

Sparsity Methods for Systems and Control

Greedy Algorithms

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- 1 ℓ^0 Optimization
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ℓ^0 optimization

$$\underset{x \in \mathbb{R}^n}{\text{minimize}} \quad \|x\|_0 \quad \text{subject to} \quad y = \Phi x,$$

Here we **directly** solve the ℓ^0 optimization problem without any convex relaxations.

Mutual coherence

Mutual coherence

For a matrix $\Phi = [\phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_n] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ with $\phi_i \in \mathbb{R}^m, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, we define the **mutual coherence** $\mu(\Phi)$ by

$$\mu(\Phi) \triangleq \max_{\substack{i, j=1, \dots, n \\ i \neq j}} \frac{|\langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle|}{\|\phi_i\|_2 \|\phi_j\|_2}.$$

Mutual coherence

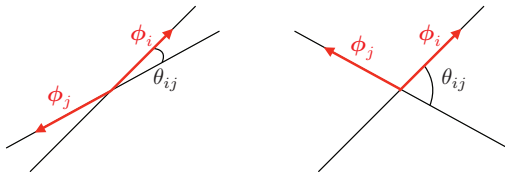
- Mutual coherence

$$\mu(\Phi) \triangleq \max_{\substack{i,j=1,\dots,n \\ i \neq j}} \frac{|\langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle|}{\|\phi_i\|_2 \|\phi_j\|_2}.$$

- The **cosine** of the angle θ_{ij} between ϕ_i and ϕ_j

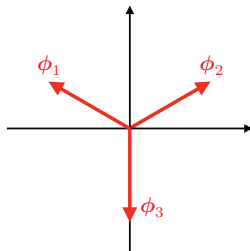
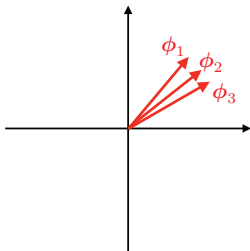
$$\cos \theta_{ij} = \frac{\langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle}{\|\phi_i\|_2 \|\phi_j\|_2}.$$

- $\theta_{ij} \approx 0^\circ$ ($|\cos \theta_{ij}| \approx 1$) $\Rightarrow \phi_i$ and ϕ_j are **coherent**
- $\theta_{ij} \approx 90^\circ$ ($|\cos \theta_{ij}| \approx 0$) $\Rightarrow \phi_i$ and ϕ_j are **incoherent**



Mutual coherence

- For any Φ , we have $0 \leq \mu(\Phi) \leq 1$.
- Some of ϕ_1, \dots, ϕ_n are similar $\Rightarrow \mu(\Phi)$ is large ($\mu(\Phi) \approx 1$)
- ϕ_1, \dots, ϕ_n are uniformly spread $\Rightarrow \mu(\Phi)$ is small



Characterization of ℓ^0 solution

ℓ^0 optimization

$$\underset{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n}{\text{minimize}} \quad \|\mathbf{x}\|_0 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \mathbf{y} = \Phi \mathbf{x},$$

Theorem

If there exists a vector $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ that satisfies linear equation $\Phi \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}$, and

$$\|\mathbf{x}\|_0 < \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\mu(\Phi)} \right),$$

then \mathbf{x} is the **sparsest solution** of the linear equation (i.e. the solution of the ℓ^0 optimization).

Characterization of ℓ^0 solution

- Suppose $\mu(\Phi) < 1$.
- Then,

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\mu(\Phi)} \right) > 1.$$

- From the theorem, if there exists a **1-sparse** vector x (i.e. $\|x\|_0 = 1$) satisfying $\Phi x = y$, this is ℓ^0 optimal.

