

RADAR SIGNAL PROCESSING USING COMPRESSED SENSING

Internship Report

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ABSTRACT

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CHAPTER 1: NYQUIST CRITERIA AND ITS LIMITATIONS

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Nyquist–Shannon sampling theorem is a theorem in the field of signal processing which serves as a fundamental bridge between continuous-time signals and discrete-time signals. It establishes a sufficient condition for a sample rate that permits a discrete sequence of samples to capture all the information from a continuous-time signal of finite bandwidth.

For a signal of frequency f_{signal} , the minimum sampling rate required to avoid aliasing, according to the Nyquist criterion is,

Nyquist-Shannon Sampling Criteria

$$f_s \geq 2f_{\text{signal}}$$

(1)

This means that the sampling frequency must be at least twice the highest frequency present in the signal to ensure perfect reconstruction from its samples.

1.2 LIMITATIONS

One of the main limitations of the Nyquist sampling theorem is the requirement for high sampling rates when dealing with signals that contain high-frequency components, which can be challenging to achieve in practice due to several reasons:

- **Hardware Limitations:** Analog-to-digital converters (ADCs), capable of very high sampling rates are expensive and may not be readily available. The speed and resolution of ADCs are often limited by current technology.
- **Data Storage and Processing:** High sampling rates generate large volumes of data, which require significant storage capacity and processing power. This can make real-time processing and analysis difficult or costly.
- **Power Consumption:** Systems operating at high sampling rates typically consume more power, which is a critical concern in portable or battery-powered devices.
- **Noise Sensitivity:** At higher frequencies, electronic components are more susceptible to noise and interference, which can degrade the quality of the sampled signal.

These limitations motivate the development of alternative sampling techniques, such as **Compressed Sensing**, which aim to reconstruct signals accurately from fewer samples than required by the traditional Nyquist criterion, especially when the signal is sparse or compressible in some domain.

CHAPTER 2: COMPRESSED SENSING

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The limitations of the Nyquist criterion, especially in applications requiring high data rates or operating under hardware constraints, have led to the exploration of new signal acquisition paradigms. Compressed Sensing (CS) is one such approach that leverages the sparsity of signals in some domain to enable accurate reconstruction from far fewer samples than traditionally required.

2.2 MOTIVATIONS FOR COMPRESSED SENSING

Key motivations for using compressed sensing include:

- **Efficient Data Acquisition:** CS allows for the collection of only the most informative measurements, reducing the burden on data acquisition systems.
- **Reduced Storage and Transmission Costs:** By acquiring fewer samples, CS minimizes the amount of data that needs to be stored or transmitted, which is particularly beneficial in bandwidth-limited or remote sensing scenarios.
- **Lower Power Consumption:** Fewer samples mean less processing and lower power requirements, which is advantageous for battery-powered and embedded systems.
- **Enabling New Applications:** CS opens up possibilities for applications where traditional sampling is impractical, such as medical imaging, wireless communications, and radar signal processing.

In the following chapters, we explore the principles of compressed sensing and its application to radar signal processing.

2.3 FUNDAMENTAL TERMS

Before delving deeper into compressed sensing, it is important to understand some fundamental terms:

- **Sparsity:** A signal is said to be sparse if most of its coefficients are zero or close to zero. Sparsity is a key assumption in compressed sensing.

- **Basis:** In compressed sensing, a basis is a set of vectors (such as Fourier, wavelet, or DCT bases) in which the signal can be represented as a linear combination. A signal is considered sparse if it has only a few nonzero coefficients when expressed in this basis. The choice of basis is crucial, as it determines the sparsity and thus the effectiveness of compressed sensing for a given signal.
- **Measurement Matrix:** In compressed sensing, the measurement matrix is used to acquire linear projections of the original signal. It is also known as the dictionary matrix or sampling matrix.
- **Reconstruction Algorithm:** Algorithms such as Basis Pursuit, Orthogonal Matching Pursuit (OMP), and LASSO are used to recover the original sparse signal from the compressed measurements.

Understanding these terms is essential for grasping the principles and practical implementation of compressed sensing.

2.4 MATHEMATICAL MODEL

In compressed sensing, the measurement process can be mathematically modeled as:

$$\mathbf{y} = \phi \mathbf{x} \quad (2)$$

where:

- $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is the **original signal** (which is assumed to be sparse or compressible in some basis)
- $\phi \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ is the **measurement matrix** (with $m < n$)
- $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ is the **compressed (measurement) vector**.

If the signal \mathbf{x} is not sparse in its original domain but is sparse in some transform domain (e.g., DCT, DFT, or wavelet), we can write $\mathbf{x} = \Psi \mathbf{s}$, where Ψ is the **basis matrix** and \mathbf{s} is the **sparse coefficient vector**. The measurement model then becomes:

$$\mathbf{y} = \phi \Psi \mathbf{s} = \Theta \mathbf{s} \quad (3)$$

where $\Theta = \phi \Psi$ is the **sensing matrix**.

The goal of compressed sensing is to recover \mathbf{x} (or \mathbf{s}) from the measurements \mathbf{y} , given knowledge of ϕ (and Ψ if applicable), by exploiting the sparsity of the signal.

CHAPTER 3: RECONSTRUCTION ALGORITHMS

The various algorithms are used for reconstructing back the original signal that was initially compressed by the process as shown previously.

