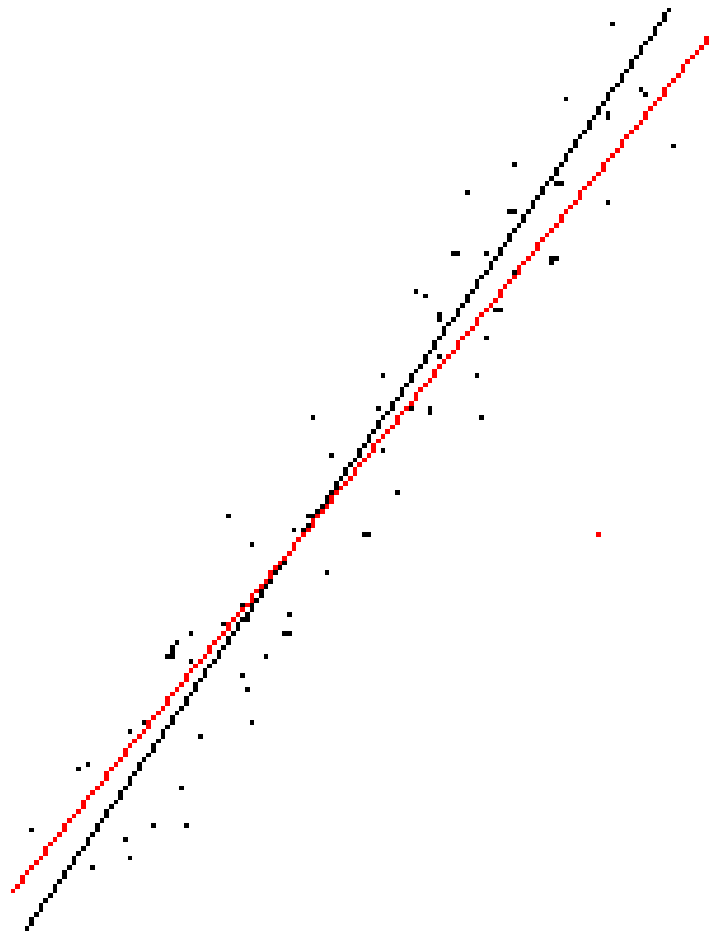


## Regression - What are we trying to do?

- Obtain the estimate with the lowest RMS error.
- Or
- Obtain the true relationship



Which line do we want?





## Considerations

- Single predictors
  - Easy
- Multiple uncorrelated predictors
  - Easy
- Multiple predictors with correlations
  - Assume two predictors are highly correlated and each has a noise
  - Difference is small with a larger noise than any of the two
    - And that is the problem
- Theoretical approach is hard for these cases
  - If there is an independent component, then you want the difference
  - If they are perfectly correlated, then you want to average to reduce noise



## Considerations continued

- Observational approach using stepwise regression
- Stability depends on the ratio of predictors to the predictands
- Stepwise steps
  - 1. Find the predictor with the highest correlation with the predictand
  - 2. Generate the regression coefficient
  - 3. Make the predictands orthogonal to the selected predictor
  - 4. Make all remaining predictors orthogonal to the selected predictor
- Problem
  - When two predictors are highly correlated and one is removed, the calculation of correlation of the other one involves a division by essentially zero
  - The other predictor is selected next
  - The predictors end up with large coefficients of opposite sign



## Considerations continued

- Consider two predictands with the same predictors
  - Stable case (temperature for example)
    - The correlation with the predictand is high
  - Unstable case (water vapor for example)
    - The correlation with the predictand is low
- Essentially when a selected predictor is removed from the predictand and the predictors
  - If the residual variance of the predictand decays at least as fast as the residual variance of the predictors, the solution remains stable





## Considerations continued

- Desire
  - Damp the small eigenvectors but don't damp the regression coefficients
  - $C = YX^T(XX^T)^{-1}$
  - But when removing the variable want to use  $(XX^T + \gamma I)^{-1}$
- Solutions
  - Decrease the contributions from the smaller eigenvectors
    - This damps the slope of the regression coefficients and forces the solution towards the mean value
  - Alternatives
    - Increase the constraint with each step of the stepwise regression
    - But no theory exists



## Regression Retrievals

- $T = T_{\text{guess}} + C(R - R_{\text{guess}})$
- R is measured
- $R_{\text{guess}}$ 
  - Measured
    - Apples subtracted from apples (measured – measured)
  - Calculated
    - Apples subtracted from oranges (measured – calculated)
    - This leads to a need for bias adjustment (tuning)



## Synthetic or Real

- Synthetic regression – use calculated radiances to generate regression coefficients
  - Errors
    - Can be controlled
    - Need to be realistic
  - Sample needs to be representative
  - Systematic errors result if measurements and calculations are not perfectly matched
- Real regression - uses matches with radiosondes
  - Compares measured to measured - no bias adjustment needed
  - Sample size issues - sample size can be hard to achieve
  - Sample consistency across scan spots - different samples for each angle
  - Additional errors - match errors, “truth” errors



## Regression with constraints

- Why add constraints?
  - Problem is often singular or nearly so
- Possible regressions
  - Normal regression
  - Ridge regression
  - Shrinkage
  - Rotated regression
  - Orthogonal regression
  - Eigenvector regression
  - Stepwise regression
  - Stagewise regression
  - Search all combinations for a subset



## Definitions

- $Y$  = predictands
- $X$  = predictors
- $C$  = coefficients
- $C_{\text{normal}}$  = normal coefficients
- $C_0$  = initial coefficients
- $C_{\text{ridge}}$  = ridge coefficients
- $C_{\text{shrinkage}}$  = shrinkage coefficients
- $C_{\text{rotated}}$  = rotated coefficients
- $C_{\text{orthogonal}}$  = orthogonal coefficients
- $C_{\text{eigenvector}}$  = eigenvector coefficients



## Definitions continued

$\gamma$  = a constant

$\varepsilon$  = errors in  $y$

$\delta$  = errors in  $x$

- $X_t$  = true value when known

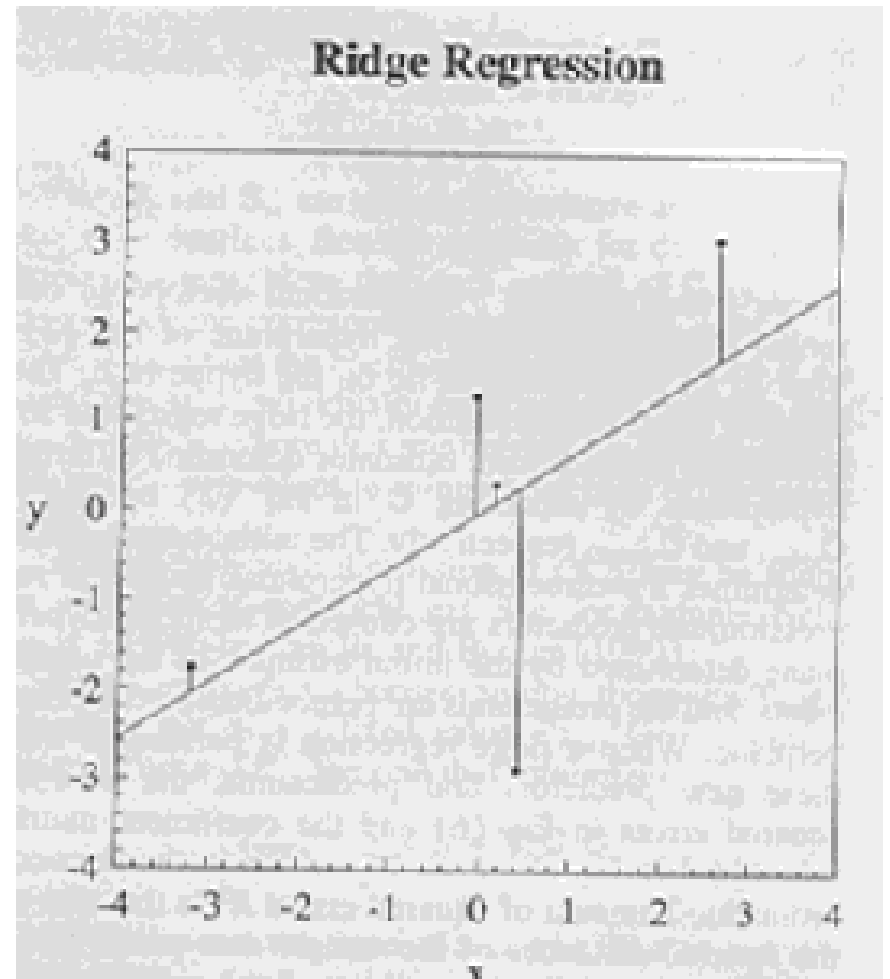
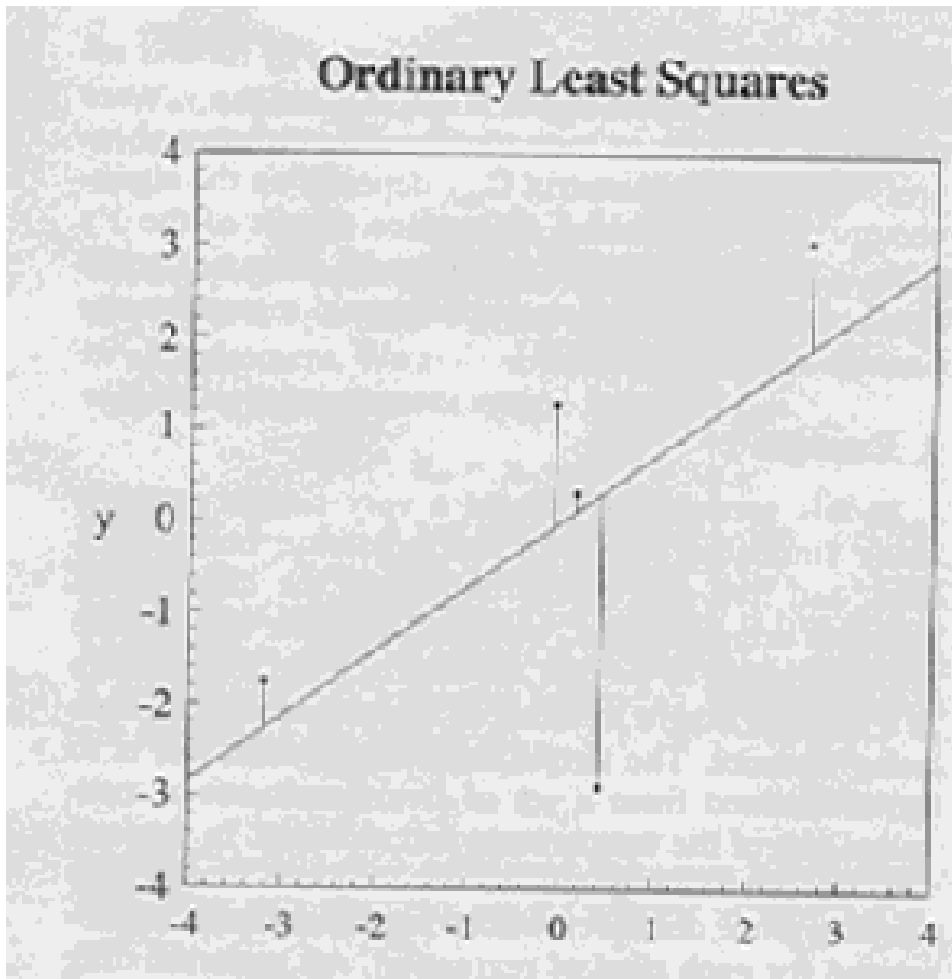


