

ECE 18-898G: Special Topics in Signal Processing: Sparsity, Structure, and Inference

Sparse Recovery via iterative (greedy) algorithms

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Outline

- One-step thresholding (OST)
- Orthogonal Matching Pursuit (OMP)
- Iterative Hard Thresholding (IHT)
- Compressive Sampling Matching Pursuit (CoSaMP)

iterative and simple, with explicit control of the sparsity level.

Greedy algorithms

Consider the noise-free measurements

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$$

where

- $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^p$ is k -sparse,
- $\mathbf{A} = [\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_p] \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$ with unit-norm columns, i.e. $\|\mathbf{a}_i\|_2 = 1$.

Our goal is to estimate the *support* and *coefficients* of \mathbf{x} from \mathbf{y} .

One-Step Thresholding

One-step thresholding

If \mathbf{x} is 1-sparse as $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{e}_i$ which is a basis vector in \mathbb{R}^p , then \mathbf{y} is just \mathbf{a}_i , and a natural way to determine i is using *matched filter*:

$$i^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{1 \leq i \leq p} |\langle \mathbf{a}_i, \mathbf{y} \rangle|$$

Algorithm 5.1 One-Step Thresholding (OST)

Input: Sparsity level k .

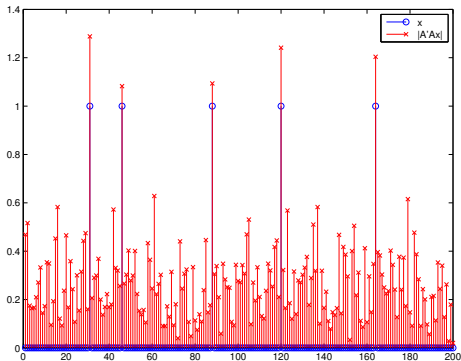
- 1 Compute:

$$\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{y}$$

- 2 Find the support as the indices of the k largest entries of $|\mathbf{z}|$.
-

One-step thresholding

How well does it work?



If the interference from other nonzero entries of x is small enough, it is possible to read off the support of x from the largest entries of z .

Performance of OST

It is all about managing signal-to-interference ratio. Let the mutual coherence of \mathbf{A} be

$$\mu = \max_{i \neq j} |\langle \mathbf{a}_i, \mathbf{a}_j \rangle|.$$

Theorem 5.1 (OST)

Suppose that \mathbf{x} be a k -sparse signal. OST recovers the support of \mathbf{x} if

$$\frac{\min_i |x_i|}{\|\mathbf{x}\|_1} > \frac{2\mu}{(1 + \mu)}.$$

- We can recover \mathbf{x} if its smallest non-zero entry is not too small.
- If $|x_1| = \dots = |x_k|$, the LHS becomes $1/k$ and for success support recovery we require

$$\frac{1}{k} \gtrsim \mu \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$$

which requires $n \gtrsim k^2$.

Proof of Theorem 5.1

Note that

$$z = A^T y = \underbrace{A^T A}_{\text{Gram matrix}} x$$

- Wlog, assume x is k -sparse with the nonzero entries indexed by $\{1, \dots, k\}$, in a descending order

$$|x_1| \geq |x_2| \geq \dots \geq |x_k|.$$

- To guarantee the success of OST, we want to show

$$\min_{1 \leq i \leq k} |z_i| > \max_{k+1 \leq i \leq n} |z_i|.$$

Lower bound $\min_{1 \leq i \leq k} |z_i|$

For $1 \leq i \leq k$,

$$\begin{aligned} |z_i| &= |\mathbf{a}_i^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}| \\ &= |\mathbf{a}_i^\top (\mathbf{a}_i x_i + \sum_{j \neq i} \mathbf{a}_j x_j)| \\ &= |x_i + \sum_{j \neq i} \mathbf{a}_i^\top \mathbf{a}_j x_j| \\ &\geq |x_i| - \sum_{j \neq i} |\mathbf{a}_i^\top \mathbf{a}_j| |x_j| \\ &\geq |x_i| - \mu (\|\mathbf{x}\|_1 - |x_i|) \\ &\geq (1 + \mu) |x_i| - \mu \|\mathbf{x}\|_1, \end{aligned}$$

therefore, $\min_{1 \leq i \leq k} |z_i| \geq (1 + \mu) \min_i |x_i| - \mu \|\mathbf{x}\|_1$.

