

Basis pursuit II

Arianna Rast

LMU Munich

June 1, 2025

Summary

- 1 Robustness
- 2 Recovery of individual vectors

Review Exact Reconstruction

- For $A \in \mathbb{K}^{m \times N}$ and $s \in \mathbb{N}$ we have that

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \forall x \in \mathbb{C}^N \text{ } s\text{-sparse :} \\ x \text{ is the unique minimizer} \\ \text{of } \{ \|z\|_1 \mid Az = Ax \} \end{array} \right\} \iff A \text{ satisfies the NSP of order } s.$$

- Also,

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \forall x \in \mathbb{C}^N \text{ } s\text{-sparse :} \\ x \text{ is the unique minimizer} \\ \text{of } \{ \|z\|_1 \mid Az = Ax \} \end{array} \right\} \iff \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \forall x \in \mathbb{C}^N \text{ } s\text{-sparse :} \\ \arg \min \{ \|z\|_1 \mid Az = Ax \} \\ = \arg \min \{ \|z\|_0 \mid Az = Ax \} \end{array} \right.$$

Stimmt die Rueckrichtung auch? Hence, the NSP of order s is a necessary and sufficient condition for the exact reconstruction of every s -sparse vector via the basis pursuit.

- The basis pursuit is stable under a sparsity defect in the vector x , if the measurement matrix satisfies the stable null space property (SNSP).
- For a matrix $A \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times N}$, we have

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \forall x, z \in \mathbb{C}^N : \\ \|z - x\|_1 \leq \frac{1+\rho}{1-\rho} (\|z\|_1 - \|x\|_1 + 2\|x_{\bar{S}}\|_1) \end{array} \right\} \iff A \text{ satisfies SNSP}(\rho, S) .$$

- In particular, if A satisfies the SNSP(ρ, S), any minimizer $x^\#$ of $\{\|z\|_1 \mid Ax = Az\}$ satisfies

$$\|x - x^\#\|_1 \leq \frac{2(1+\rho)}{1-\rho} \sigma_s(x)_1 .$$

In this chapter we also want to handle noise in the measurement in addition to a sparsity deficit of the data.

What additional assumptions do we need to obtain similar results, if we consider the problem

$$\min \{ \|z\|_1 \mid z \in \mathbb{C}^N, \|Az - y\| \leq \eta \} ? \quad (P_{1,\eta})$$

It depends on the norm, in which we measure the error, i.e. the distance of TODO

At first, we consider the situation where we measure the noise in the ℓ^1 -norm, i.e. $\|Az - y\| = \|Az - y\|_1$.

Definition 1.1: Robust null space property

A matrix $A \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times N}$ is said to satisfy the **robust null space property** with respect to $\|\cdot\|$ with the constants $\rho \in (0, 1)$ and $\tau > 0$ relative to a set $S \subseteq [N]$ iff

$$\forall v \in \mathbb{C}^N : \|v_S\|_1 \leq \rho \|v_{\bar{S}}\|_1 + \tau \|Av\|. \quad (\text{RNSP}(\|\cdot\|, \rho, \tau, S))$$

A satisfies the robust null space property of **order** s with respect to $\|\cdot\|$ with the constants $\rho \in (0, 1)$ and $\tau > 0$ RNSP($\|\cdot\|, \rho, \tau, s$) iff A satisfies $\text{RNSP}(\|\cdot\|, \rho, \tau, S)$ for all sets $S \subseteq [N]$ with $|S| \leq s$.

Intuition for the null space property? Is it a common property or rather rare? Is it true, that it is relatively hard to verify?

- Maybe the content of this slide is just done on the board.
- Note that $\text{RNSP}(\|\cdot\|, \rho, 0, S) \iff \text{SNSP}(\rho, S)$ for all $\|\cdot\|$, ρ and S .
- Furthermore, $\text{RNSP}(\|\cdot\|, \rho, \tau, S) \implies \text{SNSP}(\rho, S)$ for all $\|\cdot\|$, ρ , τ and S .
- Hence, all statements are in particular statements on SNSP

The main result is the following theorem.

Theorem 1.2

A matrix $A \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times N}$ satisfies $\text{RNSP}(\|\cdot\|, \rho, \tau, S)$ if and only if

$\forall x, z \in \mathbb{C}^N :$

$$\|z - x\|_1 \leq \frac{1 + \rho}{1 - \rho} (\|z\|_1 - \|x\|_1 + 2\|x_S\|) + \frac{2\tau}{1 - \rho} \|A(x - z)\|.$$

This is a generalisation of the previously discussed theorem for the SNSP.