3.1 ORTHOGONAL MATCHING PURSUIT (OMP)

The OMP algorithm is an iterative greedy algorithm used to recover sparse signals from compressed measurements. At each iteration, it selects the column of the measurement matrix that is most correlated with the current residual and updates the solution accordingly. The process continues until a sufficiently small residual is met. The steps are listed below, as shown in [omp-intro]

Algorithm 3: OMP(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{b})	
Input: \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{b}	
Result: \mathbf{x}_k	
1	Initialization $\mathbf{r}_0 = \mathbf{b}, \Lambda_0 = \emptyset$;
2	- Normalize all columns of \mathbf{A} to unit L_2 norm;
3	- Remove duplicated columns in \mathbf{A} (make \mathbf{A} full rank);
4	for $k = 1, 2, \dots$ do
5	Step-1-2. $\Lambda_k = \Lambda_{k-1} \cup \left\{ \underset{j \notin \Lambda_{k-1}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{r}_{k-1} \right\}$;
6	Step-3. $\mathbf{x}_k(i \in \Lambda_k) = \underset{\mathbf{x}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \ \mathbf{A}_{\Lambda_k} \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\ _2, \mathbf{x}_k(i \notin \Lambda_k) = 0$;
7	Step-4-5. $\mathbf{r}_k \leftarrow \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}_k$;
8	end

Figure 1: OMP Algorithm

This algorithm can be implemented in MATLAB and Python with necessary toolboxes and libraries.

3.1.1 Algorithm Implementation

• MATLAB

Here, the sum of two sinusoids is taken as input and it is made sparse using the built-in dft matrix taken as the basis (Ψ) and is measured using a random gaussian matrix (Φ).

The algorithm was initially tested directly in frequency domain. In its ideal form(ie. without noise), for a low enough sparsity, the algorithm perfectly reconstructed the frequency and the

amplitude values of compressed signal. Then, two values of noise was given($\text{SNR}=0\text{dB}$ and $\text{SNR}=20\text{dB}$). The Algorithm was able to reconstruct the signal near-perfectly for an SNR of 20 dB. For an SNR of 0 dB(signal power=noise power), the results were more inaccurate, both in terms of position on the graph(frequency) and the amplitude values. Still, the algorithm was able to reconstruct some parts of the signal with a fair amount of accuracy.

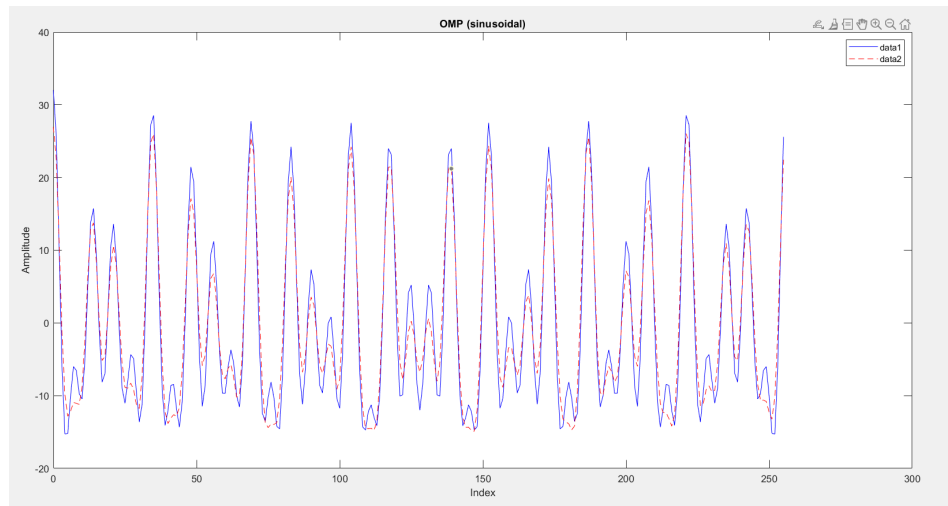


Figure 2: OMP Signal Reconstruction: Ideal (No noise added)

