

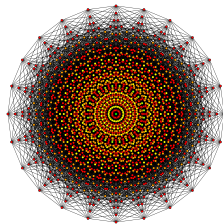
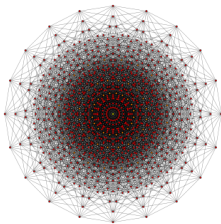
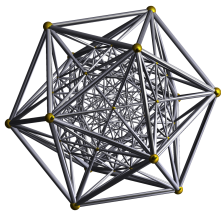
Computational Principles for High-dim Data Analysis

(Lecture Five)

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Convex Methods for Sparse Signal Recovery

(Towards Stronger Correctness Results)

- 1 Restricted Isometry Property (RIP)
- 2 Restricted Strong Convexity (RSC)
- 3 Success of ℓ^1 Minimization under RIP

“Algebra is but written geometry; geometry is but drawn algebra.”
– Sophie Germain

From Incoherence to Isometry

Consider two columns $\mathbf{A}_l = [\mathbf{a}_i \mid \mathbf{a}_j] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times 2}$ of \mathbf{A} ,

$$\mathbf{A}_l^* \mathbf{A}_l = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \mathbf{a}_i^* \mathbf{a}_j \\ \mathbf{a}_j^* \mathbf{a}_i & 1 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}. \quad (1)$$

If $|\mathbf{a}_i^* \mathbf{a}_j| \leq \mu(\mathbf{A})$ is small, this matrix is well conditioned:

$$1 - \mu(\mathbf{A}) \leq \sigma_{\min}(\mathbf{A}_l^* \mathbf{A}_l) \leq \sigma_{\max}(\mathbf{A}_l^* \mathbf{A}_l) \leq 1 + \mu(\mathbf{A}). \quad (2)$$

$\forall l$ of size $\leq k$,

$$1 - \underset{\delta}{k\mu(\mathbf{A})} \leq \sigma_{\min}(\mathbf{A}_l^* \mathbf{A}_l) \leq \sigma_{\max}(\mathbf{A}_l^* \mathbf{A}_l) \leq 1 + \underset{\delta}{k\mu(\mathbf{A})}. \quad (3)$$

If $\delta = k\mu(\mathbf{A})$ is small, all $\sigma(\mathbf{A}_l^* \mathbf{A}_l)$ are close to 1.

Restricted Isometry Property

Definition (Restricted Isometry Property)

The matrix \mathbf{A} satisfies the *restricted isometry property (RIP)* of order k , with constant $\delta \in [0, 1)$, if

$$\forall \mathbf{x} \text{ } k\text{-sparse}, \quad (1 - \delta) \|\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 \leq \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 \leq (1 + \delta) \|\mathbf{x}\|_2^2. \quad (4)$$

The *order- k restricted isometry constant* $\delta_k(\mathbf{A})$ is the smallest number δ such that the above inequality holds.

Example of Gaussian Matrices: If \mathbf{A}_1 is a large $m \times k$ ($k < m$) matrix with entries independent $\mathcal{N}(0, 1/m)$,

$$\sigma_{\min}(\mathbf{A}_1^* \mathbf{A}_1) \approx (\sqrt{1} - \sqrt{k/m})^2 \geq 1 - 2\sqrt{k/m},$$

$$\sigma_{\max}(\mathbf{A}_1^* \mathbf{A}_1) \approx (\sqrt{1} + \sqrt{k/m})^2 \leq 1 + 3\sqrt{k/m}.$$

Restricted Isometry Property

Upper and lower bounds¹ for RIP constants of random Gaussian matrix $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$. Consider proportional growth of the size of (k, m, n) :
 $\rho = \frac{k}{m}, \gamma = \frac{m}{n}$.

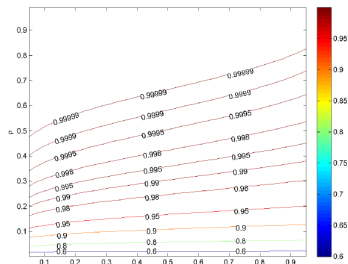
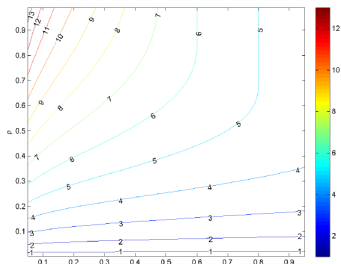


Figure: Left: $\delta_u = \lambda_{\max}(\rho, \gamma) - 1$; Right: $\delta_l = 1 - \lambda_{\min}(\rho, \gamma)$.