## Equations

- $Y = C X$
- $C_{\text{normal}} = YX^T (XX^T)^{-1}$
- $C_{\text{ridge}} = YX^T (XX^T + \gamma I)^{-1}$
- $C_{\text{shrinkage}} = (YX^T + \gamma C_0)(XX^T + \gamma I)^{-1}$
- $C_{\text{rotated}} = (YY^T C_0^T + YX^T + \gamma C_0)(C_0^T YX^T + XX^T + \gamma I)^{-1}$
- $C_{\text{orthogonal}} = \text{multiple rotated regression until solution converges}$
  
- Note many of these differ only in the directions used to calculate the components
  - The first 3 minimize differences along the y direction
  - Rotated minimizes differences perpendicular to the previous solution
  - Orthogonal minimizes differences perpendicular to the final solution



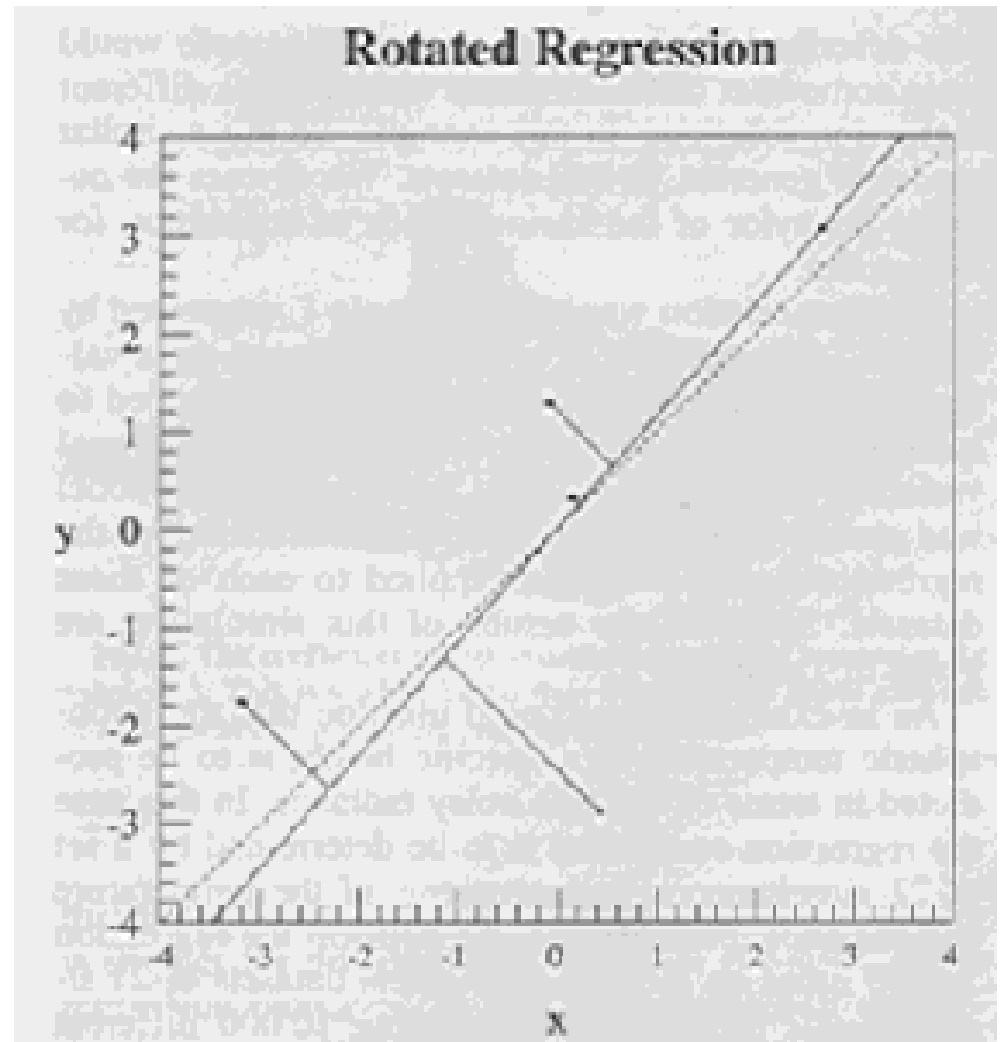
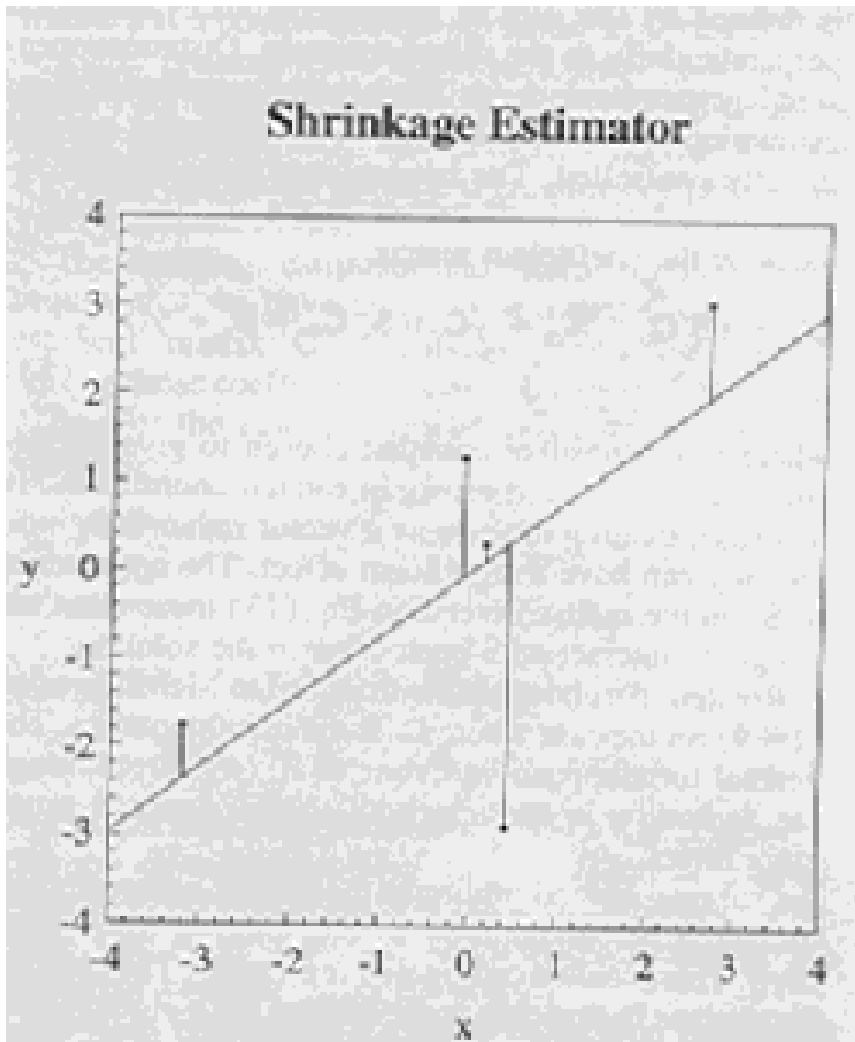
# Regression examples