Upper bound $\max_{k+1 \leq i \leq n} |z_i|$

For $k + 1 \leq i \leq n$,

$$\begin{aligned} |z_i| &= |\mathbf{a}_i^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}| \\ &= \left| \mathbf{a}_i^\top \sum_{j=1}^k \mathbf{a}_j x_j \right| \\ &\leq \sum_{j=1}^k |\mathbf{a}_i^\top \mathbf{a}_j| |x_j| \\ &\leq \mu \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \end{aligned}$$

Putting everything together

OST succeeds if

$$(1 + \mu) \min_i |x_i| - \mu \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 > \mu \|\mathbf{x}\|_1$$

which yields

$$(1 + \mu) \min_i |x_i| > 2\mu \|\mathbf{x}\|_1.$$

or equivalently

$$\frac{\min_i |x_i|}{\|\mathbf{x}\|_1} > \frac{2\mu}{(1 + \mu)}.$$

Better strategies?

- False alarms and miss detections are possible when the signal is weak and interference is high.
- It is obvious better approaches exist, for example, by applying iterations.

The idea is through iterations, we can either iteratively identify new atoms in the sparse representation, or refine our earlier estimate.

- Orthogonal Matching Pursuit (OMP)
- Iterative Hard Thresholding (IHT)
- Compressive Sampling Matching Pursuit (CoSaMP)

Orthogonal Matching Pursuit (OMP)

Orthogonal Matching Pursuit

Idea: select one index at every iteration.

Algorithm 5.2 Orthogonal Matching Pursuit (OMP)

Input: Sparsity level k .

Initialization: Let $\mathbf{r}_0 = \mathbf{y}$, and $S_0 = \emptyset$.

for $t = 1, \dots, k$:

- 1 Choose the atom that has the largest correlation with the residual:

$$i_t = \operatorname{argmax}_j |\langle \mathbf{a}_j, \mathbf{r}_{i-1} \rangle|$$

- 2 Add i_t to the support set: $S_t = \{S_{t-1}, i_t\}$;
- 3 Update the residual as

$$\mathbf{r}_t = \left(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}_{S_t} \mathbf{A}_{S_t}^\dagger \right) \mathbf{y}.$$

Properties of OMP

- It doesn't select the same atom twice. If $j \in S_{t-1}$ has been selected,

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \mathbf{a}_j, \mathbf{r}_{t-1} \rangle &= \langle \mathbf{a}_j, (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}_{S_t} \mathbf{A}_{S_t}^\dagger) \mathbf{y} \rangle \\ &= \mathbf{y}^\top (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}_{S_t} \mathbf{A}_{S_t}^\dagger) \mathbf{a}_j = 0,\end{aligned}$$

therefore j won't be selected again by OMP.

- If in each step OMP selects a correct index in T , in k iterations it will select all indices in T and terminates.
- An alternative way to terminate OMP (without the knowledge of k) is to examine the norm of the residual $\|\mathbf{r}_j\|_2 < \epsilon$.

Exact Recovery Condition (ERC) for OMP

Theorem 5.2 (ERC, Tropp 2004)

Suppose that \mathbf{x} be a k -sparse signal supported on T . OMP recovers \mathbf{x} whenever

$$\max_{\mathbf{a} \in T^c} \|\mathbf{A}_T^\dagger \mathbf{a}\|_1 < 1$$

where \dagger denotes pseudo-inverse.

- This condition also guarantees the success of Basis Pursuit (ℓ_1 minimization), see [Tropp 2004].
- Interestingly enough, this condition only depends on \mathbf{A} , not on the coefficients of \mathbf{x} - much improved from OST.
- A natural question is when does this condition hold?

Exact Recovery Condition (ERC)

Theorem 5.3 (Tropp 2004)

ERC holds for every superposition of k atoms from \mathbf{A} whenever

$$k < \frac{1}{2}(\mu^{-1} + 1)$$

- Same condition that guarantees unique sparse solution for ℓ_0/ℓ_1 minimization.
- Since $\mu = O(\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}})$, we recover sparsity level up to $k \lesssim O(1/\sqrt{n})$.