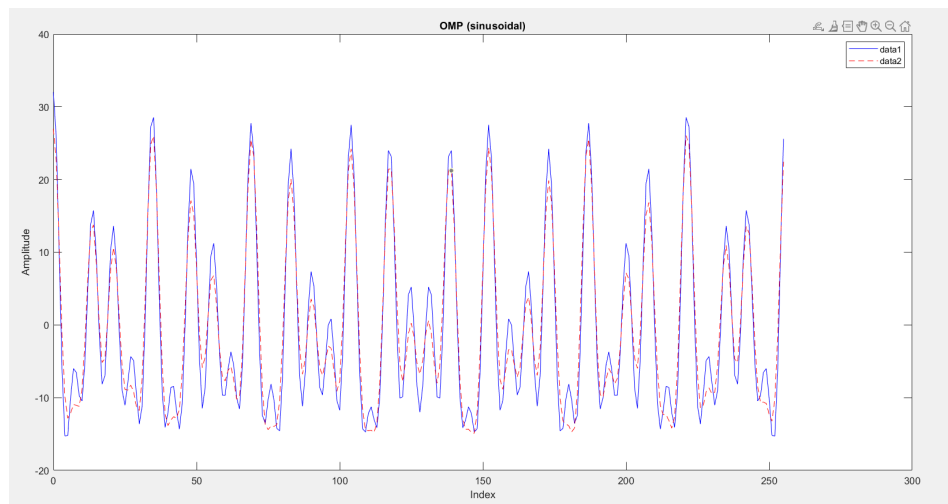


Figure 3: OMP Signal Reconstruction: 20dB

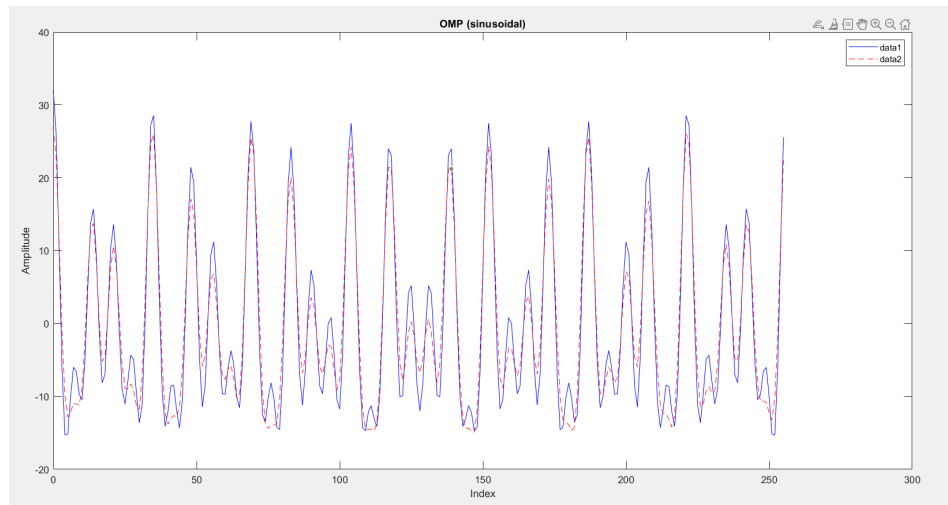


Figure 4: OMP Signal Reconstruction: 0dB

Next, the code was used to implement sinusoids in time domain. A real sum of 5 sinusoids was given as input to the algorithm. Then the output is plotted along with the original signal to compare them. The algorithm was able to reconstruct the signal fairly accurately. Smaller peaks of the input signal was harder to reconstruct for the algorithm, and also, there was a reduction in the amplitude of the reconstructed signal w.r.t the original signal. A slight phase shift was observed in some outputs when the code is run for different random inputs.

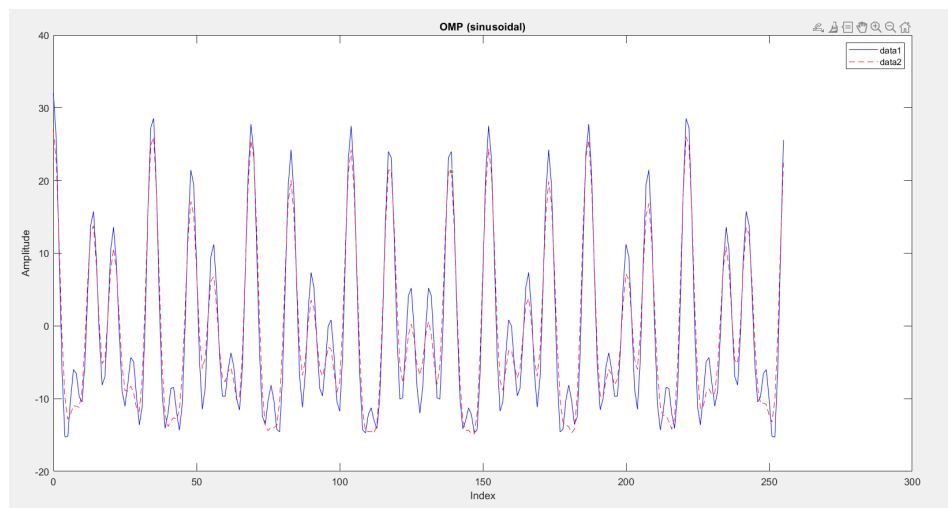


Figure 5: OMP Signal Reconstruction: sinusoidal input

- **Python**

Libraries like **numpy** and **matplotlib** are imported for mathematical operations and plotting results respectively.

- **Stage 1:** The basic implementation was done by taking length of signal (n), number of measurements (m) and non-zero values or sparsity (k) as input. The sensing matrix was assumed to be filled with random gaussian values.
- **Stage 2:** The next stage involved taking a sum of three sinusoidal signals as input signal ($k = 3$) and it is converted to a more sparser domain with **Discrete Cosine Transform (DCT)**. The function is used by importing the **scipy** library. While initially k was fixed, it is then taken as an input from user. DCT was initially tested for a single sine wave as well as for sum of sine waves of different frequencies, as shown in the figure below.
- **Stage 3:** In the above stages, reconstruction was observed for pure signals. So, a noise (in dB) was introduced before the reconstruction process.

All these stages were plotted and the error was calculated and observed.

3.1.2 Monte-Carlo Trials

Monte Carlo trials are a broad class of computational algorithms that rely on repeated random sampling to obtain numerical results. This is used to understand the behaviour of the algorithm under change in parameters, including sparsity, noise and number of measurements taken. It is useful for analysis, understanding its performance for various values of multiple inputs. In other words, this acts like a testbench for the algorithm.

