
A new and improved recovery analysis for iterative hard thresholding algorithms in compressed sensing

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joint with

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The compressed sensing formulation

Let $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ be a given signal.

Suppose we obtain vector $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$ of noisy linear measurements

$$b = Ax + e,$$

where $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times N}$ is the measurement matrix and e is noise.

We assume

- $n < N \implies$ underdetermined system
- x sparse with $k < n$ non-zeros

Algorithms for sparse approximation

- **The problem:** Find (approximate) k -sparse x from an underdetermined system of linear equations.
- Frame as the **nonconvex nonsmooth** problem

$$\underset{y \in \mathbb{R}^N}{\text{minimize}} \quad \frac{1}{2} \|Ay - b\|_2^2 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \|y\|_0 \leq k$$

- solve by **gradient projection**
- when $Ax = b$, we seek the **global** solution

Typically, $\|y\|_0 \leq k$ is relaxed to $\|y\|_1 \leq \tau$
 \implies convex problem

But here, we solve the original l_0 -formulation.

Iterative Hard Thresholding (IHT) algorithm

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Iterative Hard Thresholding (IHT):

[Blumensath and Davies, 2007]

Inputs: A , b , k and $\alpha \in (0, 1)$.

Initialize: $x^0 = 0$ and $m = 0$.

While some **termination criterion** is not satisfied, do:

$$x^{m+1} = H_k \left\{ x^m + \alpha A^T (b - Ax^m) \right\}^{(*)}$$

Output: $\hat{x} = x^m$. \square

$(*)$ where $H_k(x) : \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$ keeps the k largest entries of x .

State-of-the-art analyses

■ Restricted Isometry Property (RIP):

$$L_s = 1 - \min_{1 \leq \|y\|_0 \leq s} \frac{\|Ay\|_2^2}{\|y\|_2^2} \quad \text{and} \quad U_s = \max_{1 \leq \|y\|_0 \leq s} \frac{\|Ay\|_2^2}{\|y\|_2^2} - 1$$

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■ Prove that IHT moves closer to x in each iteration:

$$\|x^{m+1} - x\|_2 \leq \mu(L_{3k}, U_{3k}) \|x^m - x\|_2 + \xi(U_{2k}) \|e\|_2$$

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■ \implies If $\mu(L_{3k}, U_{3k}) < 1$,

$$x^m \rightarrow x^* \quad \text{such that} \quad \|x^* - x\|_2 \leq \frac{\xi(U_{2k})}{1 - \mu(L_{3k}, U_{3k})} \|e\|_2$$

[Blumensath & Davies (2007); Blanchard, CC, Tanner & AT (2010)]

The proportional-growth asymptotic framework

- **Claim of compressed sensing**: it is possible to sample proportional to the information content (sparsity):
guaranteed recovery of x for $n \geq C \cdot k \ln \left(\frac{N}{k} \right)$.

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let $(k, n, N) \longrightarrow \infty$ such that

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The proportional-growth asymptotic framework

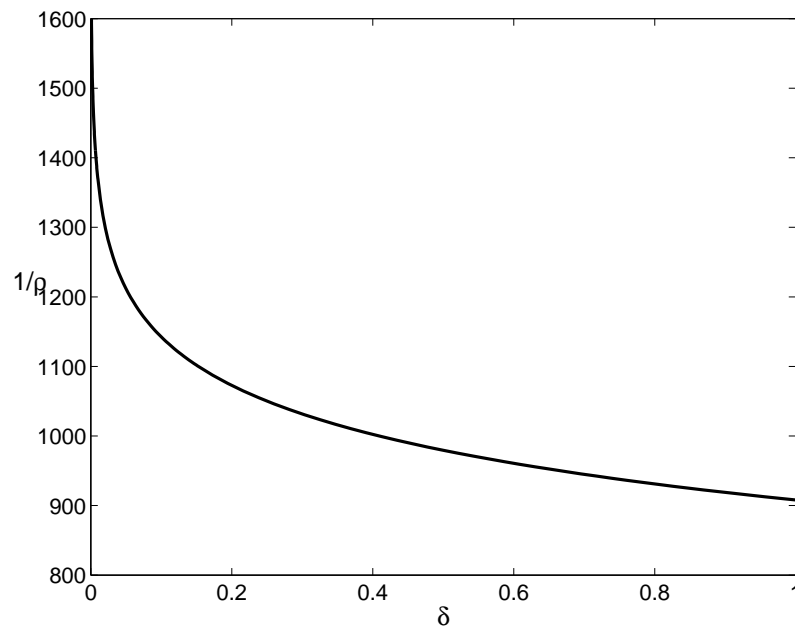
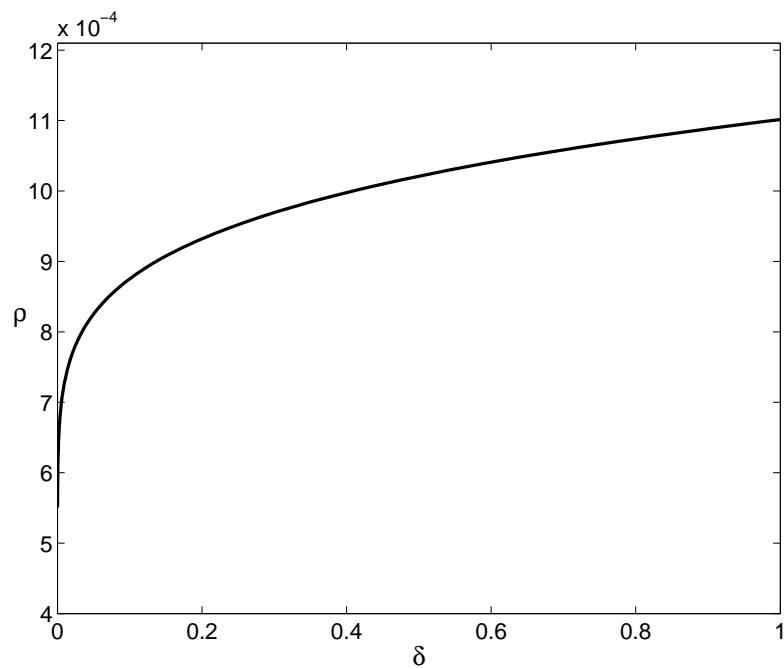
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- Defines a **phase space** for asymptotic analysis.
- For example, **RIP bounds for Gaussian matrices**