Proof for Theorem 5.2

- Proceed by induction.
- After t steps, assume OMP has already identified t correct indices in T . We would like to develop a condition that guarantees the next selected atom is also in T .
- Motivated by our earlier discussions with OST, we only need to examine if the ratio

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}_t) = \frac{\|\mathbf{A}_{T^c}^\top \mathbf{r}_t\|_\infty}{\|\mathbf{A}_T^\top \mathbf{r}_t\|_\infty} < 1.$$

Realizing that $\mathbf{r}_t \in \text{Span}(\mathbf{A}_T)$, we write

$$\mathbf{r}_t = \mathbf{A}_T \mathbf{A}_T^\dagger \mathbf{r}_t = \mathbf{A}_T (\mathbf{A}_T^\top \mathbf{A}_T)^{-1} \mathbf{A}_T^\top \mathbf{r}_t = (\mathbf{A}_T^\dagger)^\top \mathbf{A}_T^\top \mathbf{r}_t.$$

Proof for Theorem 5.2

- This allows us to bound

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}_t) = \frac{\|\mathbf{A}_{T^c}^\top \mathbf{r}_t\|_\infty}{\|\mathbf{A}_T^\top \mathbf{r}_t\|_\infty} \leq \frac{\|\mathbf{A}_{T^c}^\top (\mathbf{A}_T^\dagger)^\top \mathbf{A}_T^\top \mathbf{r}_t\|_\infty}{\|\mathbf{A}_T^\top \mathbf{r}_t\|_\infty} \leq \|\mathbf{A}_{T^c}^\top (\mathbf{A}_T^\dagger)^\top\|_{\infty, \infty}$$

where the last inequality follows from the definition of the matrix norm $\|\cdot\|_{p,p}$

$$\|\mathbf{R}\|_{p,p} := \max_{\mathbf{x}} \frac{\|\mathbf{R}\mathbf{x}\|_p}{\|\mathbf{x}\|_p}.$$

It is easy to check (by yourself) that

- $\|\mathbf{R}\|_{\infty, \infty}$ equals the maximum absolute row sum of \mathbf{R} ;
 - $\|\mathbf{R}\|_{1,1}$ equals the maximum absolute column sum of \mathbf{R} ;
- We have

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}_t) \leq \|\mathbf{A}_{T^c}^\top (\mathbf{A}_T^\dagger)^\top\|_{\infty, \infty} = \|\mathbf{A}_T^\dagger \mathbf{A}_{T^c}\|_{1,1} = \max_{i \in T^c} \|\mathbf{A}_T^\dagger \mathbf{a}_i\|_1.$$

Proof of Theorem 5.3

- Recall the ERC can be upper bounded as

$$\begin{aligned}\max_{i \in T^c} \left\| \mathbf{A}_T^\dagger \mathbf{a}_i \right\|_1 &= \max_{i \in T^c} \left\| (\mathbf{A}_T^\top \mathbf{A}_T)^{-1} \mathbf{A}_T^\top \mathbf{a}_i \right\|_1 \\ &\leq \left\| (\mathbf{A}_T^\top \mathbf{A}_T)^{-1} \right\|_{1,1} \max_{i \in T^c} \left\| \mathbf{A}_T^\top \mathbf{a}_i \right\|_1, \quad (*)\end{aligned}$$

where the second term can be bounded by the Babel function

$$\max_{i \in T^c} \left\| \mathbf{A}_T^\top \mathbf{a}_i \right\|_1 = \max_{i \in T^c} \sum_{j \in T} |\langle \mathbf{a}_j, \mathbf{a}_i \rangle| \leq k\mu.$$

- For the first term, we set off to write $\mathbf{A}_T^\top \mathbf{A}_T$ as

$$\mathbf{A}_T^\top \mathbf{A}_T = \mathbf{I} + \Phi$$

where $\phi_{ij} = \langle \mathbf{a}_{T_i}, \mathbf{a}_{T_j} \rangle$, and

$$\|\Phi\|_{1,1} = \max_l \sum_{j \neq l} |\langle \mathbf{a}_{T_l}, \mathbf{a}_{T_j} \rangle| \leq \mu(k-1).$$