The input values were stored in a list and these were fed to the trial algorithm. The error was calculated for a number of trials for the same input values, and only the average error is plotted to prevent unwanted variations in reconstruction.

3.1.3 Observations & Results

For **Stage 1** implementation, the sparse matrix is already created by specifying k . So, the compressed matrix (y) is generated by just multiplying sensing matrix (Θ) and the generated sparse matrix (s). The results are plotted as shown below,

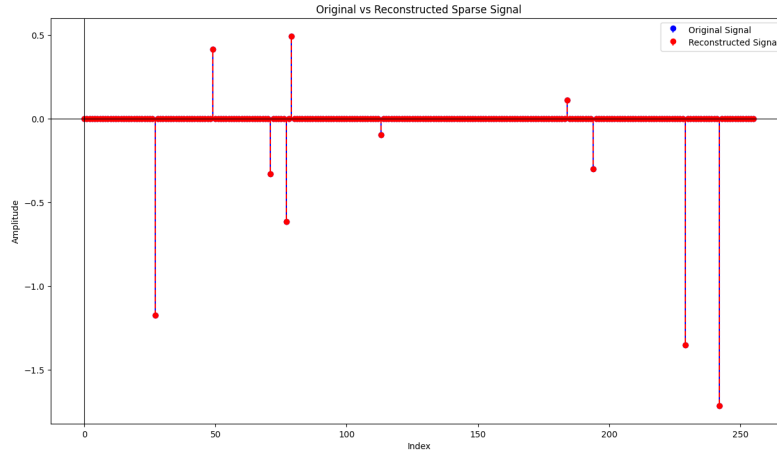


Figure 6: OMP Algorithm Stage 1 Implementation: Perfect Reconstruction

While the reconstruction as shown above is very accurate, it is not always the case. As sparsity increases, the measurements to be taken also increases. Hence, there are some necessary conditions for perfect recovery of a signal. As mentioned in [rani-cs], the relation between n , m and k is:-

$$m \geq C \cdot k \cdot \log \left(\frac{n}{k} \right) \quad (4)$$

where C is a constant almost equal to 2.

Hence, if the above equation is not satisfied, then reconstruction is very difficult. The failed reconstruction is shown below.

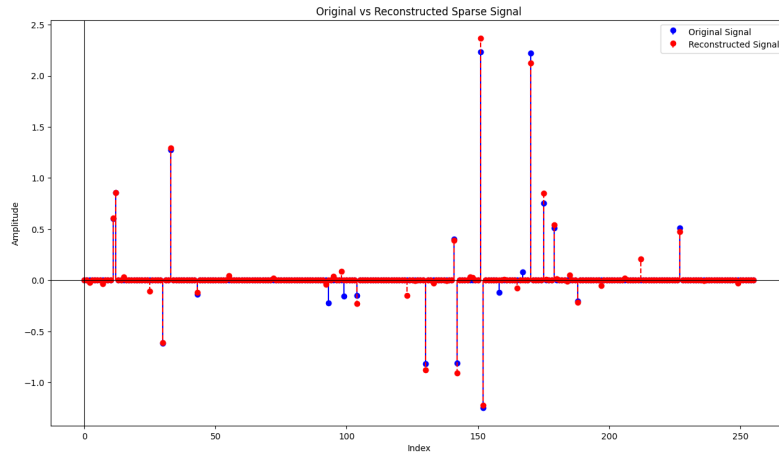


Figure 7: OMP Algorithm Stage 1 Implementation: Failed Reconstruction

When it comes to **Stage 2** implementation, the sensing matrix is divided into a basis matrix and measurement matrix. The basis matrix is used to convert our input signal to a sparser signal. For sinusoidal inputs, it is best to represent the signals in its frequency domain. So, FFT or DCT can be used. Since, all sinusoids are real signals, DCT was possible. The sum of sinusoids were converted to DCT and the results are being plotted to check its sparsity.

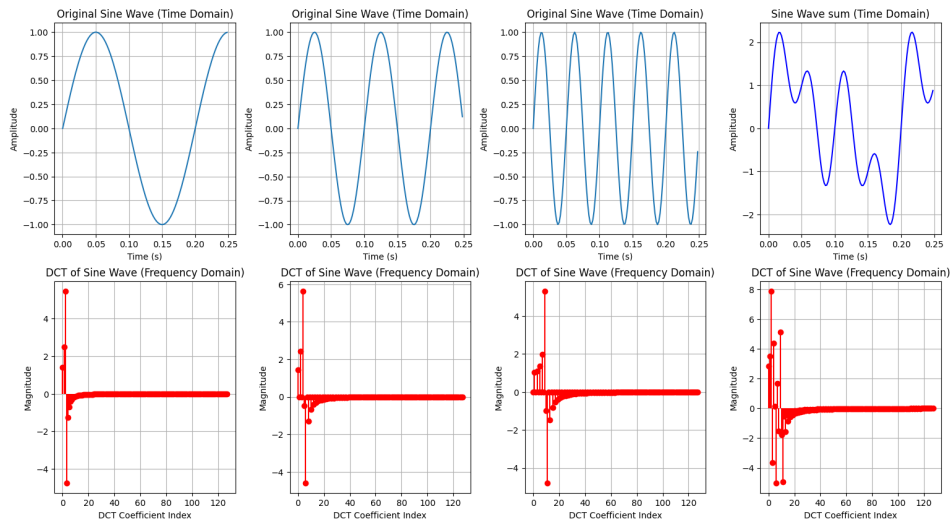


Figure 8: OMP Algorithm Stage 2 Implementation: DCT Basis on Sinusoidal signals

The sinusoidal signal is initially tested for various values of n and m , keeping $k = 3$. Some of the results are plotted as shown,