Finding 1-sparse vector

- Assume \mathbf{x} is 1-sparse. ($\|\mathbf{x}\|_0 = 1$)
- The equation $\mathbf{y} = \Phi\mathbf{x}$ becomes

$$\mathbf{y} = \Phi\mathbf{x} = x_1\boldsymbol{\phi}_1 + x_2\boldsymbol{\phi}_2 + \cdots + x_n\boldsymbol{\phi}_n.$$

- Define **the error**

$$e(i) \triangleq \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \|x\boldsymbol{\phi}_i - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2.$$

- A 1-sparse vector satisfying $\mathbf{y} = \Phi\mathbf{x}$ is found by **searching i that minimizes $e(i)$** .
 - Actually, if a 1-sparse solution exists, $e(i) = 0$ for some i .
- It needs $O(n)$ computations.

Characterization of ℓ^0 solution

- Suppose $\mu(\Phi) < 1/3$.
- Then,

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\mu(\Phi)} \right) > 2.$$

- From the theorem, if there exists a **2-sparse** vector \mathbf{x} (i.e. $\|\mathbf{x}\|_0 \leq 2$) satisfying $\Phi\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}$, this is ℓ^0 optimal.
- Finding 2-sparse vector needs **$O(n^2)$** computations.

Characterization of ℓ^0 solution

- Suppose $\mu(\Phi) < 1/(2k - 1)$.
- Then,

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\mu(\Phi)} \right) > k.$$

- From the theorem, if there exists a k -sparse vector \mathbf{x} (i.e. $\|\mathbf{x}\|_0 \leq k$) satisfying $\Phi\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}$, this is ℓ^0 optimal.
- Finding k -sparse vector \mathbf{x} satisfying $\Phi\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}$ is almost impossible when k is large, since it needs $O(n^k)$ computations.
- In this chapter, we learn greedy methods for this problem.

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ℓ^0 optimization

$$\underset{x \in \mathbb{R}^n}{\text{minimize}} \quad \|x\|_0 \quad \text{subject to} \quad y = \Phi x,$$

To solve this, we employ **greedy methods**.

Matching pursuit

- Finding **1-sparse** solution of $\mathbf{y} = \Phi\mathbf{x}$ is of $O(n)$.
- This is done by searching an index i that minimizes

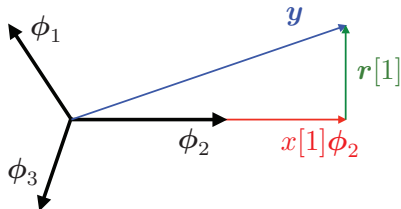
$$e(i) \triangleq \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \|x\phi_i - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2.$$

- If there is no 1-sparse solution, $e(i)$ never gets 0, but we **iterate** this minimization.

Matching Pursuit (MP)

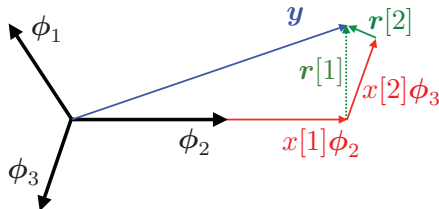
- 1 Find a 1-sparse vector $\mathbf{x}[1]$ that minimizes $\|\Phi\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2$.
- 2 For $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ do
 - Compute the **residue** $\mathbf{r}[k] = \mathbf{y} - \Phi\mathbf{x}[k]$
 - Find a **1-sparse** vector \mathbf{x}^* that minimizes $\|\Phi\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r}[k]\|_2$
 - Set $\mathbf{x}[k+1] = \mathbf{x}[k] + \mathbf{x}^*$

Matching pursuit



- $k = 1$
- $i[1] = 2$ minimizes $e(i) = \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \|x\phi_i - y\|_2^2$.
- $y = x[1]\phi_{i[1]} + r[1]$

Matching pursuit



- $k = 2$
- $i[2] = 3$ minimizes $\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \|x\phi_i - r[1]\|_2^2$.
- $r[1] = x[2]\phi_{i[2]} + r[2]$
- $y = x[1]\phi_{i[1]} + x[2]\phi_{i[2]} + r[2]$
- We can continue this for $k = 3, 4, 5, \dots$