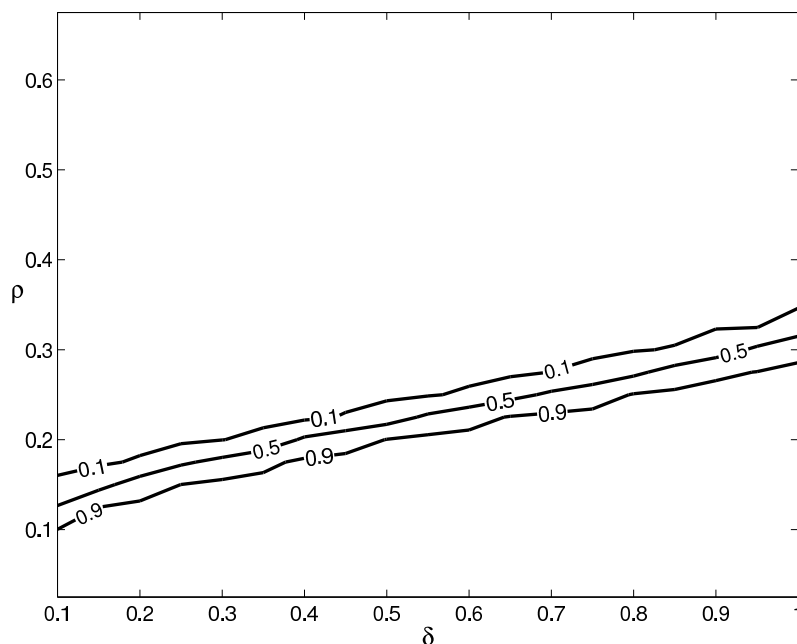
$$L_k \longrightarrow \mathcal{L}(\delta, \rho) \quad \text{and} \quad U_k \longrightarrow \mathcal{L}(\delta, \rho) \quad [\text{Bah and Tanner 2010}]$$

RIP phase transition for IHT

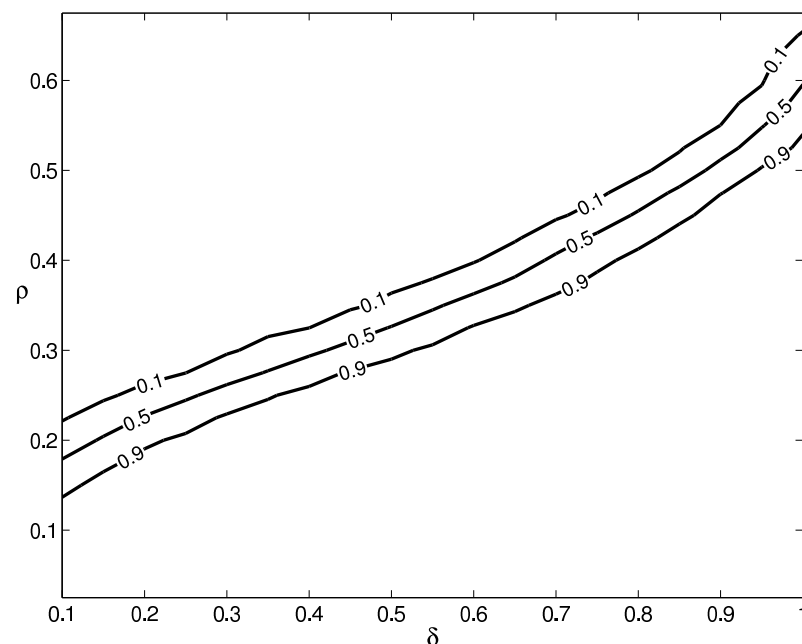


- Recovery guaranteed beneath the phase transition curve
- $n \geq 907k$ measurements needed to guarantee recovery

Empirical phase transitions for IHT



IHT



NIHT

- $\rho \sim 10^{-4}$ for RIP results
- Large gap between theory and average-case behaviour
- NIHT attains the same phase transition as for ℓ_1 -relaxation

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Approach: derive conditions guaranteeing that

- IHT converges to some fixed point
- x is the only fixed point

\implies IHT converges to x .

Fixed point analysis

A fixed point condition:

[Blumensath & Davies]

Let \bar{x} be k -sparse and supported on Γ . Then

\bar{x} is a fixed point of IHT $\iff A_{\Gamma}^T(b - A\bar{x}) = 0$ and

$$\min_{i \in \Gamma} |\bar{x}_i| \geq \alpha \max_{j \in \Gamma^C} |\{A^T(b - A\bar{x})\}_j|.$$

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- Any fixed point is a minimum-norm solution on some k -subspace.
- But a minimum-norm solution is not necessarily a fixed point...