Before proving this theorem, note the following corollary.

Corollary 1.3

Assume that $A \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times N}$ satisfies $\text{RNSP}(\|\cdot\|, \rho, \tau, s)$ with $0 < \rho < 1$ and $\tau > 0$ and let $x \in \mathbb{C}^N$. Then, if

$$\mathcal{L}_{x,\eta} := \partial B_{\min\{\|z_1\| \mid \|Ax - Az\| \leq \eta\}}^{\|\cdot\|_1}(0) \cap A^{-1}(Ax)$$

is the solution set of the problem $(P_{1,\eta})$ with $y = Ax$, then

$$\sup_{x^\# \in \mathcal{L}_x} \|x - x^\#\|_1 \leq \frac{2(1+\rho)}{1-\rho} \sigma_s(x)_1 + \frac{4\tau}{1-\rho} \eta,$$

i.e. the solution set \mathcal{L}_x is contained in a ball of radius $\frac{2(1+\rho)}{1-\rho} \sigma_s(x)_1 + \frac{4\tau}{1-\rho} \eta$ around x in the ℓ^1 -norm.

Macht es Sinn, dazu ein Bild zu malen?

- The content of this slide might be done only on the board.
- Explanation why the corollary follows from the theorem.
- Proof of the theorem (maybe shifted to the second part of the presentation, since similar to last time).

- Since $\|\cdot\|_p \leq \|\cdot\|_q$ for $p \leq q$, it is harder to bound the ℓ^q -error from above than the ℓ^p error for $p \leq q$.
- Of course, the norms are equivalent, but the constant for the other direction depends on the dimension, which we assume is large.
- But if we assume an adapted, stronger version of the RNSP, we get a useful bound for the error.

Definition 1.4: ℓ^q -robust null space property

Let $q \geq 1$. A matrix $A \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times N}$ satisfies the **ℓ^q -robust null space property** of **order** $s \in \mathbb{N}$ (with respect to $\|\cdot\|$) with the constants ρ in $(0, 1)$ and $\tau \geq 0$ iff

TODO

Warum tau echt groesser 0?

Recoverz of individual vectors

So far, our problem was to reconstruct x from the information what Ax is and that x is sparse (or knowing the support of x). We saw that the convex relaxation of the corresponding minimization problem reconstructs the minimizer iff the null space property holds for A . What, if we have additional a priori information on x ? Maybe then there is a way to solve it in an acceptable computational complexity? But this is not discussed here, we still consider the convex relaxation, but now assume conditions on A and x . **What does finer mean?**

- As we will see, there is a difference between the real and complex case.
- Some other remarks.

Theorem 2.1

Let $A \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times N}$ and $x \in \mathbb{C}^N$ with support $S \subseteq [N]$ be given. Then, the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i) $\forall v \in \ker(A) \setminus \{0\} : |\langle v, \operatorname{sgn}(x) \rangle| < \|v_{\bar{S}}\|_1.$
- (ii) A_S is injective and

$$\exists h \in \mathbb{C}^m : \begin{cases} (A^*h)_j = \operatorname{sgn}(x_j), & j \in S \\ (A^*h)_j < 1, & j \in \bar{S} \end{cases} \quad \text{i.e. } A_S^*h = \operatorname{sgn}(x_S) .$$

If one (and hence both) of these conditions hold, then x is the unique minimizer of the problem

$$\min \{ \|z\|_1 \mid Az = Ax \} .$$

- A satisfies the NSP relative $S \iff \forall x \in \mathbb{C}^N$ with $\text{supp}(x) \subseteq S$: (a) holds.
- If (a) holds for $x \in \mathbb{C}^N$ with $\text{supp}(x) \subseteq S$, (a) also holds for all

$$\{x' \in \mathbb{C}^N \mid \text{supp}(x') \subseteq S \text{ and } \text{sgn}(x)_{\text{supp}(x')} = \text{sgn}(x')_{\text{supp}(x')}\}.$$

- There are stable and robust versions of this theorem, which yield slightly weaker error bounds than of the previous theorems.