Matching pursuit

- After k step, we have

$$\mathbf{y} = x[1]\phi_{i[1]} + x[2]\phi_{i[2]} + \cdots + x[k]\phi_{i[k]} + \mathbf{r}[k].$$

- The vector \mathbf{y} is **approximated** by

$$\tilde{\mathbf{y}}[k] \triangleq x[1]\phi_{i[1]} + x[2]\phi_{i[2]} + \cdots + x[k]\phi_{i[k]} = \Phi \mathbf{x}[k]$$

with **k -sparse vector**

$$\mathbf{x}[k] \triangleq x[1]\mathbf{e}_{i[1]} + x[2]\mathbf{e}_{i[2]} + \cdots + x[k]\mathbf{e}_{i[k]}$$

- One needs $O(nk)$ computations to obtain k -sparse vector that **approximates** a solution of $\mathbf{y} = \Phi \mathbf{x}$.

Finding 1-sparse vector

- For MP, we need to obtain a 1-sparse vector that minimizes $\|\Phi\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r}\|_2^2$.
- Since $\Phi = [\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n]$ and $\mathbf{x} = [x_1, \dots, x_n]^\top$,

$$\Phi\mathbf{x} = x_1\phi_1 + \dots + x_n\phi_n.$$

- Since \mathbf{x} is 1-sparse, we just need to obtain the index i^* and the coefficient x_{i^*} that minimizes $\|x_i\phi_i - \mathbf{r}\|_2^2$.
- We have

$$e(i) = \min_x \|x\phi_i - \mathbf{r}\|_2^2 = \|\mathbf{y}\|_2^2 - \frac{\langle \phi_i, \mathbf{r} \rangle^2}{\|\phi_i\|_2^2}$$

- From this

$$i^* = \arg \min_i e(i) = \arg \max_i \frac{\langle \phi_i, \mathbf{r} \rangle^2}{\|\phi_i\|_2^2}.$$

Matching pursuit: convergence

Theorem

Assume that dictionary $\{\phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_n\}$ has m linearly independent vectors (i.e. $\text{rank } \Phi = m$). Then there exists a constant $c \in (0, 1)$ such that

$$\|\mathbf{r}[k]\|_2^2 \leq c^k \|\mathbf{y}\|_2^2, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots \quad (1)$$

- The residue $\mathbf{r}[k]$ **monotonically decreases** and

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{r}[k] = \mathbf{0}$$

- The convergence rate is **first order**; the residue decreases exponentially, that is, $O(c^k)$.
- Much faster than FISTA with $O(1/k^2)$.

Orthogonal Matching Pursuit (OMP)

- MP cannot always achieve $\mathbf{r}[k] = \mathbf{0}$ with **finite** k .
- This is because MP may choose an index $i[k]$ that was **already chosen in previous steps**.
- *OMP (Orthogonal Matching Pursuit)* can achieve $\mathbf{r}[k] = \mathbf{0}$ in a **finite** number of iterations.

Orthogonal Matching Pursuit (OMP)

- Choose the index $i[k]$ of a 1-sparse vector that minimizes $\|\Phi\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r}[k-1]\|_2$:

$$i[k] = \arg \max_{i \in \{1, \dots, n\}} \frac{\langle \phi_i, \mathbf{r}[k-1] \rangle^2}{\|\phi_i\|_2^2}, \quad \mathbf{r}[0] = \mathbf{y}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots$$

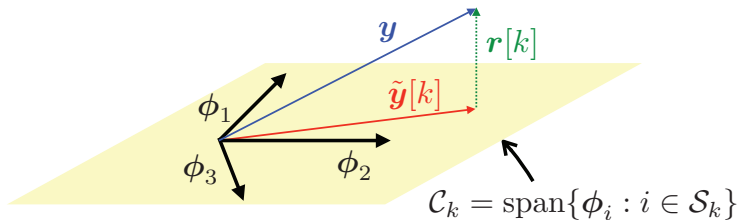
- Store the index in the **chosen index set**:

$$\mathcal{S}_k = \mathcal{S}_{k-1} \cup \{i[k]\}, \quad \mathcal{S}_0 = \emptyset, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots$$