Single fixed point condition

Suppose

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$$\min_{i \in \Gamma} |\bar{x}_i| \geq \alpha \max_{j \in \Gamma^C} | \{ A^T (b - A\bar{x}) \}_j |$$

$$\implies \| \bar{x}_{\Gamma \setminus \Lambda} \|_2 \geq \alpha \| \{ A^T (b - A\bar{x}) \}_{\Lambda \setminus \Gamma} \|_2$$

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$$\implies \|A_{\Gamma}^{\dagger} A_{\Lambda \setminus \Gamma} x_{\Lambda \setminus \Gamma}\|_2^2 \geq \alpha^2 \|A_{\Lambda \setminus \Gamma}^T (I - A_{\Gamma} A_{\Gamma}^{\dagger}) A_{\Lambda \setminus \Gamma} x_{\Lambda \setminus \Gamma}\|_2^2.$$

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Theorem: Suppose

$$\|A_{\Gamma}^{\dagger} A_{\Lambda \setminus \Gamma} x_{\Lambda \setminus \Gamma}\|_2^2 < \alpha^2 \|A_{\Lambda \setminus \Gamma}^T (I - A_{\Gamma} A_{\Gamma}^{\dagger}) A_{\Lambda \setminus \Gamma} x_{\Lambda \setminus \Gamma}\|_2^2$$

for all $\Gamma \neq \Lambda$. Then x is the only fixed point of IHT.

Analysis for Gaussian matrices

Suppose $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times N}$ with entries distributed i.i.d. $N(0, 1/n)$ and suppose x is independent of A . Let Γ be an index set such that $|\Gamma| = k$ and $\Gamma \neq \Lambda$. Then

$$\frac{\|A_{\Gamma}^{\dagger} A_{\Lambda \setminus \Gamma} x_{\Lambda \setminus \Gamma}\|_2^2}{\|x_{\Lambda \setminus \Gamma}\|_2^2} = F_{\Gamma}, \quad \text{where } F_{\Gamma} \sim \frac{k}{n - k + 1} F(k, n - k + 1);$$

$$\frac{\|A_{\Lambda \setminus \Gamma}^T (I - A_{\Gamma} A_{\Gamma}^{\dagger}) A_{\Lambda \setminus \Gamma} x_{\Lambda \setminus \Gamma}\|_2^2}{\|x_{\Lambda \setminus \Gamma}\|_2^2} \geq \left(\frac{n - k}{n} \right)^2 R_{\Gamma}^2,$$

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$$\text{Single FP condition: } F_{\Gamma} < \alpha^2 \left(\frac{n - k}{n} \right)^2 R_{\Gamma}^2 \text{ for all } \Gamma \neq \Lambda.$$

Asymptotic large deviations analysis

Recall the **proportional-growth asymptotic**:

$(k, n, N) \longrightarrow \infty$ such that

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Upper tail bound for F -distribution:

Let $X_n^i \sim \frac{k}{n-k+1} F(k, n-k+1)$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, \binom{N}{k}$.

Then there exists a numerically computable function $\mathcal{IF}(\delta, \rho)$ such that for any $\epsilon > 0$,

$$\mathbb{P}\left\{\cap_i [X_n^i < \mathcal{IF}(\delta, \rho) + \epsilon]\right\} \longrightarrow 1 \quad \text{as } n \longrightarrow \infty.$$

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Lower tail bound for normalized χ^2 -distribution:

Let $X_n^i \sim \frac{1}{n-k} \chi_{n-k}^2$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, \binom{N}{k}$.

Then there exists a numerically computable function $\mathcal{IL}(\delta, \rho)$ such that for any $\epsilon > 0$,

$$\mathbb{P}\left\{\cap_i \left[X_n^i > 1 - \mathcal{IL}(\delta, \rho) - \epsilon\right]\right\} \longrightarrow 1 \quad \text{as } n \longrightarrow \infty.$$

Comparison with RIP

For $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times N}$ Gaussian and $y \in \mathbb{R}^N$ k -sparse independent of A ,