¹Improved Bounds on Restricted Isometry Constants for Gaussian Matrices, B. Bah, J. Tanner, SIAM Journal on Matrix Analysis and Applications, 2010.

Restricted Isometry Property: Uniqueness

Theorem (ℓ^0 Recovery under RIP)

Suppose that $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_o$, with $k = \|\mathbf{x}_o\|_0$. If $\delta_{2k}(\mathbf{A}) < 1$, then \mathbf{x}_o is the unique optimal solution to

$$\min \|\mathbf{x}\|_0 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}. \quad (5)$$

Proof.

Suppose on the contrary that there exists $\mathbf{x}' \neq \mathbf{x}_o$ with $\|\mathbf{x}'\|_0 \leq k$. Then $\mathbf{x}_o - \mathbf{x}' \in \text{null}(\mathbf{A})$, and $\|\mathbf{x}_o - \mathbf{x}'\|_0 \leq 2k$. This implies that $\delta_{2k}(\mathbf{A}) \geq 1$, contradicting our assumption. \square

Restricted Isometry Property: Correctness

Theorem (ℓ^1 Recovery under RIP)

Suppose that $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_o$, with $k = \|\mathbf{x}_o\|_0$. If $\delta_{2k}(\mathbf{A}) < \sqrt{2} - 1$, then \mathbf{x}_o is the unique optimal solution to

$$\min \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}. \quad (6)$$

Some later developments:

- $\delta_{2k} < \sqrt{2} - 1 \approx 0.414$, Candes and Tao, 2006.
- $\delta_{2k} < 0.4531$, Foucart and Lai, 2009.
- $\delta_{2k} < 0.472$, Cai, Wang, and Xu, 2009.
- $\delta_k < 0.307$, Cai, Wang, and Xu, 2010.²

²*New Bounds for Restricted Isometry Constants*, T. Cai, L. Wang, and G. Xu, IEEE Transactions on Information Theory, 56, 2010.

Restricted Isometry Property: Universality

Computing RIP constant $\delta_k(\mathbf{A})$ is in general NP -hard; and in fact, certifying a matrix is (k, δ) -RIP is also hard when $k \gg \sqrt{m}$.³ **However:**

Theorem (RIP of Gaussian Matrices)

There exists a numerical constant $C > 0$ such that if $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ is a random matrix with entries independent $\mathcal{N}(0, \frac{1}{m})$ random variables, with high probability, $\delta_k(\mathbf{A}) < \delta$, provided

$$m \geq Ck \log(n/k) / \delta^2. \quad (7)$$

Compare with Incoherence: With incoherence, we need $m \geq \Omega(k^2)$. Here this result allows (k, m, n) to scale proportionally:

$$m \geq \Omega(k).$$

³The Average-Case Time Complexity of Certifying the Restricted Isometry Property, Y. Ding, D. Kunisky, A. Wein, and A. Bandeira, <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2005.11270.pdf>.

ℓ^1 Recovery under RIP

How to prove ℓ^1 minimization succeeds under RIP?

Null Space Property

Given $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_o$, try to recover \mathbf{x}_o from

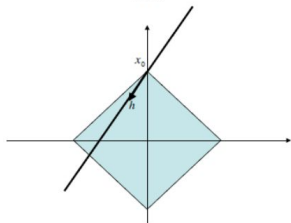
$$\min \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}. \quad (8)$$

Let \mathbf{x}_{ℓ^1} is the optimal solution. If $\mathbf{h} = \mathbf{x}_{\ell^1} - \mathbf{x}_o \neq \mathbf{0}$. Since $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_o = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_{\ell^1}$, we also have $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h} = \mathbf{0}$. We must have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\geq \|\mathbf{x}_{\ell^1}\|_1 - \|\mathbf{x}_o\|_1 = \|\mathbf{x}_o + \mathbf{h}\|_1 - \|\mathbf{x}_o\|_1 \\ &\geq \|\mathbf{x}_o\|_1 - \|\mathbf{h}_I\|_1 + \|\mathbf{h}_{I^c}\|_1 - \|\mathbf{x}_o\|_1 \\ &= -\|\mathbf{h}_I\|_1 + \|\mathbf{h}_{I^c}\|_1. \end{aligned}$$