- Approximate \mathbf{y} by a vector $\tilde{\mathbf{y}}[k]$ in $\mathcal{C}_k = \text{span}\{\phi_i : i \in \mathcal{S}_k\}$, that is,

$$\tilde{\mathbf{y}}[k] = \arg \min_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{C}_k} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2 = \Pi_{\mathcal{C}_k}(\mathbf{y}) : \quad \text{projection onto } \mathcal{C}_k$$

Orthogonal Matching Pursuit (OMP)



- The coefficient vector $\tilde{x}[k]$ that satisfies

$$\tilde{y}[k] = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{S}_k} \tilde{x}_i[k] \phi_i = \Phi_{\mathcal{S}_k} \tilde{x}[k]$$

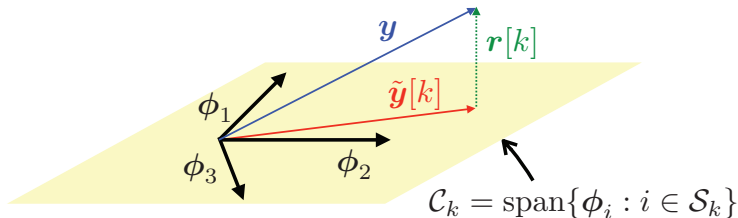
is given by

$$\tilde{x}[k] = (\Phi_{\mathcal{S}_k}^\top \Phi_{\mathcal{S}_k})^{-1} \Phi_{\mathcal{S}_k}^\top y.$$

- Finally, the k -sparse vector is computed by

$$(x[k])_{\mathcal{S}_k} = \tilde{x}[k], \quad (x[k])_{\mathcal{S}_k^c} = \mathbf{0},$$

Orthogonal Matching Pursuit (OMP)



- The residue vector $\mathbf{r}[k]$ is **orthogonal** to the linear subspace \mathcal{C}_k .
- From this,

$$\langle \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{r}[k] \rangle = 0, \quad \forall \mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{C}_k.$$

- Any vector ϕ_i in \mathcal{C}_k will **never be chosen** at the next step:

$$i[k+1] = \arg \max_{i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}} \frac{\langle \phi_i, \mathbf{r}[k] \rangle^2}{\|\phi_i\|_2^2} = \arg \max_{\substack{i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \\ \phi_i \notin \mathcal{C}_k}} \frac{\langle \phi_i, \mathbf{r}[k] \rangle^2}{\|\phi_i\|_2^2}$$

- This is why the algorithm is called the **orthogonal** MP (OMP).

Theorem

Assume that $\text{rank}(\Phi) = m$. Assume also that there exists a vector $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $\mathbf{y} = \Phi\mathbf{x}$ and

$$\|\mathbf{x}\|_0 < \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\mu(\Phi)} \right).$$

Then, this vector \mathbf{x} is the unique solution of the ℓ^0 optimization, and OMP gives it in $k = \|\mathbf{x}\|_0$ steps.

- At each step of OMP, we need to compute the **matrix inversion** of

$$(\Phi_{S_k}^\top \Phi_{S_k})^{-1} \Phi_{S_k}^\top \mathbf{y}$$

- If the number $k = \|\mathbf{x}\|_0$ is **very large**, then this inversion may impose a **heavy computational burden**.

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Optimization problems

In this section, we consider the following two optimization problem:

ℓ^0 regularization

$$\underset{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n}{\text{minimize}} \quad \frac{1}{2} \|\Phi \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{x}\|_0$$

s-sparse approximation

$$\underset{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n}{\text{minimize}} \quad \frac{1}{2} \|\Phi \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \|\mathbf{x}\|_0 \leq s$$

We introduce greedy algorithms called **thresholding algorithms** for these ℓ^0 optimization problems.