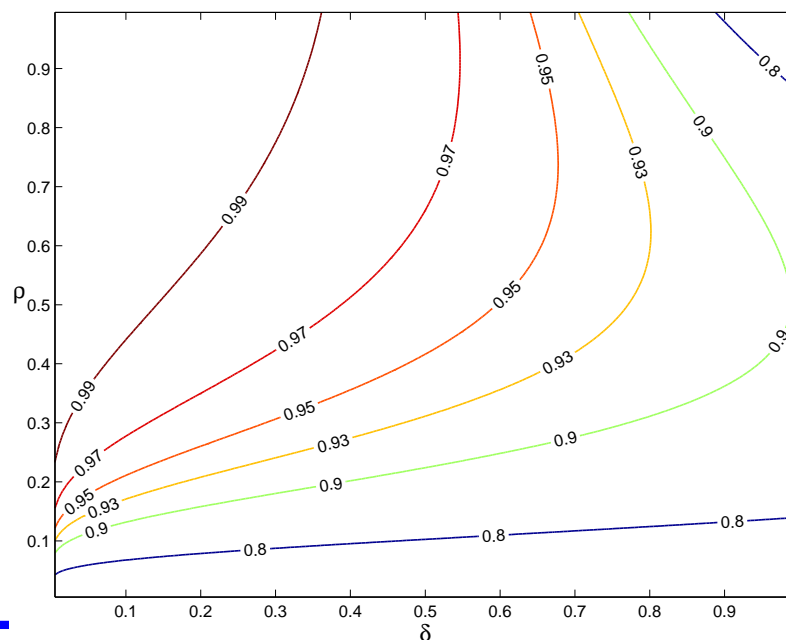
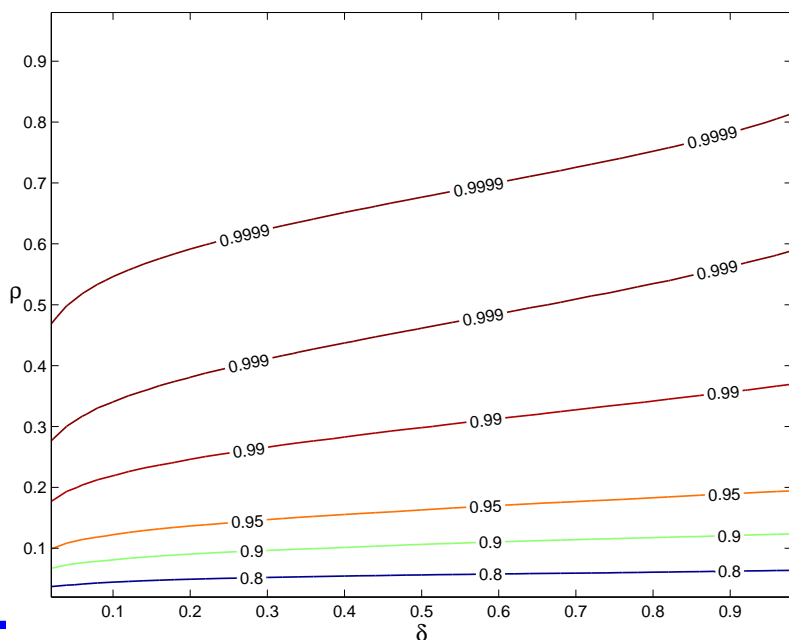
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$$\mathcal{L}(\delta, \rho) \longrightarrow \mathcal{IL}(\delta, \rho)$$

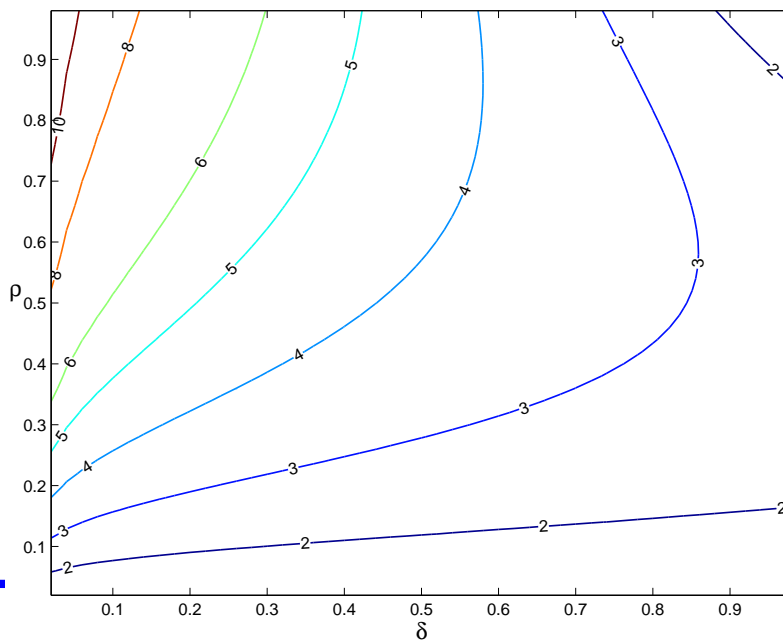
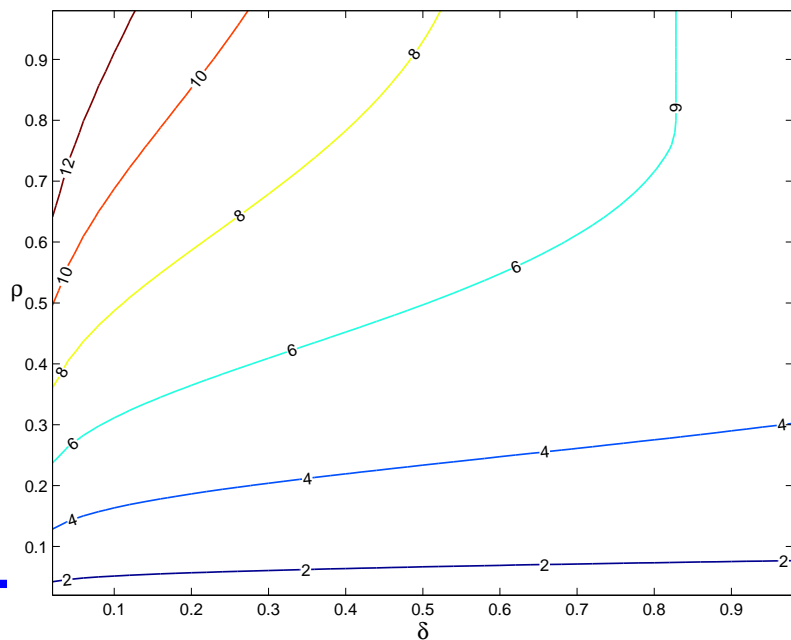