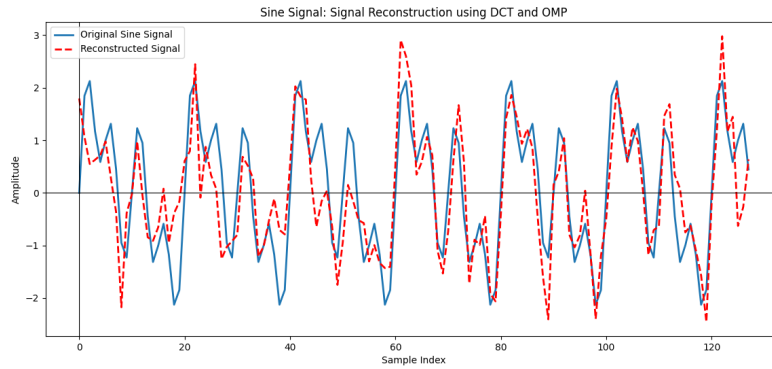


Figure 9: OMP Algorithm Stage 2 Implementation: For $n = 128$, $m = 60$

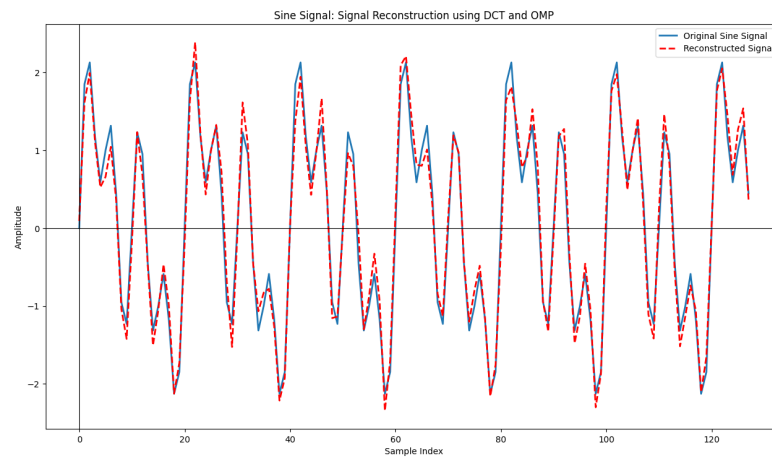


Figure 10: OMP Algorithm Stage 2 Implementation: For $n = 128$, $m = 100$

So, generally we can say as **number of measurements increases, the reconstruction error decreases**. Till now, no noise has been considered during the reconstruction. To analyse the algorithm for each value of n , m , k and even noise, it is difficult for us to understand the trend of error. So, a Monte Carlo trial has been implemented on the OMP algorithm for three variable parameters, **measurements**, **sparsity** and **noise**. So, all three parameters are compared and the results are plotted.

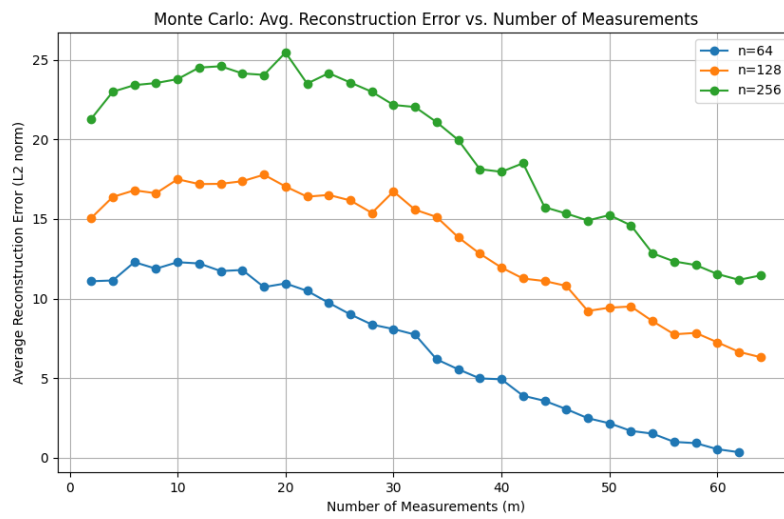


Figure 11: Monte Carlo Trial: Measurements (m)

The analysis above is for noiseless, fixed sparsity ($k = 3$) reconstruction.