ℓ^0 regularization and proximal gradient algorithm

ℓ^0 regularization

$$\underset{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n}{\text{minimize}} \quad \frac{1}{2} \|\Phi \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{x}\|_0$$

- Consider the optimization problem:

$$\underset{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n}{\text{minimize}} \quad f_1(\mathbf{x}) + f_2(\mathbf{x}),$$

- f_1 : differentiable and convex, $\text{dom}(f_1) = \mathbb{R}^n$
- f_2 : proper, closed, and convex
- The **proximal gradient algorithm**

$$\mathbf{x}[k+1] = \text{prox}_{\gamma f_2}(\mathbf{x}[k] - \gamma \nabla f_1(\mathbf{x}[k])).$$

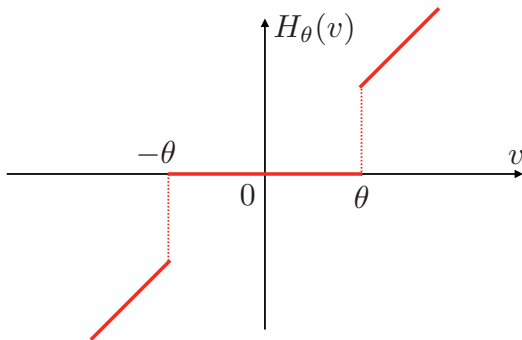
- For the ℓ^0 regularization,

$$f_1(\mathbf{x}) \triangleq \frac{1}{2} \|\Phi \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2, \quad f_2(\mathbf{x}) \triangleq \lambda \|\mathbf{x}\|_0.$$

ℓ^0 regularization and proximal gradient algorithm

- The function $f_2(\mathbf{x}) = \lambda \|\mathbf{x}\|_0$ is **not convex**.
- The proximal operator of $\lambda \|\mathbf{x}\|_0$ is given by the **hard-thresholding operator** $H_\theta(\mathbf{v})$ with $\theta = \sqrt{2\gamma\lambda}$, where

$$[H_\theta(\mathbf{v})]_i \triangleq \begin{cases} v_i, & |v_i| \geq \theta, \\ 0, & |v_i| < \theta, \end{cases} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n,$$

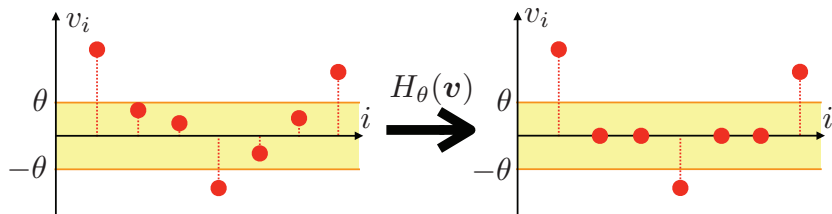


Hard-thresholding operator

Proximal operator of $f_2(x) = \lambda \|x\|_0$

$$\text{prox}_{\gamma\lambda\|\cdot\|_0}(v) = H_{\sqrt{2\gamma\lambda}}(v).$$

- Hard-thresholding operator $H_\theta(v)$ rounds small elements ($|v_i| < \theta$) to 0, where $\theta = \sqrt{2\gamma\lambda}$.



Iterative Hard-Thresholding (IHT) Algorithm

Iterative Hard-Thresholding (IHT)

Initialization: Give an initial vector $\mathbf{x}[0]$ and positive number $\gamma > 0$.