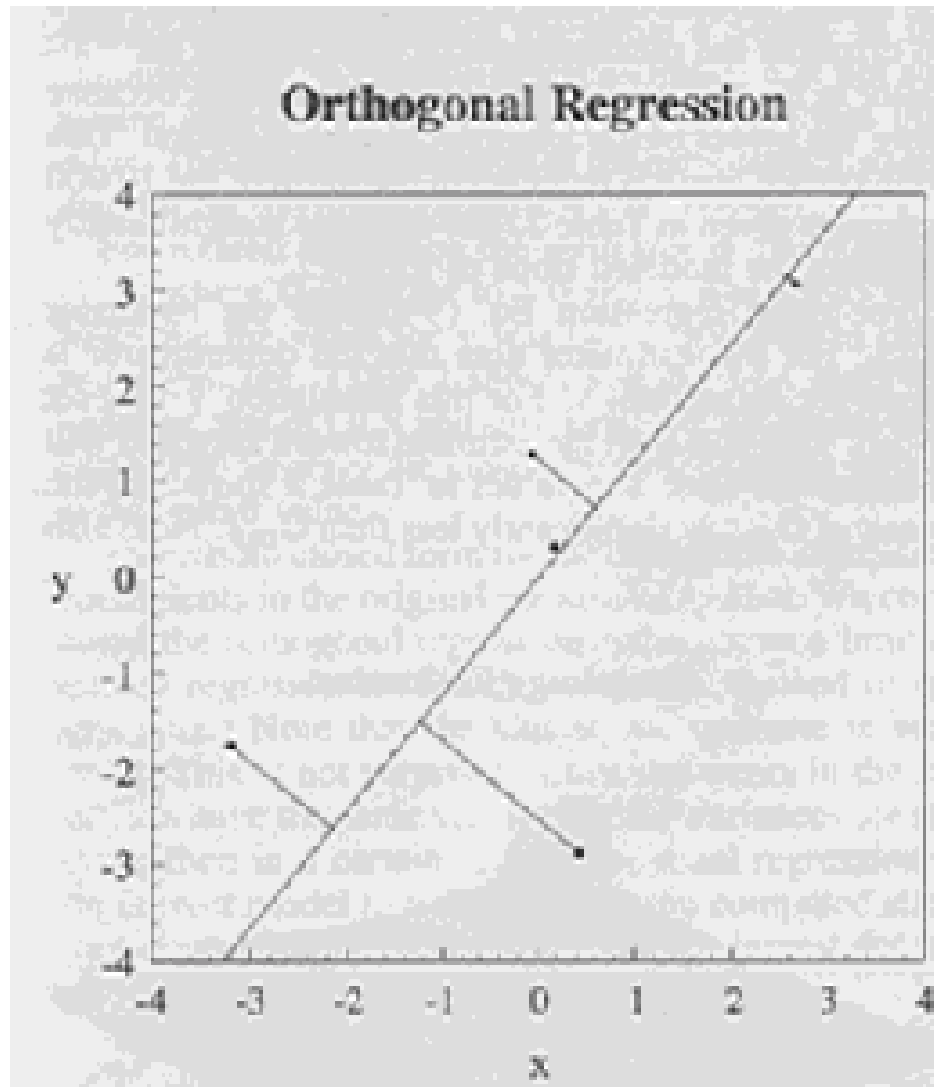


# Regression examples





# Regression Examples





## Constraint summary

- True relationship  $Y = 1.2 X$       Guess  $Y = 1.0 X$      $ss = 17.79$
- Ordinary Least Squares
  - $Y = 0.71 X$      $ss = 13.64$
- Ridge -  $\gamma = 2$ 
  - $Y = 0.64 X$      $ss = 13.73$
- Shrinkage -  $\gamma = 2$ 
  - $Y = 0.74 X$      $ss = 13.65$
- Rotated -  $\gamma = 4$  (equivalent to  $\gamma = 2$ )
  - $Y = 1.15 X$      $ss = 16.94$        $ss = 7.35$  in rotated space
- Orthogonal -  $\gamma = 4$ 
  - $Y = 1.22 X$      $ss = 18.14$        $ss = 7.29$  in orthogonal space