- If A_S is injective, then $A_S^*A_S$ is invertible.
- Furthermore, the Moore-Penrose pseudo-inverse of A_S is then a left-inverse of A_S and given by

$$A_S^\dagger = (A_S^*A_S)^{-1}A_S^*.$$

- Therefore the condition $A_S^*h = \text{sgn}(x_S)$ is satisfied by $h := (A_S^\dagger)^*\text{sgn}(x_S)$.
- Hence, if this choice of h also satisfies the rest of (b), then the Theorem holds:

Corollary 2.2

Let $A = (a_1, \dots, a_N) \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times N}$ and $x \in \mathbb{C}^N$ with support $S \subseteq [N]$ be given. If A_S is injective and if

$$\begin{aligned} \forall l \in \overline{S}: \quad & \left| \left\langle A_S^\dagger a_l, \operatorname{sgn}(x_S) \right\rangle \right| = \left| \left\langle a_l, (A_S^\dagger)^* \operatorname{sgn}(x_S) \right\rangle \right| \\ & = \left(A^* (A_S^\dagger)^* \operatorname{sgn}(x_S) \right)_l < 1, \end{aligned}$$

then x is the unique minimizer of the problem

$$\min \left\{ \|z\|_1 \mid Az = Ax \right\}.$$

The converse direction

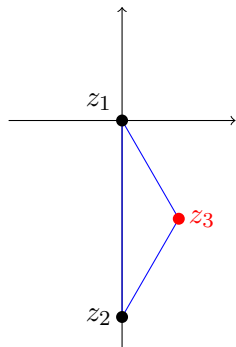
The converse of the Theorem 4.26 is not true in general, e.g. take

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad x = \begin{pmatrix} e^{-\pi i/3} \\ e^{\pi i/3} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The solution space of $Az = Ax$ is then

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \sqrt{3}i \\ -e^{-i\pi/3} \end{pmatrix} + z \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \mid z \in \mathbb{C} \right\},$$

and hence, the minimization problem consists in finding the point $z \in \mathbb{C}$ such that the sum of the distances to the points $z_1 = 0$, $z_2 = -\sqrt{3}i$, $z_3 = e^{-i\pi/3}$ is minimal.



In the picture one can see that the sum of the distances is minimal exactly for $z = z_3$ (cf. first Fermat point, the angle at z_3 is 120°). Hence, $x = (0, \sqrt{3}i, e^{-i\pi/3})^T + z_3(1, 1, 1)^T$ is the unique minimizer of the problem.

However, the condition (a) does not hold: For $v = (z, z, z) \in \ker(A) \setminus \{0\}$, we have that

$$|\langle \operatorname{sgn}(x), v_{\{1,2\}} \rangle| = |e^{\pi i/3} z + e^{-\pi i/3} z| = |z| = \|v_{\{3\}}\|_1.$$

In the real case, however, the converse does actually hold:

Theorem 2.3

Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times N}$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ with support $S \subseteq [N]$ be given. Then, the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i) $\forall v \in \ker(A) \setminus \{0\} : |\langle v, \operatorname{sgn}(x) \rangle| < \|v_{\bar{S}}\|_1.$
- (ii) A_S is injective and

$$\exists h \in \mathbb{R}^m : \begin{cases} (A^*h)_j = \operatorname{sgn}(x_j), & j \in S \\ (A^*h)_j < 1, & j \in \bar{S} \end{cases}.$$

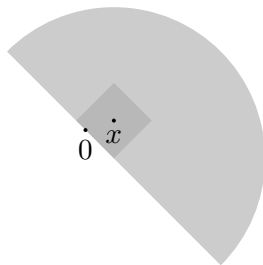
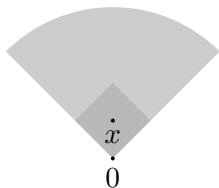
- (iii) x is the unique minimizer of

$$\min \{ \|z\|_1 \mid z \in \mathbb{R}^N, Az = Ax \}.$$

Definition 2.4

Let $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$, then the **tangent cone** to the ℓ^1 -ball at x is defined as

$$T(x) = \text{cone} \left\{ z - x \mid z \in \mathbb{R}^N, \|z\|_1 \leq \|x\|_1 = \text{cone}(\overline{B_{\|\cdot\|_1}^{\|\cdot\|_1}(x)}) \right\} .$$



Theorem 2.5

Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times N}$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$. Then

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} x \text{ is the unique minimizer} \\ \text{of } \{ \|z\|_1 \mid Az = Ax \} \end{array} \right\} \iff \ker(A) \cap T(x) = \{0\}.$$