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$$\mathcal{U}(\delta, \rho) \longrightarrow \mathcal{IU}(\delta, \rho)$$



Main recovery result for IHT

Single FP condition: $F_{\Gamma} < \alpha^2 \left(\frac{n-k}{n} \right)^2 R_{\Gamma}^2$ for all $\Gamma \neq \Lambda$

$$\xRightarrow{(k,n,N) \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{\mathcal{IF}(\delta, \rho)} < \alpha(1 - \rho)[1 - \mathcal{IL}(\delta, \rho)].$$

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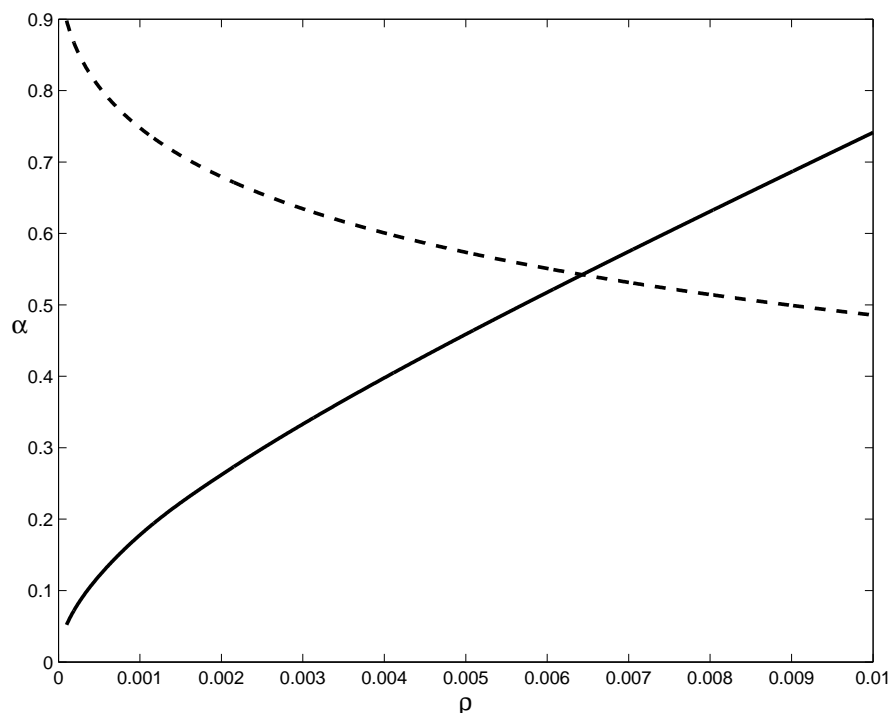
Convergence condition:

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$$\alpha[1 + \mathcal{U}(\delta, 2\rho)] < 1.$$

[Bah and Tanner, 2010]



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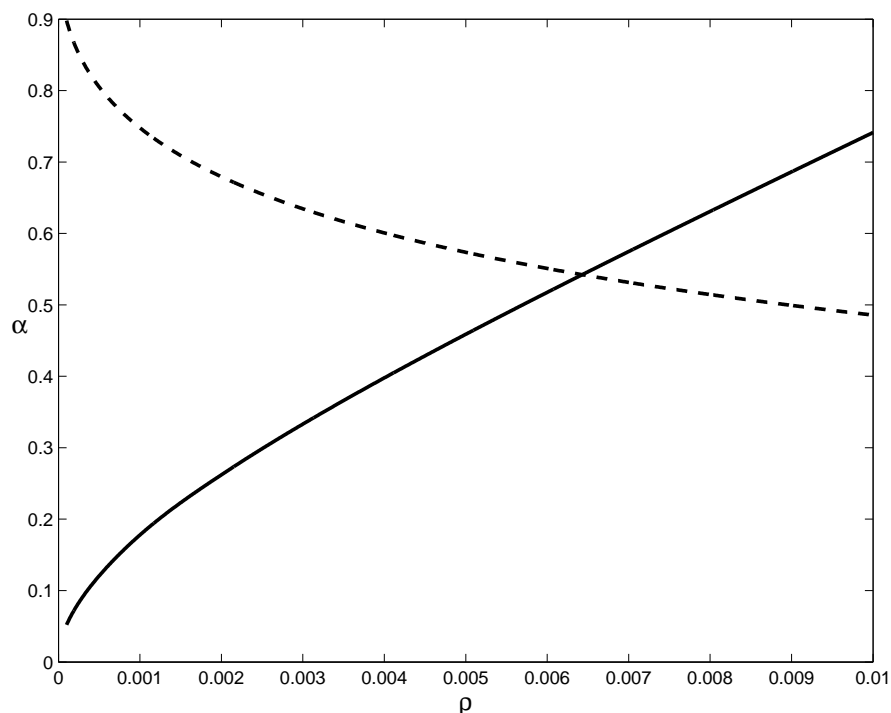
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$$\Rightarrow \frac{\sqrt{\mathcal{IF}(\delta, \rho)}}{(1 - \rho)[1 - \mathcal{IL}(\delta, \rho)]} < \alpha < \frac{1}{1 + \mathcal{U}(\delta, 2\rho)}$$

Main recovery result for IHT...