# Regression Examples

## Ordinary Least Squares

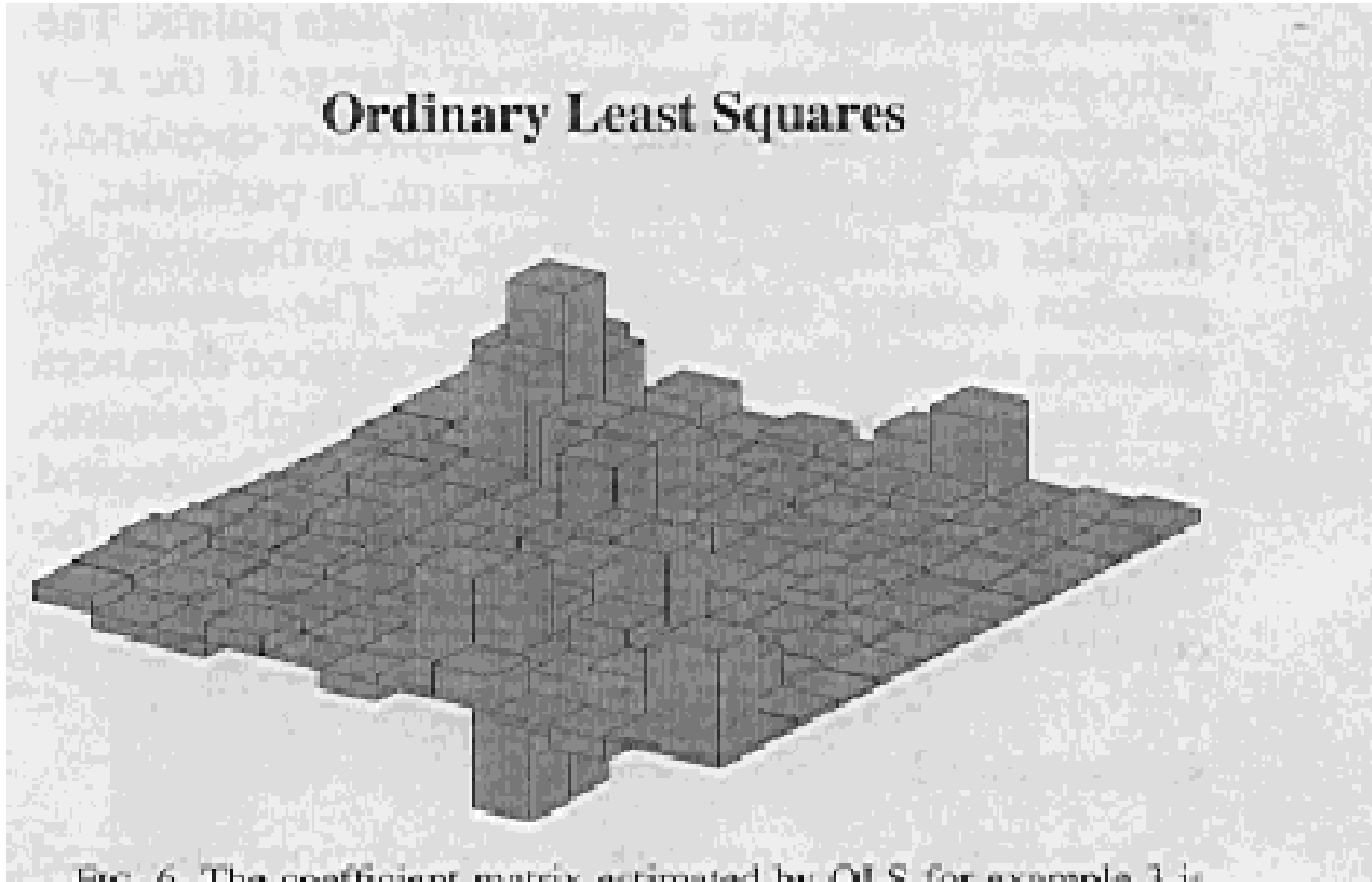
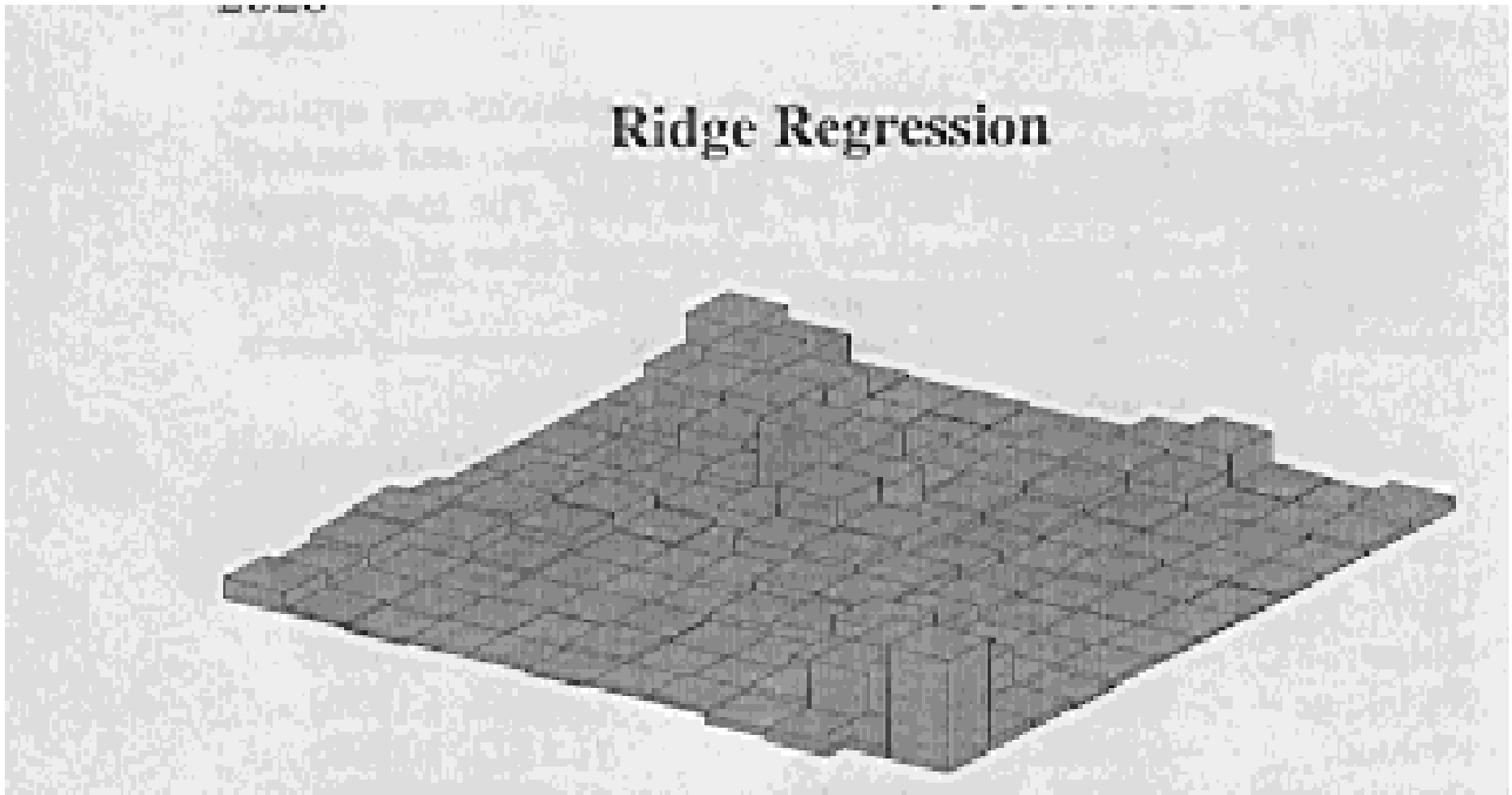