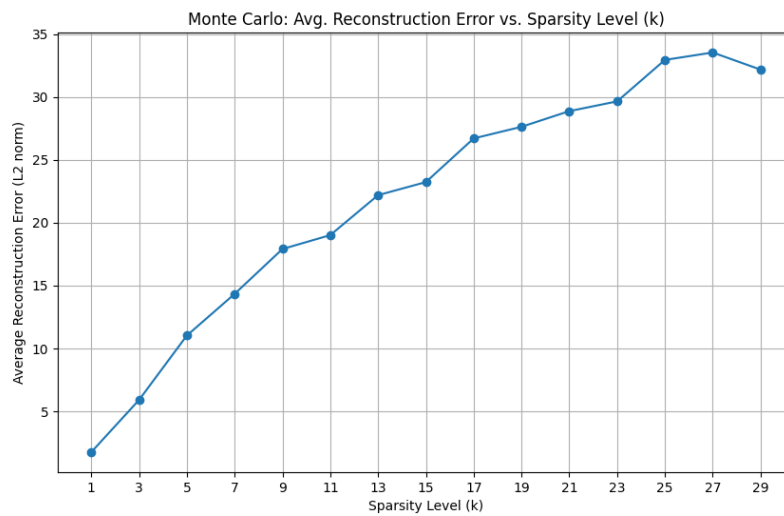


Figure 12: Monte Carlo Trial: Sparsity (k)

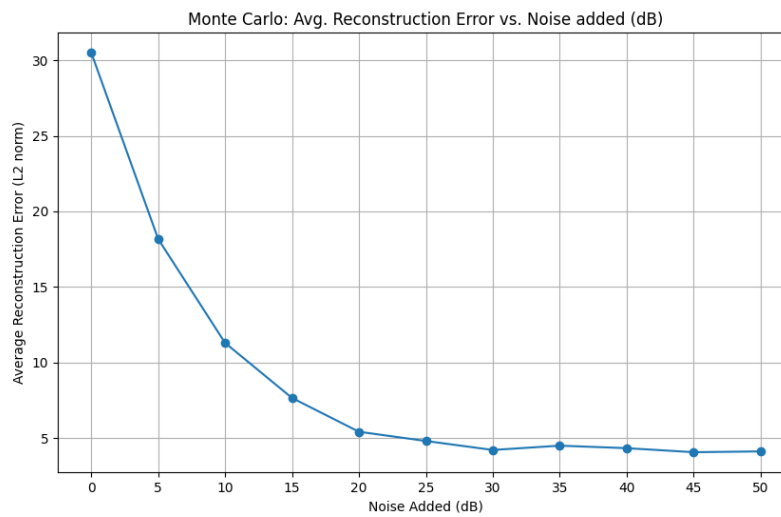


Figure 13: Monte Carlo Trial: Noise (in dB)

Conclusion needed.....

3.2 ITERATIVE SHRINKAGE THRESHOLDING ALGORITHM (ISTA)

The ISTA is an iterative, convex optimisation method for solving sparse signal recovery problems, particularly those formulated as LASSO or basis pursuit denoising. ISTA iteratively updates the solution by applying a gradient descent step followed by a soft-thresholding (shrinkage) operation to promote sparsity. The general steps are:

1. Initialize the sparse coefficient vector.
2. At each iteration, perform a gradient descent step to minimize the data fidelity term.
3. Apply the soft-thresholding operator to enforce sparsity.
4. Repeat until convergence.

These steps are as shown, from [**fast-sparse-coding**]

Algorithm 1 ISTA

```
function ISTA( $X, Z, W_d, \alpha, L$ )  
  Require:  $L >$  largest eigenvalue of  $W_d^T W_d$ .  
  Initialize:  $Z = 0$ ,  
  repeat  
     $Z = h_{(\alpha/L)}(Z - \frac{1}{L} W_d^T (W_d Z - X))$   
  until change in  $Z$  below a threshold  
end function
```

Figure 14: ISTA Algorithm

3.2.1 Algorithm Implementation & Monte Carlo Trial

Just like in OMP implementation, the basic libraries were imported and the sinusoidal input is converted to its sparser domain using DCT. The soft thresholding function plays a role in enforcing sparsity by shrinking very small values to zero. Since convergence is very slow in ISTA, the number of iterations are higher than that of OMP.

Monte Carlo has been implemented in a very similar manner as that of OMP and it has been checked for all the 3 parameters. Moreover, both the algorithms have been compared for these parameters, and their performance has been observed and analysed.

3.2.2 Observations & Results

Implementing ISTA for a sinusoidal input had some similarities with that of the OMP algorithm. The trends in the major 3 parameters are same for both the algorithms. Initially ISTA was checked for pure reconstruction, that is no noise interference. The result is as plotted,

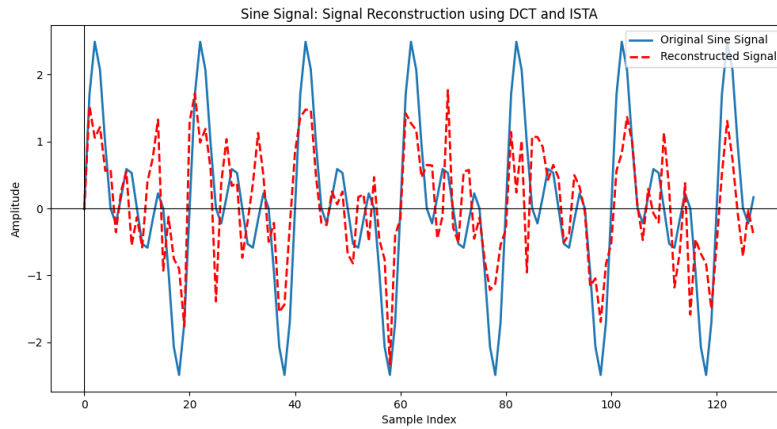


Figure 15: ISTA Algorithm Implementation (Ideal)

It is observed that as the number of iterations for ISTA increases, the error decreases.