Proof of Theorem 5.3 continued

If $\|\Phi\|_{1,1} < 1$, the *von Neumann series* $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-\Phi)^k$ converges to $(\mathbf{I} + \Phi)^{-1}$, we can compute

$$\begin{aligned}\|(\mathbf{A}_T^T \mathbf{A}_T)^{-1}\|_{1,1} &= \|(\mathbf{I} + \Phi)^{-1}\|_{1,1} \\ &= \left\| \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-\Phi)^k \right\|_{1,1} \\ &\leq \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \|(-\Phi)\|_{1,1}^k = \frac{1}{1 - \|\Phi\|_{1,1}} \leq \frac{1}{1 - \mu(k-1)}.\end{aligned}$$

Plugging this into (*), a sufficient condition to guarantee ERC is

$$\frac{\mu k}{1 - \mu(k-1)} < 1$$

which gives $k < \frac{1}{2}(1 + \mu^{-1})$.

OMP Performance via RIP

Theorem 5.4 (OMP via RIP, Davenport and Wakin, 2010)

Suppose that A satisfies the RIP of order $k + 1$ with isometry constant $\delta_{k+1} < \frac{1}{3\sqrt{k}}$. Then for any k -sparse signal x , OMP will recover it exactly from in k iterations.

- Under Gaussian design, we can guarantee RIP constant with $n \gtrsim k \log p / \delta_k^2 = O(k^2 \log p)$ measurements.

Iterative Hard Thresholding (IHT)

IHT as Proximal Gradient Descent

Consider the non-convex optimization problem directly:

$$\min \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \|\mathbf{x}\|_0 \leq k.$$

Solve by proximal gradient descent:

$$\min \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 + g(\mathbf{x}), \quad \text{where} \quad g(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } \|\mathbf{x}\|_0 \leq k \\ \infty, & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

- **gradient descent:**

$$\mathbf{z}^t \leftarrow \mathbf{x}^t - \mu_t \underbrace{\mathbf{A}^\top (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^t - \mathbf{y})}_{\text{gradient of } \frac{1}{2}\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|^2}$$

- **projection:** keep only k largest (in magnitude) entries

Iterative hard thresholding (IHT)

Algorithm 5.3 Iterative Hard Thresholding (IHT)

Input: Sparsity level k .

for $t = 0, 1, \dots$:

$$\mathbf{x}^{t+1} = \mathcal{P}_k \left(\mathbf{x}^t - \mu_t \mathbf{A}^\top (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}^t - \mathbf{y}) \right)$$

where $\mathcal{P}_k(\mathbf{x}) := \arg \min_{\|\mathbf{z}\|_0=k} \|\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{x}\|$ is best k -term approximation of \mathbf{x} .

- For appropriate step size, it converges to a *local minimum* of

$$\min \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \|\mathbf{x}\|_0 \leq k.$$

- Every iteration produces a k -sparse solution.

Linear convergence of IHT under RIP

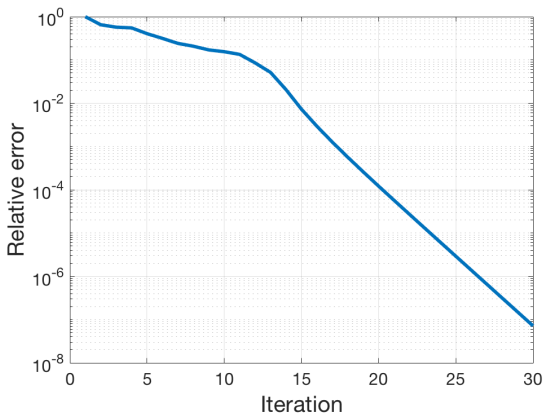
Theorem 5.5 (Blumensath & Davies '09)

Suppose \mathbf{x} is k -sparse, and RIP constant $\delta_{3k} < 1/2$. Then taking $\mu_t \equiv 1$ gives

$$\|\mathbf{x}^t - \mathbf{x}\| \leq (2\delta_{3k})^t \|\mathbf{x}^0 - \mathbf{x}\|$$

- Under Gaussian design, need $n = O(k \log p)$ measurements.
- Under RIP, IHT attains ϵ -accuracy within $O\left(\log \frac{1}{\epsilon}\right)$ iterations
- Each iteration takes time proportional to a matrix-vector product