FIG. 6. The coefficient matrix estimated by OLS for example 1 is



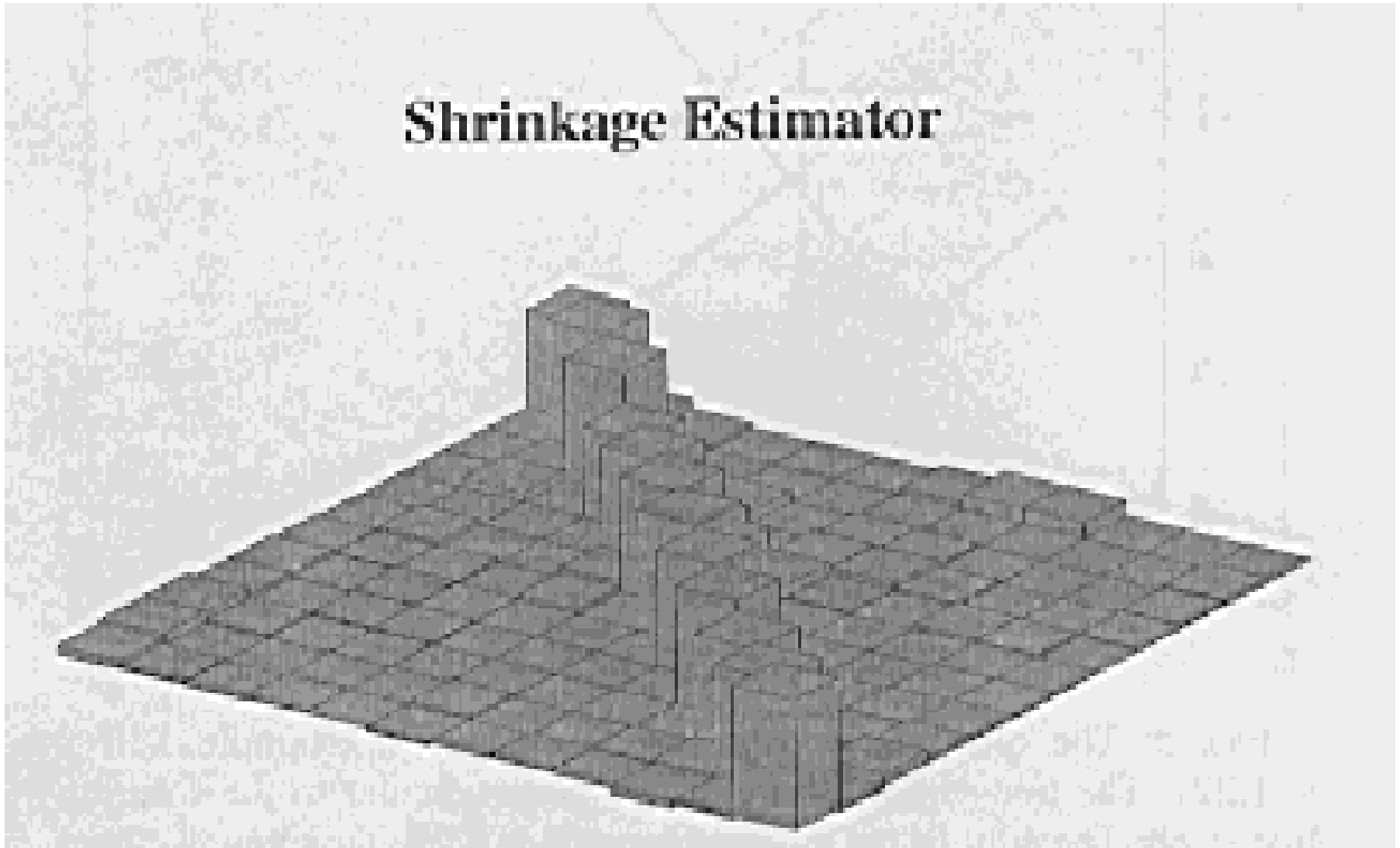
## Regression Examples





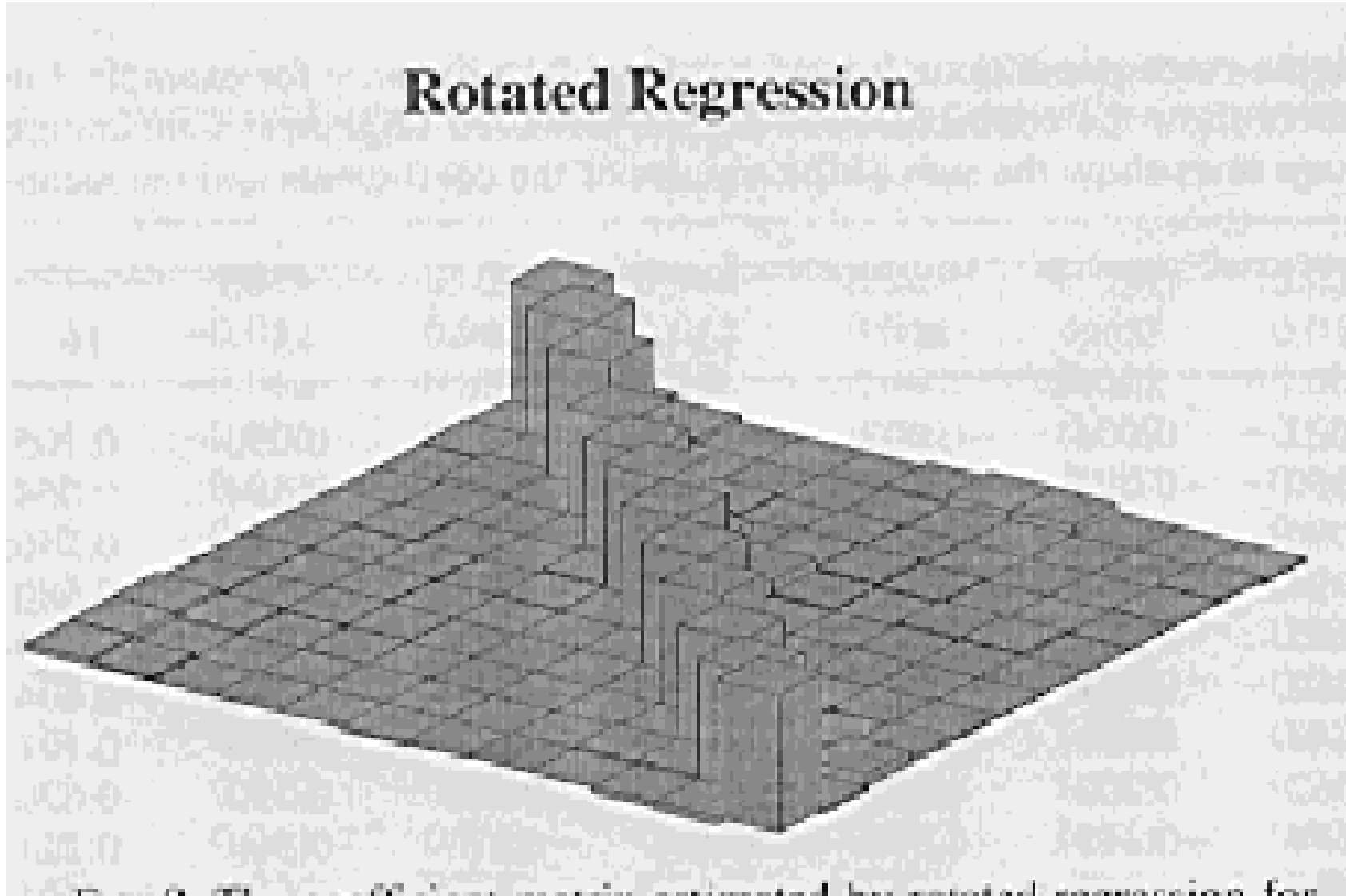
# Regression Examples

## Shrinkage Estimator



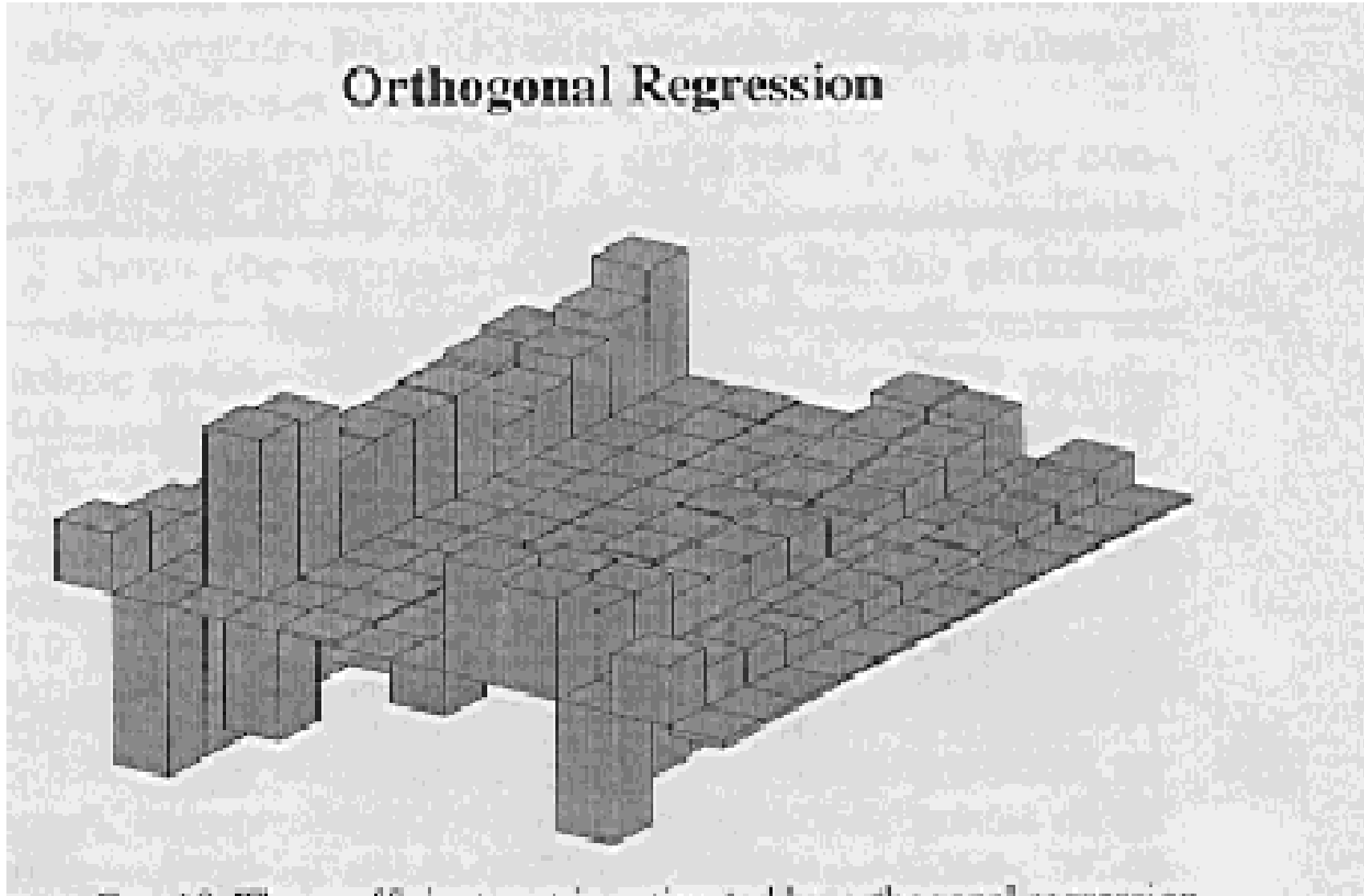


# Regression Examples





# Regression Examples







## Popular myth - Or the devil is in the details

- Two regression can be replaced by a single one
- $Y = C X$
- $X = D Z$
- $Y = E Z$
- Then  $Y = C D Z$  and  $E = C D$
- True for normal regression but false for any constrained regression
- In particular, if  $X$  is a predicted value of  $Y$  from  $Z$  using an initial set of coefficients and  $C$  is obtained using a constrained regression, then the constrain is in a direction determined by  $D$ . If this is iterated, it becomes rotated regression.



## Regression with Classification

- Pro
  - Starts with a good guess
- Con
  - Decreases the signal to noise ratio
  - Can get a series of means values
  - With noise, the adjacent groups have jumps at the boundaries



## normalized regression

- Subtract the mean from both X and Y
- Divide by the standard deviation
- Theoretically makes no difference
- But numerical precision is not theory
- Good for variables with large dynamic range
- Recent experience with eigenvectors suggests dividing radiances by the noise