Now, when noise is added during the process, its performance is also as shown,

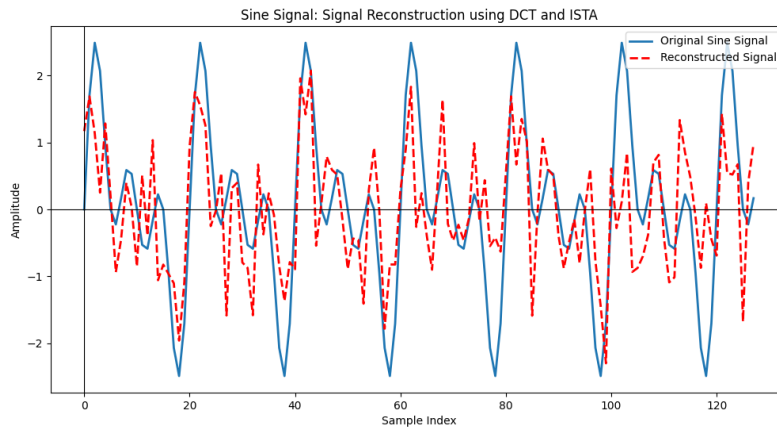


Figure 16: ISTA Algorithm Implementation (With Noise)

Here, unlike OMP, ISTA is very resistant to noise variation and hence explains its advantage over OMP. That is because of the shrinkage function, which shrinks small coefficients to zero and its regularisation term penalises the high variance solutions. In contrary, OMP being a greedy algorithm, tends to select the noisy atoms causing to succumb to the effect of noise. Hence, ISTA is more robust to noise than OMP.

The Monte Carlo for ISTA has been implemented with varying measurements for every value of n . The results are to some extent similar to that of the OMP, that is the reconstruction error follows an inverse relationship with the number of measurements, which is as shown below,

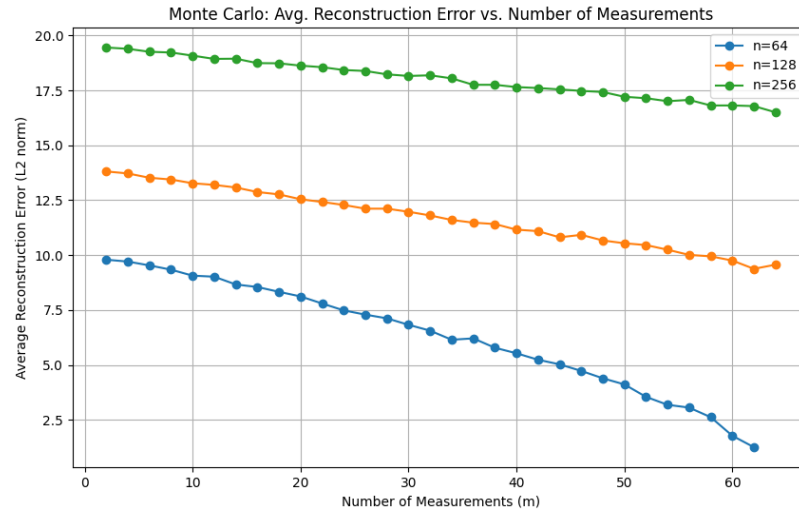


Figure 17: Monte Carlo Trial: Measurements (m)

With these 3 parameters used for the trial, it can be done to compare both ISTA and OMP. This is done so as to assess and understand the scope of the algorithm for future work, etc. The comparisons are shown below

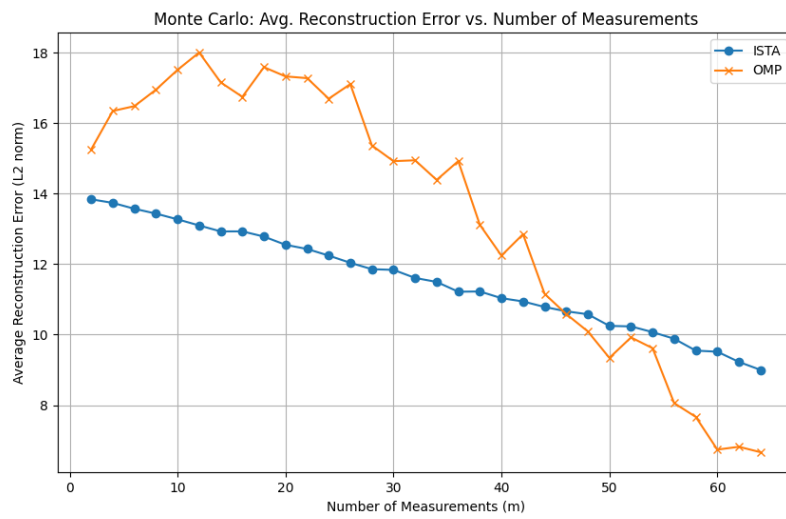


Figure 18: OMP v/s ISTA (m)