That is, we have

$$\|\mathbf{h}_{I^c}\|_1 \leq \|\mathbf{h}_I\|_1.$$



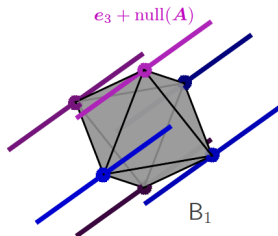
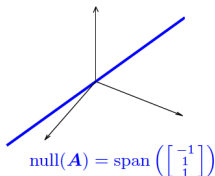
Null Space Property

Definition (Null Space Property)

The matrix \mathbf{A} satisfies the *null space property* of order k if for every $\mathbf{h} \in \text{null}(\mathbf{A}) \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$ and every \mathbf{l} of size at most k ,

$$\|\mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{l}}\|_1 < \|\mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{l}^c}\|_1. \quad (9)$$

Example: $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 3}$:



Null Space Property

Lemma (Success from Null Space Property)

Suppose that \mathbf{A} satisfies the null space property of order k . Then for any $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_o$, with $\|\mathbf{x}_o\|_0 \leq k$, \mathbf{x}_o is the unique optimal solution to the ℓ^1 problem

$$\min \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}. \quad (10)$$

Proof.

Let $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_o$, with $\|\mathbf{x}_o\|_0 \leq k$, and let $I = \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}_o)$. Let $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\ell^1}$ be the optimal solution, so $\mathbf{h} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\ell^1} - \mathbf{x}_o \in \text{null}(\mathbf{A})$. If $\mathbf{h} \neq \mathbf{0}$, then

$$\|\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\ell^1}\|_1 = \|\mathbf{x}_o + \mathbf{h}\|_1 \geq \|\mathbf{x}_o\|_1 - \|\mathbf{h}_I\|_1 + \|\mathbf{h}_{I^c}\|_1 > \|\mathbf{x}_o\|_1,$$

contradicting the optimality of $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\ell^1}$. □

No direction \mathbf{h} in $\text{null}(\mathbf{A})$ could further reduce $\|\mathbf{x}_o\|_1$.

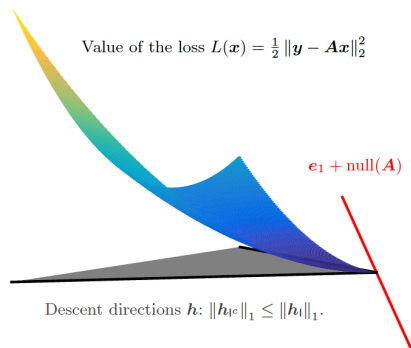
Restricted Strong Convexity Condition

The null space property is equivalent to:

$$\|A\mathbf{h}\|_2^2 > 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{h} \quad \|\mathbf{h}_{lc}\|_1 \leq \|\mathbf{h}_l\|_1. \quad (11)$$

$\|A\mathbf{h}\|_2^2$ must attain its minimum $\mu > 0$ on a compact set. The above is equivalent to:

$$\|A\mathbf{h}\|_2^2 \geq \mu \|\mathbf{h}\|_2^2, \quad \forall \mathbf{h} \quad \|\mathbf{h}_{lc}\|_1 \leq \|\mathbf{h}_l\|_1. \quad (12)$$



Restricted Strong Convexity Condition

Definition (Restricted Strong Convexity)

The matrix \mathbf{A} satisfies the *restricted strong convexity* (RSC) condition of order k , with parameters $\mu > 0$, $\alpha \geq 1$, if for every \mathbf{l} of size at most k and for all nonzero \mathbf{h} satisfying $\|\mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{l}^c}\|_1 \leq \alpha \|\mathbf{h}\|_1$,

$$\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}\|_2^2 \geq \mu \|\mathbf{h}\|_2^2. \quad (13)$$

Lemma (Success from RSC Condition)

Suppose that \mathbf{A} satisfies the restricted strong convexity condition of order k with constant $\alpha \geq 1$, for some $\mu > 0$. Then for any $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_o$, with $\|\mathbf{x}_o\|_0 \leq k$, \mathbf{x}_o is the unique optimal solution to the ℓ^1 problem

$$\min \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}. \quad (14)$$

RIP Preserves Incoherence

Lemma (RIP Preserves Incoherence of Images of Sparse Vectors)

If \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z} are vectors with disjoint support, and $|\text{supp}(\mathbf{x})| + |\text{supp}(\mathbf{z})| \leq k$, then

$$|\langle \mathbf{Ax}, \mathbf{Az} \rangle| \leq \delta_k(\mathbf{A}) \|\mathbf{x}\|_2 \|\mathbf{z}\|_2. \quad (15)$$

Proof.