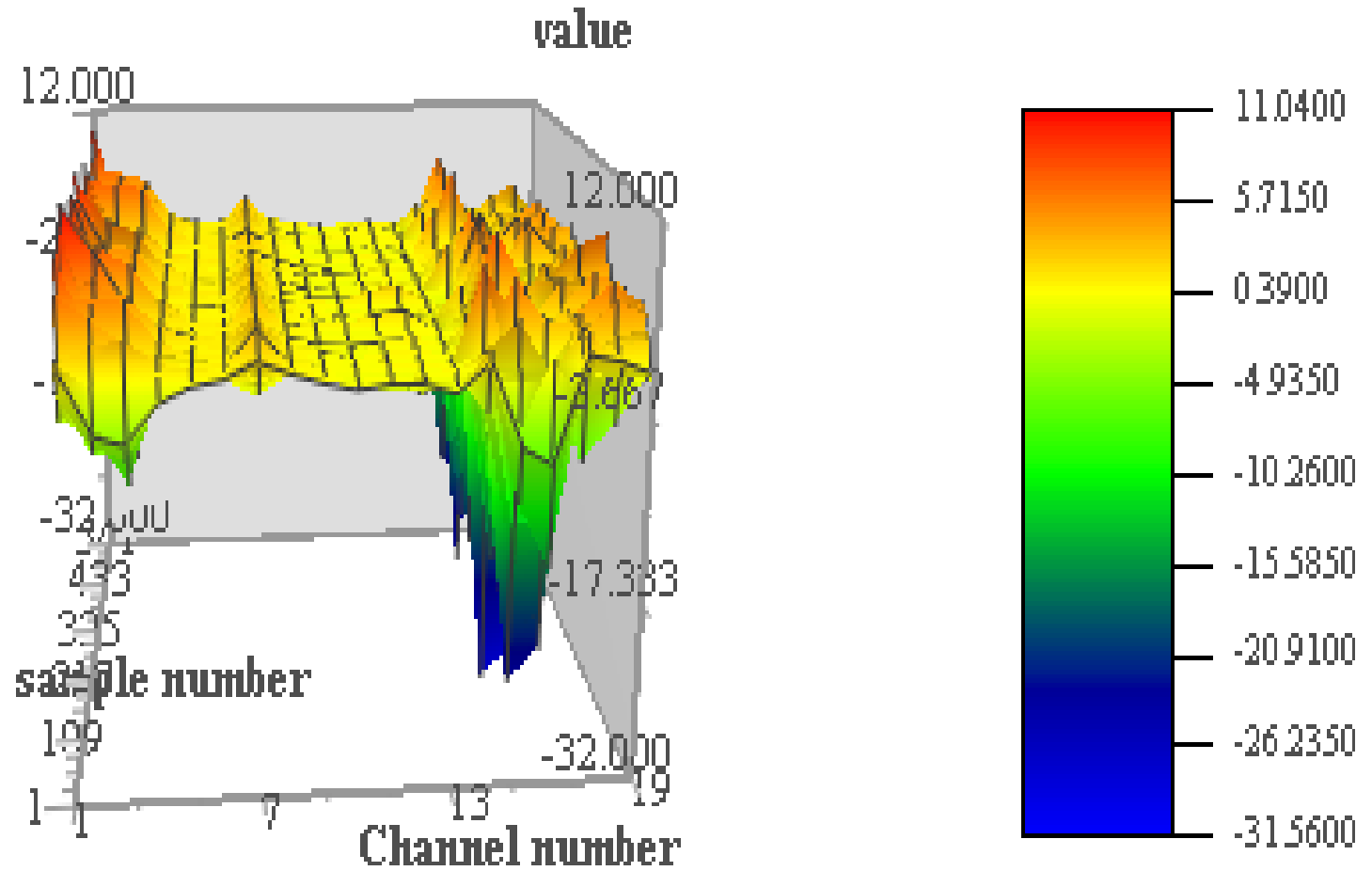


## Example - Tuning AMSU on AQUA

- Predictors are the channel values
- Predictands are the observed minus calculated differences