Theorem: Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times N}$ be a Gaussian matrix independent of x and consider the proportional growth asymptotic when $n/N \rightarrow \delta$ and $k/n \rightarrow \rho$ as $(k, n, N) \rightarrow \infty$. Define

$$\alpha^{\min}(\delta, \rho) = \frac{\sqrt{\mathcal{IF}(\delta, \rho)}}{(1 - \rho) [1 - \mathcal{IL}(\delta, \rho)]} \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha^{\max}(\delta, \rho) = \frac{1}{1 + \mathcal{U}(\delta, 2\rho)}.$$

If

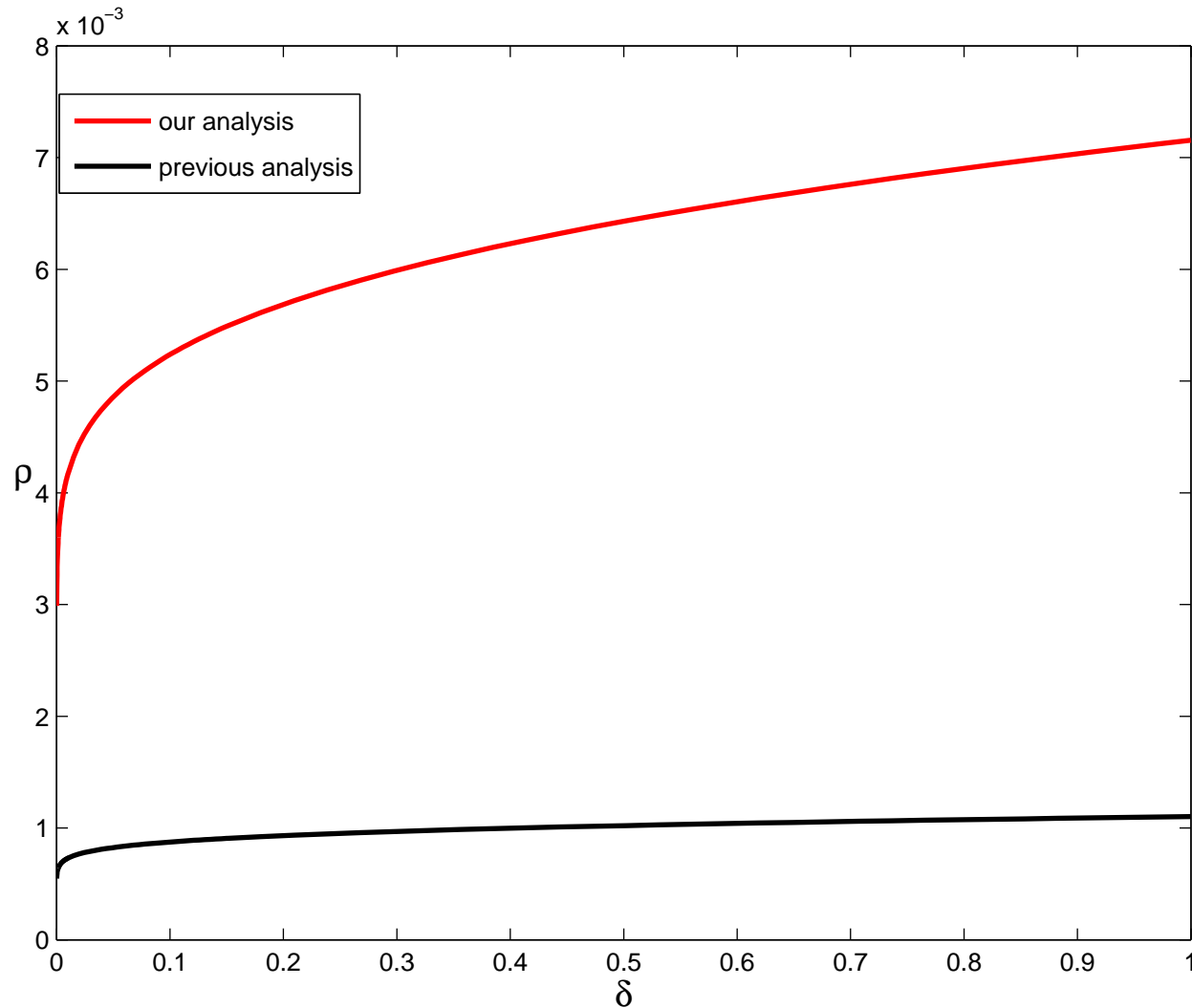
$$\alpha^{\min}(\delta, \rho) < \alpha^{\max}(\delta, \rho),$$

then IHT converges to x for any α satisfying

$$\alpha \in (\alpha^{\min}(\delta, \rho), \alpha^{\max}(\delta, \rho)),$$

with probability tending to 1 exponentially in n .