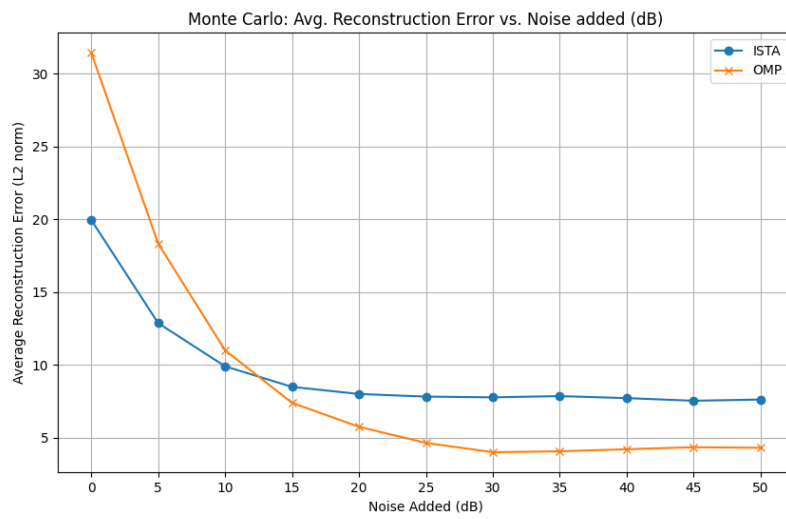


Figure 19: OMP v/s ISTA (noise)

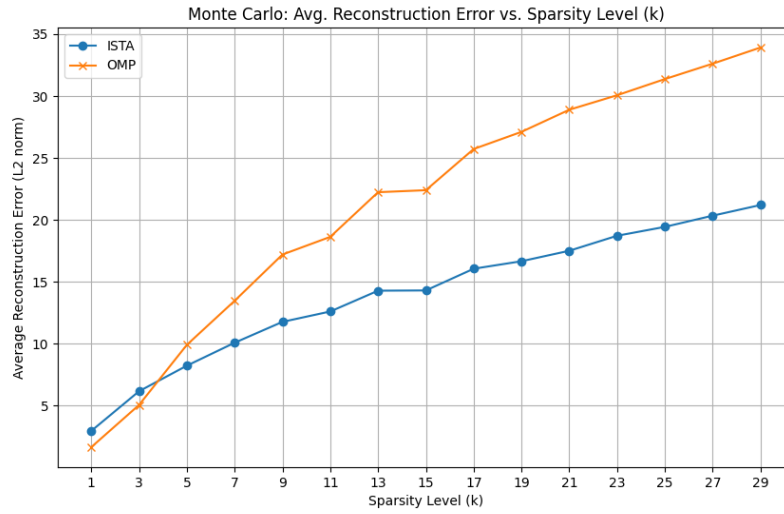


Figure 20: OMP v/s ISTA (sparsity)

In summary, both OMP and ISTA have their own strengths and are suitable for different scenarios in compressed sensing-based radar signal processing:

- **OMP** excels when the signal is highly sparse and the number of measurements is sufficient. It is computationally efficient and provides accurate reconstruction in low-noise environments. However, its performance degrades with increased noise or when the sparsity assumption is violated.
- **ISTA** is more robust to noise due to its regularization and shrinkage steps. It can handle less sparse signals and noisy measurements better than OMP, albeit at the cost of slower convergence and higher computational complexity. It is best in handling undersampled and noisy data.

The choice between OMP and ISTA depends on the specific requirements of the application, such as the expected sparsity of the signal, noise levels, and computational resources. In practice, a trade-off must be made between reconstruction accuracy, noise robustness, and computational efficiency.

3.3 COORDINATE DESCENT (CoD)

Coordinate Descent is a simple yet powerful optimization algorithm that is widely used in compressed sensing applications, especially for solving large-scale sparse recovery problems such as LASSO (Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator). It works by minimizing (or maximizing) a function by solving for one variable at a time while keeping the others fixed. The process repeats, cycling through each variable (or “coordinate”) in turn, updating its value to reduce the objective function. The general steps are: 1. Initialize the sparse coefficient vector. 2. For each coordinate (variable), update its value by minimizing the objective function with respect to that coordinate, keeping all other variables fixed. 3. Apply the soft-thresholding operator to the updated coordinate to enforce sparsity. 4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 for all coordinates, cycling through them until convergence.

Algorithm 1 ISTA

```
function ISTA( $X, Z, W_d, \alpha, L$ )  
  Require:  $L >$  largest eigenvalue of  $W_d^T W_d$ .  
  Initialize:  $Z = 0$ ,  
  repeat  
     $Z = h_{(\alpha/L)}(Z - \frac{1}{L} W_d^T (W_d Z - X))$   
  until change in  $Z$  below a threshold  
end function
```

3.3.1 Algorithm Implementation

In the MATLAB implementation of CoD algorithm, The process begins by generating a sparse signal (z_true) and its measurement (y) using a random sensing matrix (Φ). The main loop iteratively updates each coordinate of the sparse coefficient vector (z) by applying the soft-thresholding operator, which enforces sparsity. At each iteration, the coordinate with the largest change is selected and updated to minimize the objective function. The reconstructed signal is then compared to the original, and the mean squared error (MSE) is tracked over iterations to monitor convergence. The code concludes by plotting both the original and reconstructed signals, as well as the MSE progression, illustrating the effectiveness of the CoD algorithm in recovering sparse signals.