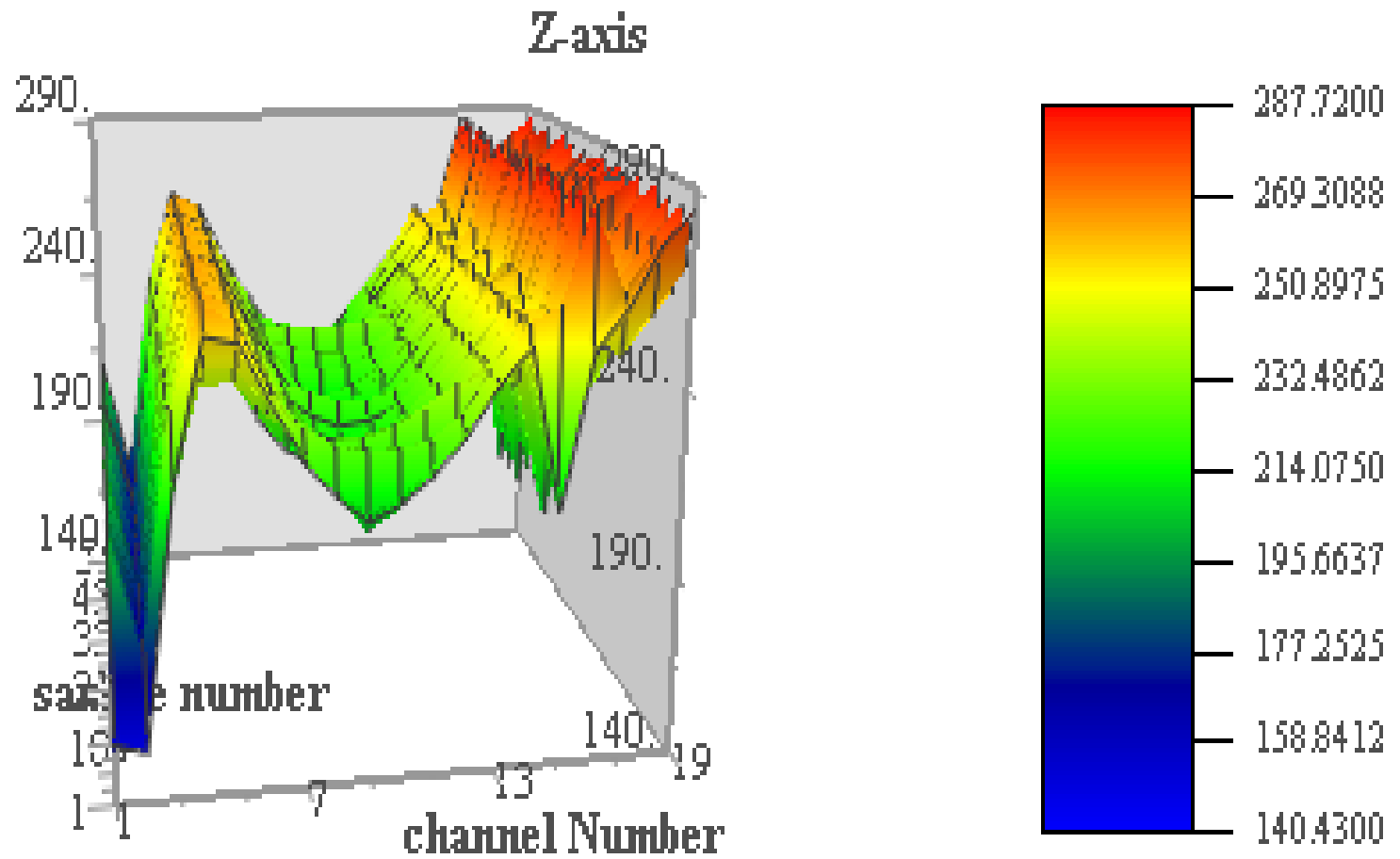


# Measured minus calculated



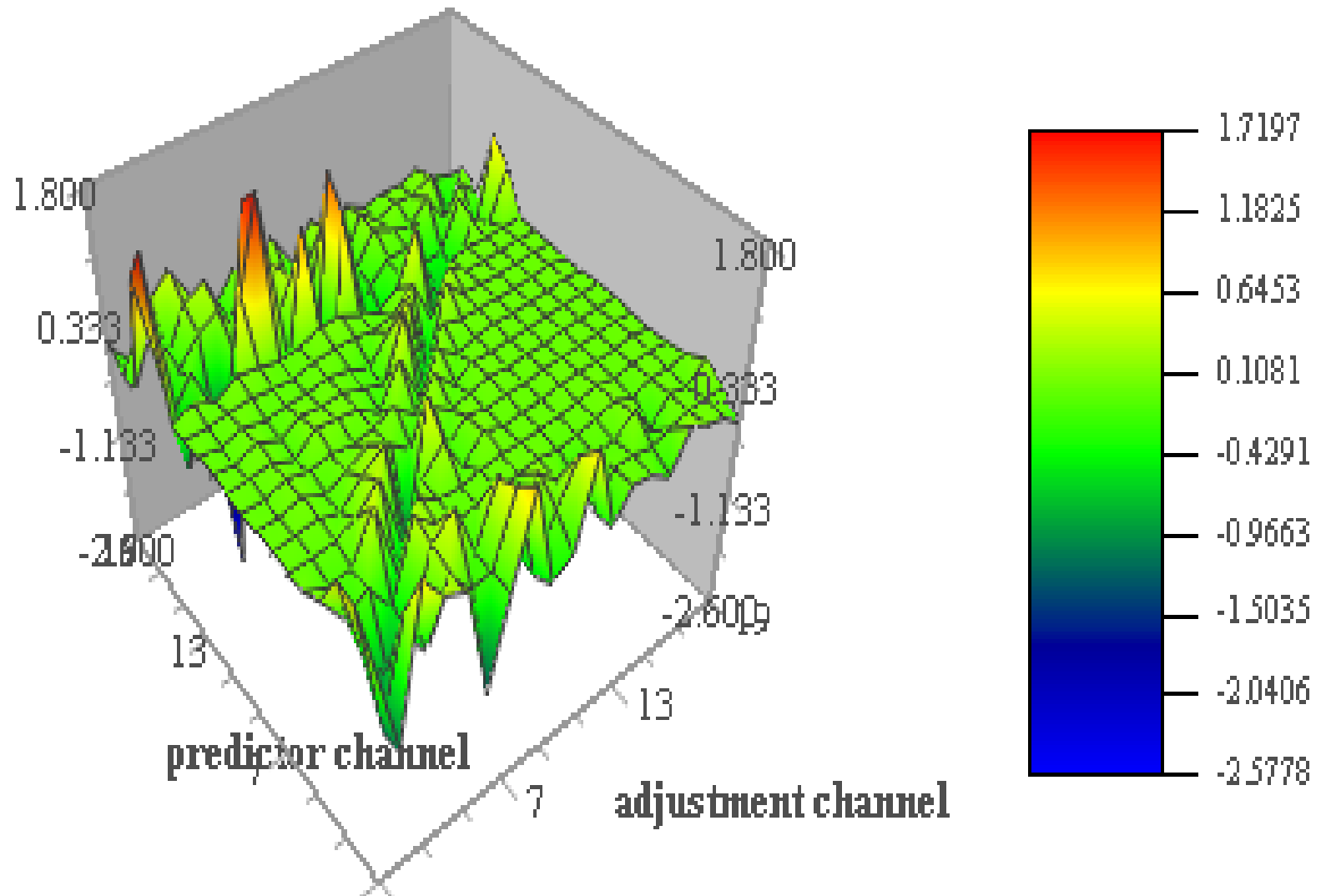


# The predictors



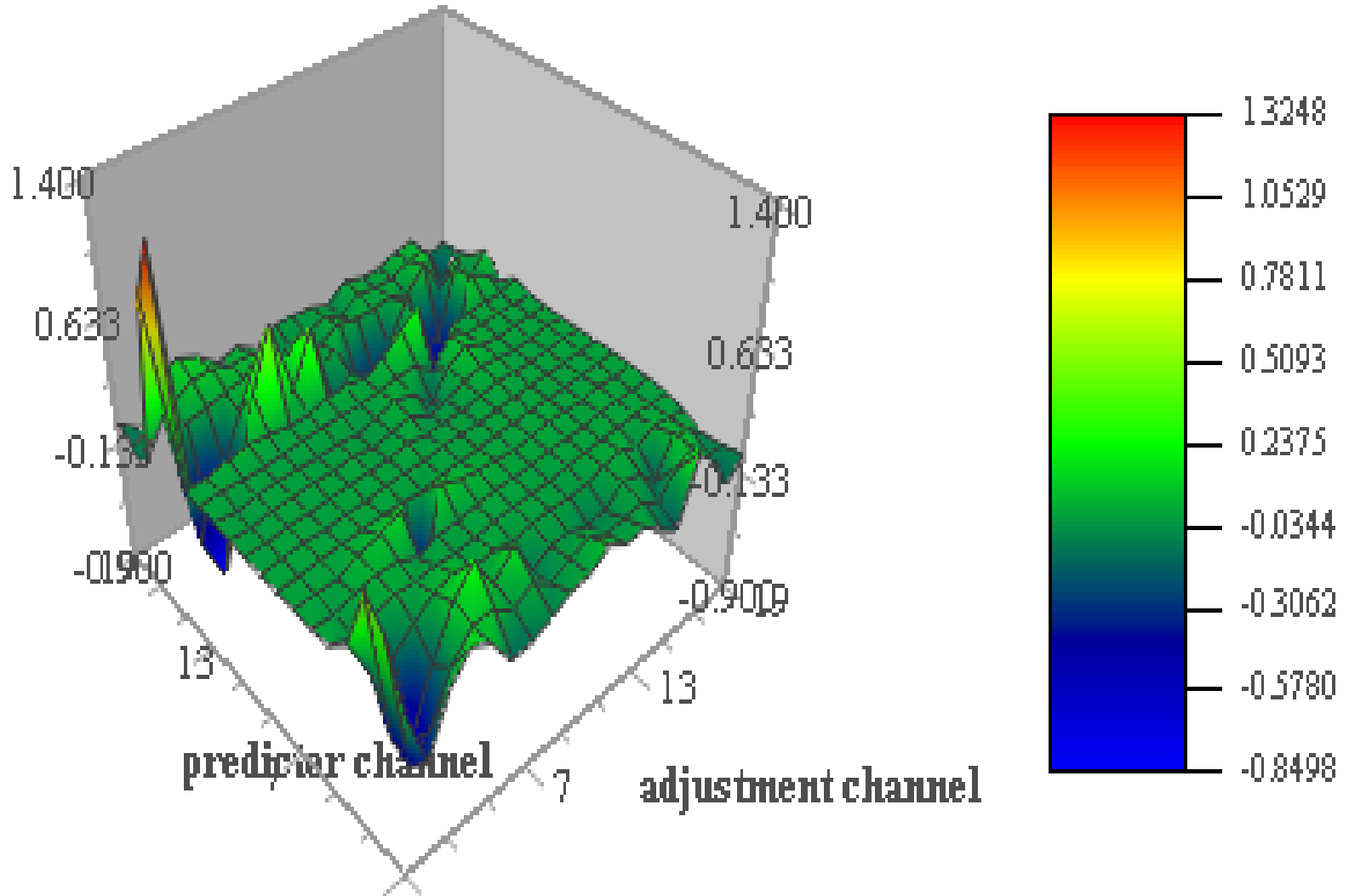


# Ordinary Least Squares





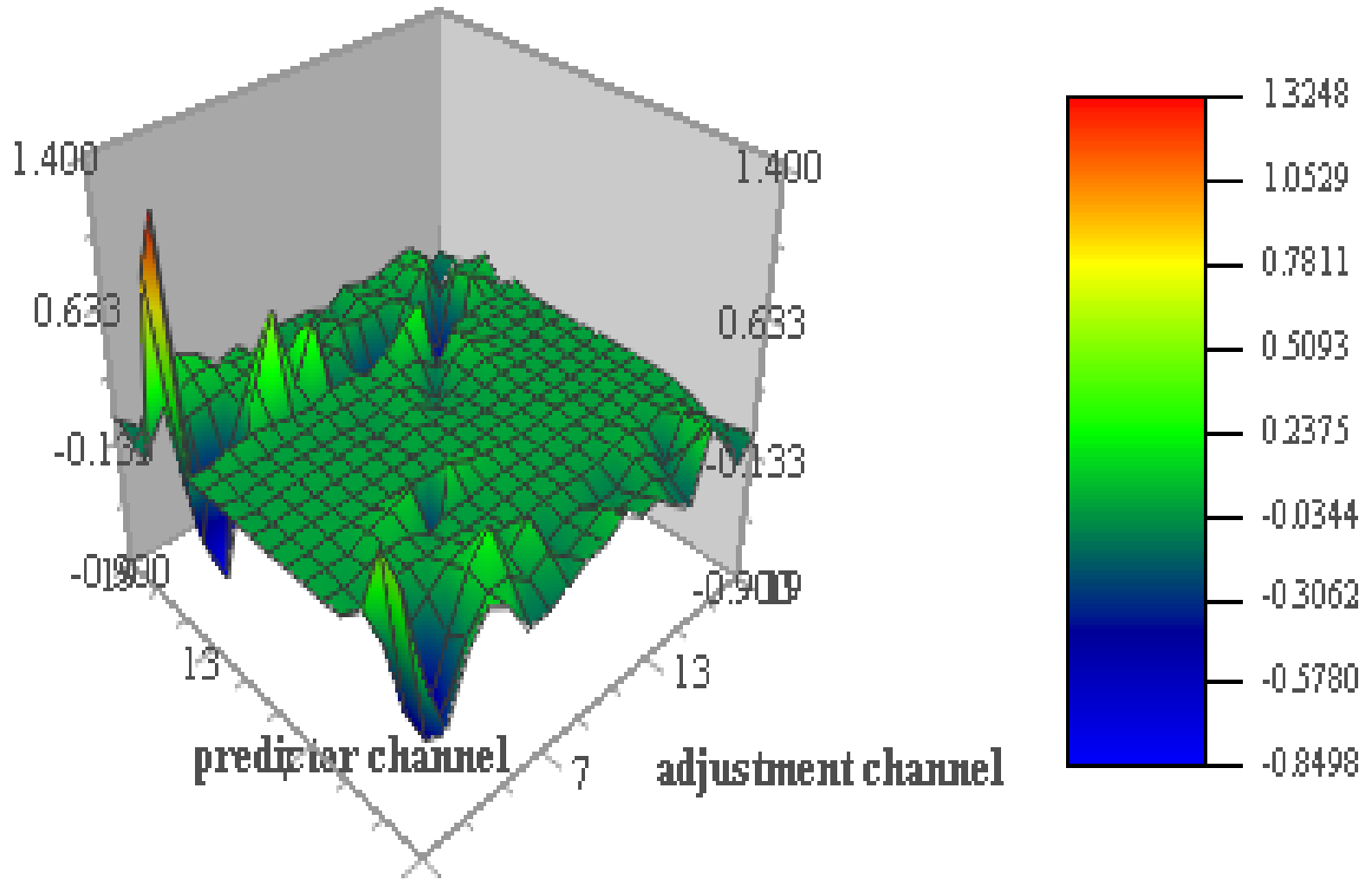
# Ridge Regression





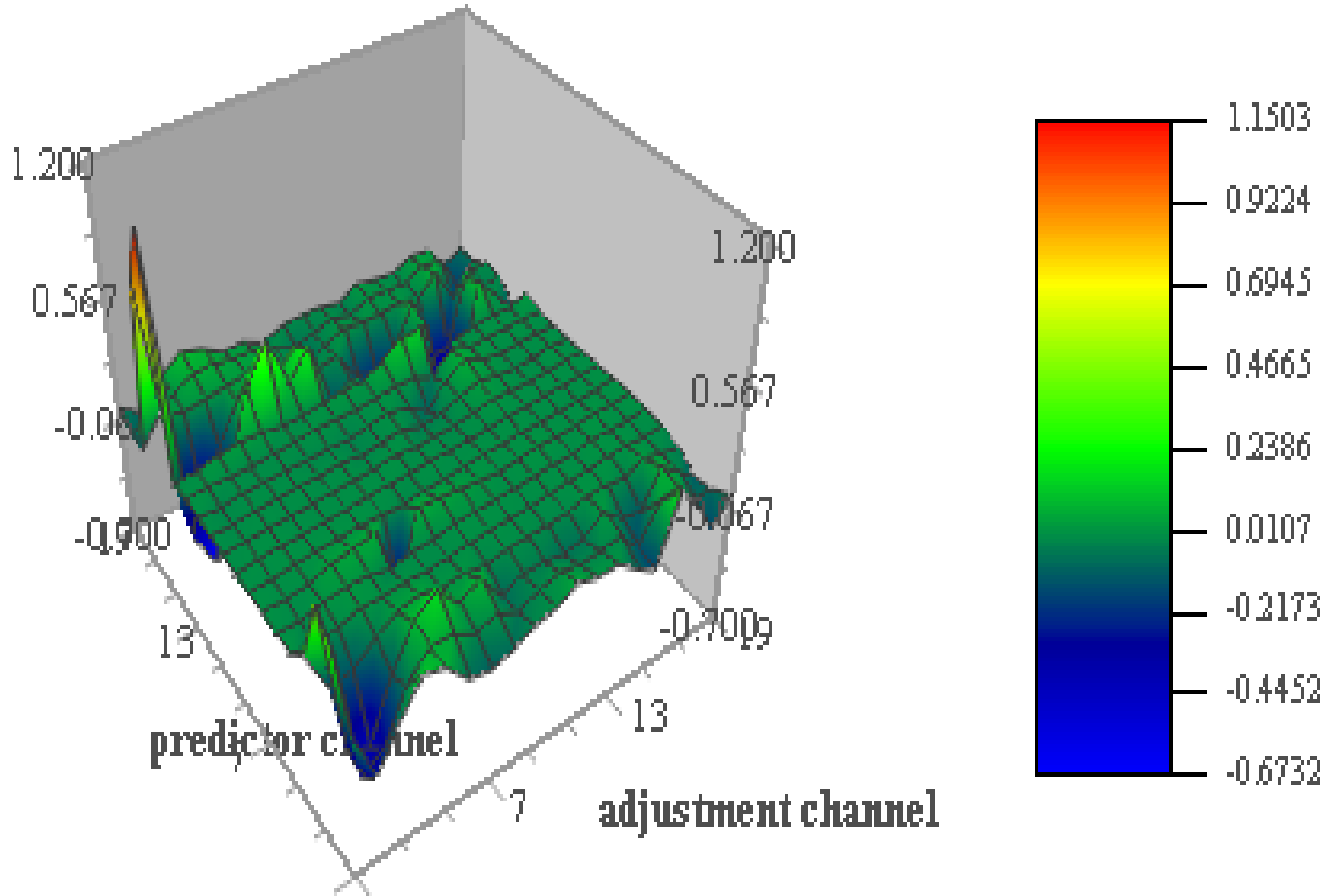


# Shrinkage



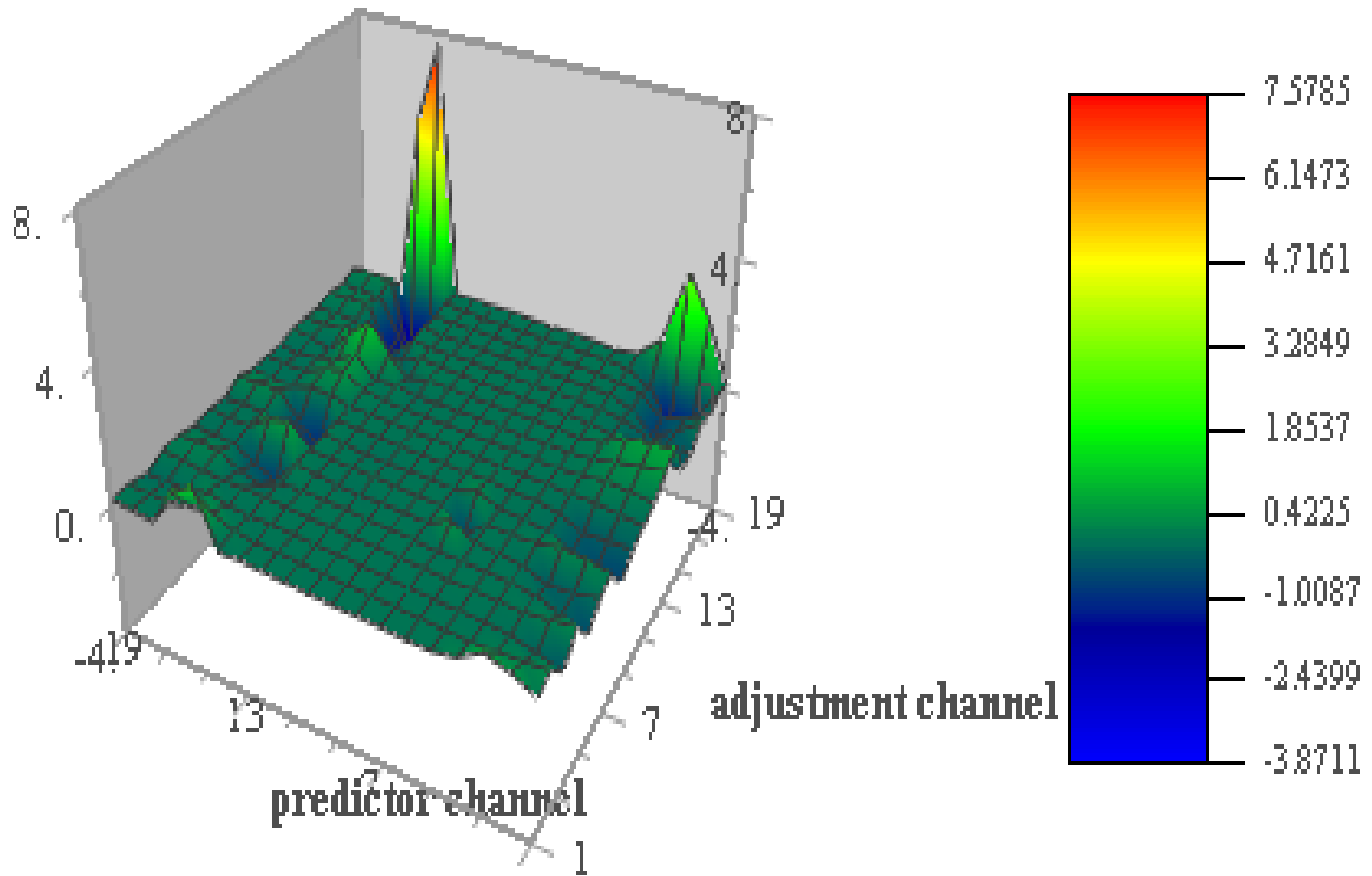


# Rotated Regression





# Orthogonal Regression





## Results Summarized

- Maximum means maximum absolute value
- Ordinary least squares - max coefficient = -2.5778
- Ridge regression - max coefficient = 1.3248
- Shrinkage - max coefficient = 1.3248
  - Shrinkage to 0 as the guess coefficient is the same as ridge regression
- Rotated regression - max coefficient = 1.1503
  - Rotated to the ordinary least squares solution
- Orthogonal Regression - 7.5785



## Recommendations

- Think
- Know what you are doing