Phase transition for IHT



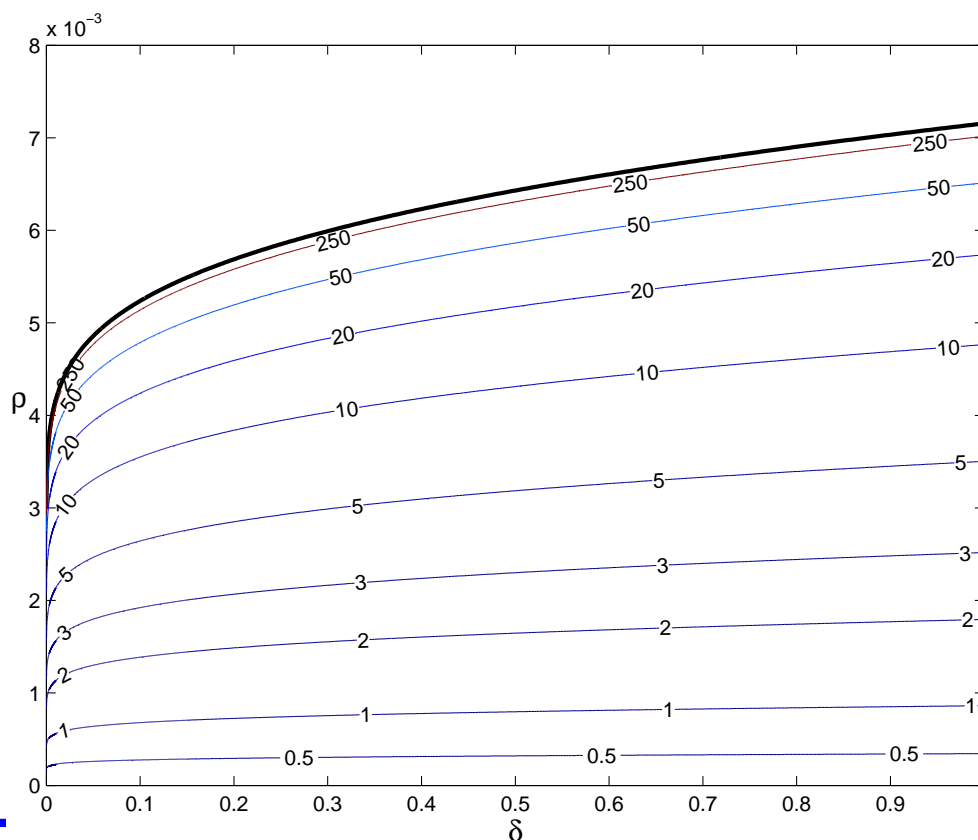
→ improvement by a factor of 7 on previous results.

Extension I: the noise case

Gaussian noise model: $b = Ax + e$, $e_i \sim N(0, \sigma^2/n)$.

We show that any fixed point \bar{x} satisfies

$$\|\bar{x} - x\|_2 \leq \xi(\delta, \rho) \cdot \sigma.$$



Extension II: IHT variants

Normalised IHT (variable step-size)

- when $\Gamma^{m+1} = \Gamma^m$,

$$\alpha^m = \frac{\|A_{\Gamma^m}^T (b - Ax^m)\|_2^2}{\|A_{\Gamma^m} A_{\Gamma^m}^T (b - Ax^m)\|_2^2}$$

→ exact linesearch on the Γ^m face

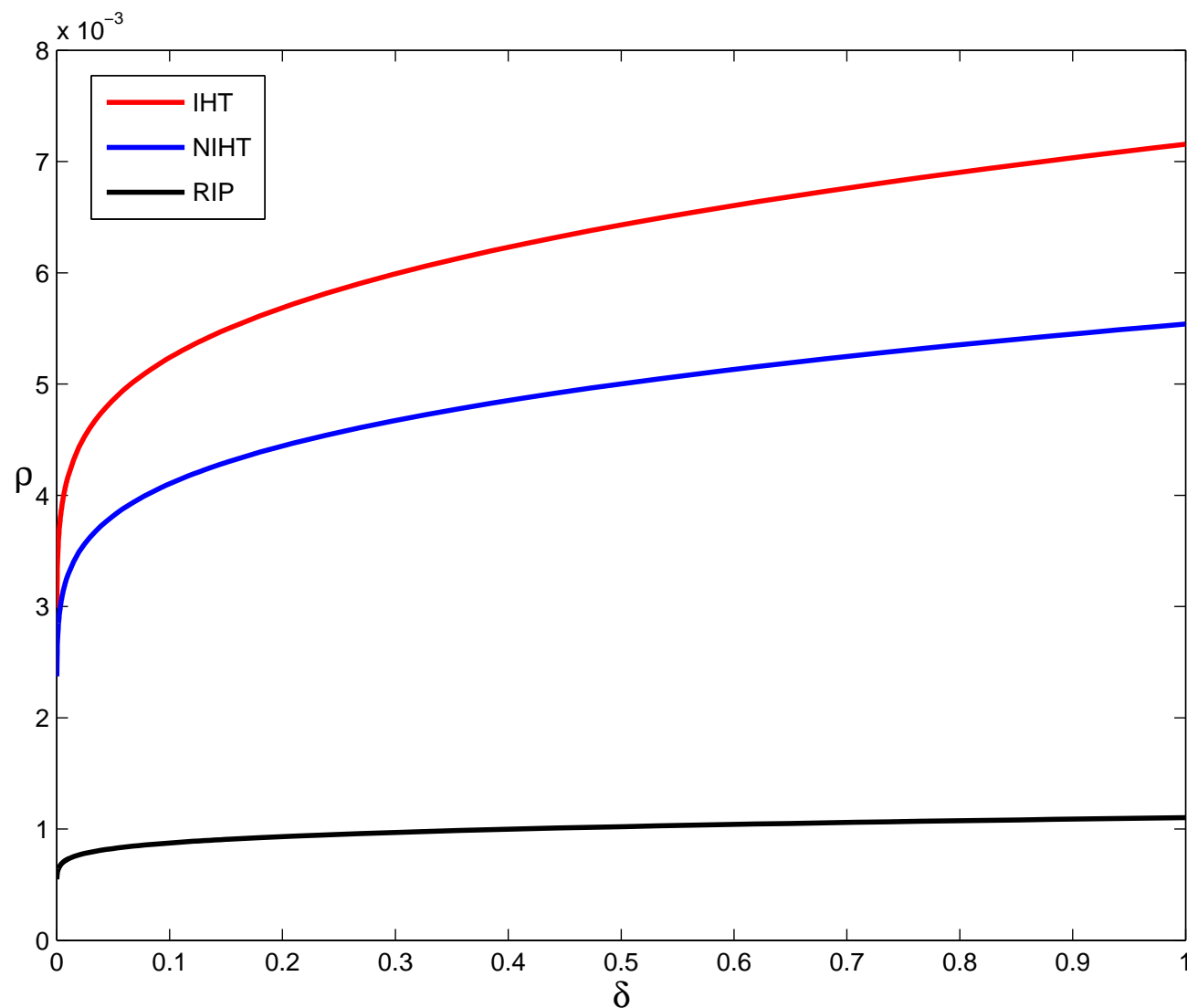
- otherwise employ a ‘sufficient decrease’ strategy.