WLOG, $\|\mathbf{x}\|_2 = \|\mathbf{z}\|_2 = 1$. Notice that $\|\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}\|_2^2 - \|\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}\|_2^2 = 4\langle \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q} \rangle$. Hence,

$$|\langle \mathbf{Ax}, \mathbf{Az} \rangle| \leq \frac{1}{4} \left| \|\mathbf{Ax} + \mathbf{Az}\|_2^2 - \|\mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{Az}\|_2^2 \right| \quad (16)$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{4} \left| (1 + \delta_k) \|\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{z}\|_2^2 - (1 - \delta_k) \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}\|_2^2 \right|. \quad (17)$$

Since \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{z} have disjoint support, $\|\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{z}\|_2^2 = \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}\|_2^2 = 2$. □

Bounds between Norms

Lemma (Bounds between Norms of Sparse Vectors)

For any vector z with $\|z\|_0 \leq k$, $\|z\|_1 \leq \sqrt{k} \|z\|_2$ and $\|z\|_2 \leq \sqrt{k} \|z\|_\infty$.

Proof.

First inequality: since x^2 is a convex function, we have:

$$\left(\frac{a_1 + a_2 + \cdots + a_k}{k} \right)^2 \leq \frac{a_1^2 + a_2^2 + \cdots + a_k^2}{k}. \quad (18)$$

Second inequality:

$$\frac{a_1^2 + a_2^2 + \cdots + a_k^2}{k} \leq \max_j \{a_j^2\}. \quad (19)$$



RIP Implies RSC

Theorem (RIP Implies RSC)

If a matrix \mathbf{A} satisfies RIP with $\delta_{2k}(\mathbf{A}) < \frac{1}{1+\alpha\sqrt{2}}$, then \mathbf{A} satisfies the RSC condition of order k with constant α .

Proof (A Sketch): We want to show:

$$\forall \mathbf{h} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|\mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{I}^c}\|_1 \leq \alpha \cdot \|\mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{I}}\|_1, |\mathbf{I}| = k \implies \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}\|_2 \geq \mu \|\mathbf{h}\|_2. \quad (20)$$

Partition the indices of the entries in $\mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{I}^c}$ based on their magnitudes:

\mathbf{J}_1 indexes the k largest (in magnitude) elements of $\mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{I}^c}$,

\mathbf{J}_2 indexes the k largest (in magnitude) elements of $\mathbf{h}_{(\mathbf{I} \cup \mathbf{J}_1)^c}$,

\mathbf{J}_3 indexes the k largest (in magnitude) elements of $\mathbf{h}_{(\mathbf{I} \cup \mathbf{J}_1 \cup \mathbf{J}_2)^c}$,

\vdots

Then $\forall i \geq 1, \|\mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{J}_i}\|_1 \geq k \cdot \|\mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{J}_{i+1}}\|_\infty$.

RIP Implies RSC

Proof (Continued):

Step 1: Since \mathbf{h}_I and \mathbf{h}_{J_1} likely have the largest entries, first try to show:

$$\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}\|_2 \geq C \|\mathbf{h}_{I \cup J_1}\|_2, \quad \text{for some } C > 0. \quad (21)$$