Iteration: for $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ do

$$\mathbf{x}[k + 1] = H_{\sqrt{2\gamma\lambda}}(\mathbf{x}[k] - \gamma\Phi^T(\Phi\mathbf{x}[k] - \mathbf{y})).$$

Theorem

Assume that

$$\gamma < \frac{1}{\|\Phi\|^2},$$

holds. Then the sequence $\{\mathbf{x}[0], \mathbf{x}[1], \mathbf{x}[2], \dots\}$ generated by IHT converges to *a local minimizer* of the ℓ^0 regularization. Moreover, the convergence is *first order*:

$$\|\mathbf{x}[k + 1] - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2 \leq c\|\mathbf{x}[k] - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

s-sparse approximation

$$\underset{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n}{\text{minimize}} \quad \frac{1}{2} \|\Phi \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \|\mathbf{x}\|_0 \leq s$$

- The set of s -sparse vectors in \mathbb{R}^n :

$$\Sigma_s \triangleq \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|\mathbf{x}\|_0 \leq s\}.$$

- This is **non-convex**.
- The indicator function:

$$I_{\Sigma_s}(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} 0, & \|\mathbf{x}\|_0 \leq s, \\ \infty, & \|\mathbf{x}\|_0 > s. \end{cases}$$

- The problem is equivalently described by

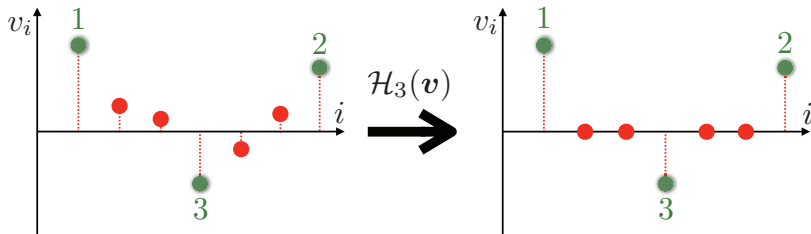
$$\underset{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n}{\text{minimize}} \quad \frac{1}{2} \|\Phi \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2 + I_{\Sigma_s}(\mathbf{x}).$$

s-sparse operator

- We apply the proximal gradient algorithm for

$$\underset{x \in \mathbb{R}^n}{\text{minimize}} \quad \frac{1}{2} \|\Phi x - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2 + I_{\Sigma_s}(x).$$

- The proximal operator of $I_{\Sigma_s}(x)$ is the **projection** onto Σ_s .
- The projection is given by **s-sparse operator** $\mathcal{H}_s(v)$ that sets all but the s largest (in magnitude) elements of v to 0.
- Note that this is **not unique**.



Iterative s-sparse algorithm

Iterative s-sparse algorithm

Initialization: Give an initial vector $\mathbf{x}[0]$ and a positive number $\gamma > 0$

Iteration: for $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ do

$$\mathbf{x}[k+1] = \mathcal{H}_s(\mathbf{x}[k] - \gamma \Phi^\top (\Phi \mathbf{x}[k] - \mathbf{y})).$$

Theorem

Assume that $\text{rank}(\Phi) = m$, and the column vectors ϕ_i , $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, are non-zero. Assume also that the constant $\gamma > 0$ satisfies

$$\gamma < \frac{1}{\|\Phi\|^2}.$$

Then the sequence $\{\mathbf{x}[0], \mathbf{x}[1], \mathbf{x}[2], \dots\}$ generated by the s-sparse algorithm converges to **a local minimizer** of the s-sparse approximation. Moreover, the convergence is **first order**.

Compressed Sampling Matching Pursuit (CoSaMP)

s -sparse approximation

$$\underset{x \in \mathbb{R}^n}{\text{minimize}} \quad \frac{1}{2} \|\Phi x - y\|_2^2 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \|x\|_0 \leq s$$

- The OMP can be extended to solve the s -sparse approximation.
- This is called the **Compressed Sampling Matching Pursuit (CoSaMP)**

CoSaMP algorithm for s-sparse approximation

CoSaMP algorithm for s-sparse approximation

Initialization: $x[0] = \mathbf{0}$, $r[0] = \mathbf{y}$, $\mathcal{S}_0 = \emptyset$