Fixed points are not well-defined for NIHT

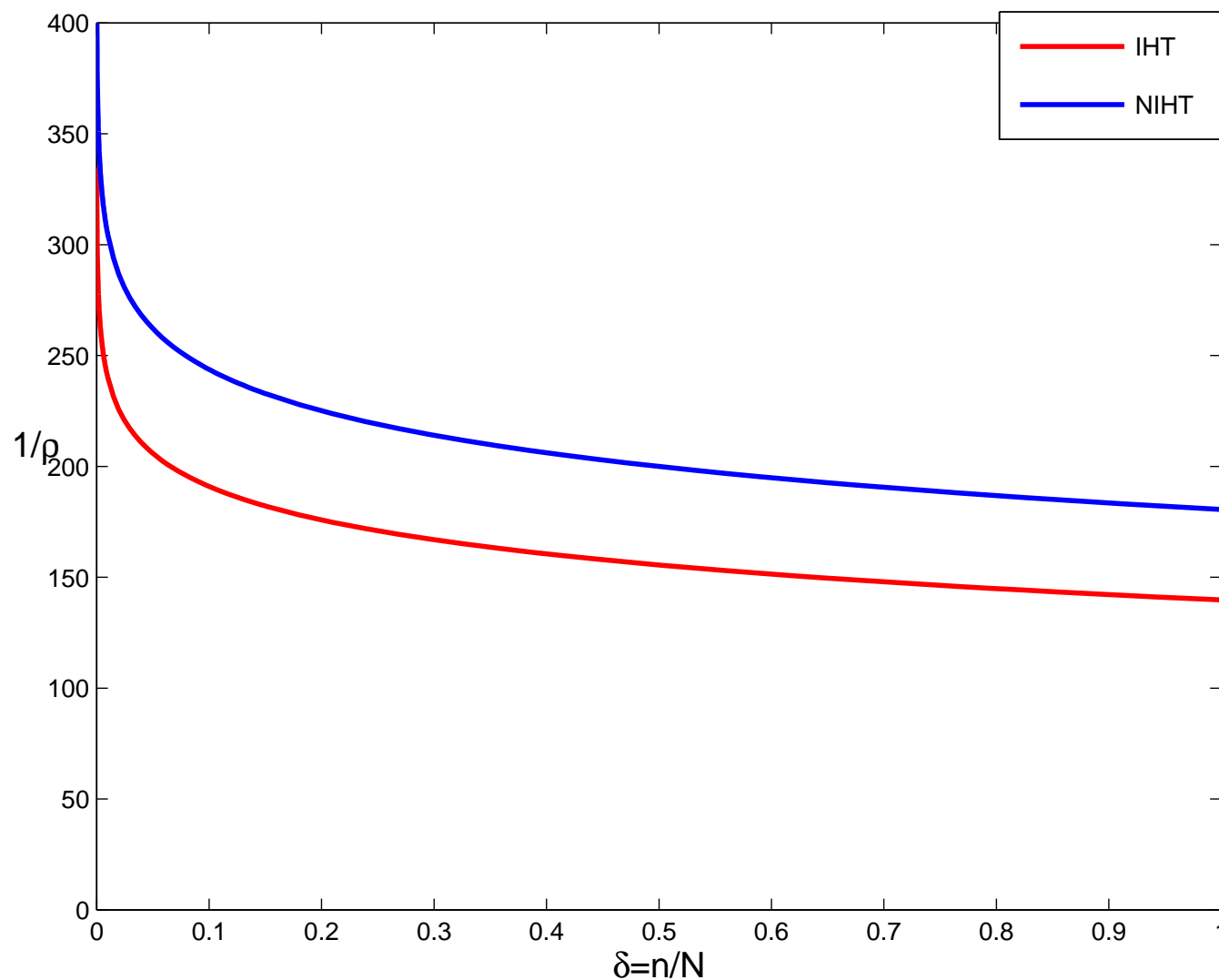
→ introduce concept of α -stable point.

A similar analysis gives an average phase transition for NIHT.

Recovery phase transitions



Inverse of the phase transitions



Summary and future work

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Extension III. An even higher phase transition for **wavelet trees**, recovery if $n > 50k$ (binary).

References

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