From $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_I + \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_{J_1} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_{J_2} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_{J_3} - \dots$, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} (1 - \delta_{2k}) \|\mathbf{h}_{I \cup J_1}\|_2^2 &\leq \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_{I \cup J_1}\|_2^2 \\ &= \langle \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_I + \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_{J_1}, -\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_{J_2} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_{J_3} - \dots \rangle + \langle \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_I + \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_{J_1}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h} \rangle \\ &\leq \sum_{j=2}^{\infty} (|\langle \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_I, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_{J_j} \rangle| + |\langle \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_{J_1}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_{J_j} \rangle|) + \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_{I \cup J_1}\|_2 \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}\|_2 \\ &\leq \delta_{2k} (\|\mathbf{h}_I\|_2 + \|\mathbf{h}_{J_1}\|_2) \sum_{j=2}^{\infty} \|\mathbf{h}_{J_j}\|_2 + (1 + \delta_{2k})^{1/2} \|\mathbf{h}_{I \cup J_1}\|_2 \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}\|_2 \\ &\leq \delta_{2k} \sqrt{2} \|\mathbf{h}_{I \cup J_1}\|_2 \|\mathbf{h}_{I^c}\|_1 / \sqrt{k} + (1 + \delta_{2k})^{1/2} \|\mathbf{h}_{I \cup J_1}\|_2 \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}\|_2. \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

RIP Implies RSC

Proof (Continued):

From the restricted cone condition, we have

$$\|\mathbf{h}_{I^c}\|_1 \leq \alpha \|\mathbf{h}_I\|_1 \leq \alpha \sqrt{k} \|\mathbf{h}_I\|_2 \leq \alpha \sqrt{k} \|\mathbf{h}_{I \cup J_1}\|_2. \quad (23)$$

This gives:

$$\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}\|_2 \geq \frac{1 - \delta_{2k}(1 + \alpha\sqrt{2})}{(1 + \delta_{2k})^{1/2}} \|\mathbf{h}_{I \cup J_1}\|_2. \quad (24)$$

Step 2: Try to show:

$$\|\mathbf{h}_{I \cup J_1}\|_2^2 \geq C' \|\mathbf{h}\|_2^2, \quad \text{for some } C' > 0. \quad (25)$$

Since the i -th element of $\mathbf{h}_{(I \cup J_1)^c}$ is no larger than the mean of the first i elements of \mathbf{h}_{I^c} , we have

$$|\mathbf{h}_{(I \cup J_1)^c}|_{(i)} \leq \|\mathbf{h}_{I^c}\|_1 / i. \quad (26)$$

RIP Implies RSC

Proof (Continued):

Combining with the restriction (20), we have

$$\begin{aligned}\|\mathbf{h}_{(I \cup J_1)^c}\|_2^2 &\leq \|\mathbf{h}_{I^c}\|_1^2 \sum_{i=k+1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i^2} \leq \frac{\|\mathbf{h}_{I^c}\|_1^2}{k} \\ &\leq \frac{\alpha^2 \|\mathbf{h}_I\|_1^2}{k} \leq \alpha^2 \|\mathbf{h}_I\|_2^2 \leq \alpha^2 \|\mathbf{h}_{I \cup J_1}\|_2^2.\end{aligned}$$

So we have

$$\|\mathbf{h}\|_2^2 \leq (1 + \alpha^2) \|\mathbf{h}_{I \cup J_1}\|_2^2. \quad (27)$$

Finally: Combine the results:

$$\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}\|_2 \geq \frac{1 - \delta_{2k}(1 + \alpha\sqrt{2})}{(1 + \delta_{2k})^{1/2}\sqrt{1 + \alpha^2}} \|\mathbf{h}\|_2. \quad (28)$$

RIP for ℓ^1 Minimization

To prove the RIP Theorem: We need $\delta_{2k} < \frac{1}{1+\alpha\sqrt{2}}$ to ensure RSC
hence the NSP.

For ℓ^1 minimization

$$\min \|x\|_1 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad y = Ax. \quad (29)$$

to succeed, we need

$$\forall h \in \text{null}(A) : \|h_{I^c}\|_1 \leq \|h_I\|_1,$$

hence $\alpha = 1$ and the associated RIP constant should be:

$$\delta_{2k} < \frac{1}{1 + \sqrt{2}} = \sqrt{2} - 1.$$

Conclusions

Conditions when ℓ^1 minimization find the correct k -sparse solution:

$$\min \|x\|_1 \quad \text{subject to} \quad y = Ax.$$

- **Mutual Coherence:**

$$m = O(k^2).$$

- **Restricted Isometry:**

$$m = O(k \log(n/k)).$$

Next: what $m \times n$ matrix A has a small RIP constant δ_k ?

Assignments

- Reading: Section 3.3 of Chapter 3.
- Programming Homework #1.