Iteration: for $k = 1, 2, \dots$ do

$$\mathcal{I}[k] := \text{supp} \left\{ \mathcal{H}_{2s} \left(\left\langle \frac{\phi_i}{\|\phi_i\|_2}, r[k-1] \right\rangle^2 \right) \right\},$$

$$\mathcal{S}_k := \mathcal{S}_{k-1} \cup \mathcal{I}[k],$$

$$\tilde{x}[k] := (\Phi_{\mathcal{S}_k}^\top \Phi_{\mathcal{S}_k})^{-1} \Phi_{\mathcal{S}_k}^\top \mathbf{y},$$

$$(z[k])_{\mathcal{S}_k} := \tilde{x}[k],$$

$$(z[k])_{\mathcal{S}_k^c} := \mathbf{0},$$

$$\mathbf{x}[k] := \mathcal{H}_s(z[k]),$$

$$\mathcal{S}_k := \text{supp}\{\mathbf{x}[k]\},$$

$$\mathbf{r}[k] := \mathbf{y} - \Phi_{\mathcal{S}_k} \tilde{x}[k].$$

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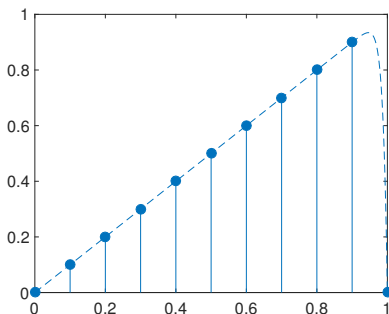
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Sparse polynomial curve fitting

- 80th-order **sparse** polynomial: $y = -t^{80} + t$.
- Generate data from this polynomial

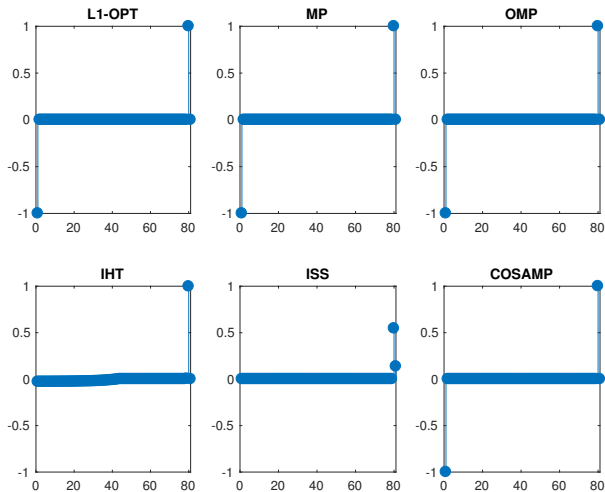
$$\mathcal{D} = \{(t_1, y_1), (t_2, y_2), \dots, (t_{11}, y_{11})\}, \quad y_i = -t_i^{80} + t_i.$$

on $t_1 = 0, t_2 = 0.1, t_3 = 0.2, \dots, t_{11} = 1$.



Results

$$\mathbf{c} = (-1, \underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{78}, 1, 0)$$



Methods	ℓ^1 OPT	MP	OMP	IHT	ISS	CoSaMP
Error	2.7×10^{-10}	9.1×10^{-6}	4.1×10^{-16}	0.0017	0.83	4.1×10^{-11}
Iterations	10	18	2	10^5	10^5	3

- The error $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{y} - \Phi\mathbf{x}^*$ is smallest with OMP.
- The number of iteration is smallest with OMP.
- IHT and ISS converged to **local minimizers** with large residues.
- OMP is best for this example, but this is not always true.
- The performance depends on the problem and data, and we should adopt **trial and error** to seek the best algorithm.

- Greedy algorithms are available to directly solve ℓ^0 optimization.
- The greedy algorithms introduced in this chapter show the linear convergence, which are much faster than the proximal splitting algorithms.
- A local optimal solution is obtained by a greedy algorithm, which is not necessarily a global optimizer.