Numerical performance of IHT



Relative error $\frac{\|\mathbf{x}^t - \mathbf{x}\|}{\|\mathbf{x}\|}$ vs. iteration count t
($n = 100$, $k = 5$, $p = 1000$, $A_{i,j} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1/n)$)

Proof of Theorem 5.5

Let $\mathbf{z} := \mathbf{x}^t - \mathbf{A}^\top(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^t - \mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{x}^t - \mathbf{A}^\top\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}^t - \mathbf{x})$. By definition of \mathcal{P}_k ,

$$\begin{aligned}\| \underbrace{\mathbf{x}}_{k\text{-sparse}} - \mathbf{z} \|^2 &\geq \| \underbrace{\mathbf{x}^{t+1}}_{\text{best } k\text{-sparse}} - \mathbf{z} \|^2 \\ &= \| \mathbf{x}^{t+1} - \mathbf{x} \|^2 - 2\langle \mathbf{x}^{t+1} - \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z} - \mathbf{x} \rangle + \| \mathbf{z} - \mathbf{x} \|^2 \\ \implies \| \mathbf{x}^{t+1} - \mathbf{x} \|^2 &\leq 2\langle \mathbf{x}^{t+1} - \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z} - \mathbf{x} \rangle \\ &= 2\langle \mathbf{x}^{t+1} - \mathbf{x}, (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}^\top\mathbf{A})(\mathbf{x}^t - \mathbf{x}) \rangle \\ &\leq 2\delta_{3k} \| \mathbf{x}^{t+1} - \mathbf{x} \| \cdot \| \mathbf{x}^t - \mathbf{x} \| \quad (5.1)\end{aligned}$$

which gives

$$\| \mathbf{x}^{t+1} - \mathbf{x} \| \leq 2\delta_{3k} \| \mathbf{x}^t - \mathbf{x} \|^2$$

as claimed. Here, (5.1) follows from the following fact (homework)

$$|\langle \mathbf{u}, (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}^\top\mathbf{A})\mathbf{v} \rangle| \leq \delta_s \| \mathbf{u} \| \cdot \| \mathbf{v} \| \quad \text{with } s = |\text{supp}(\mathbf{u}) \cup \text{supp}(\mathbf{v})|$$

Compressive Sampling Matching Pursuit (CoSaMP)¹

¹See also *Subspace Pursuit* by Dai and Milenkovic

CoSaMP

Idea: add more to the support and then prune.

Algorithm 5.4 Compressive Sampling Matching Pursuit (CoSaMP)

Input: Sparsity level k .

Initialization: Let $\mathbf{r}_0 = \mathbf{y}$, $\mathbf{x}^0 = \mathbf{0}$, and $S = \emptyset$.

for $t = 1, 2, \dots$:

- 1 Identify the support Ω_t of the $2k$ largest coefficients of

$$\mathbf{z}_t = \mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{r}_{t-1};$$

- 2 Merge support: $S_t = \Omega_t \cup \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{t-1})$;
 - 3 Least-squares estimation: $\mathbf{b}_S = \mathbf{A}_S^\dagger \mathbf{y}$, $\mathbf{b}_{S^c} = \mathbf{0}$;
 - 4 Prune: $\mathbf{x}^t = \mathbf{b}_k$ as the k -term approximation to \mathbf{b}_S ;
 - 5 Residual update: $\mathbf{r}_t = \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^t$
-

Performance of CoSaMP via RIP

Theorem 5.6 (Needell and Tropp, 2008)

Assume A satisfies the RIP with $\delta_{2k} \leq 0.05$. For any k -sparse signal \mathbf{x} , the reconstruction in the t th iteration \mathbf{x}^t is k -sparse, and satisfies

$$\|\mathbf{x}^{t+1} - \mathbf{x}\|_2 \leq 0.26 \cdot \|\mathbf{x}^t - \mathbf{x}\|_2.$$

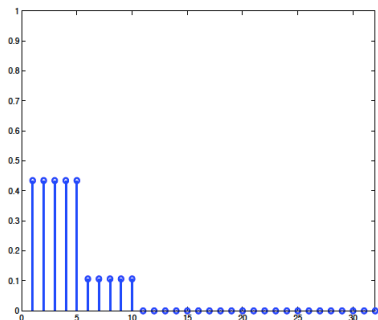
Moreover, CoSaMP is exact after at most $6(k+1)$ iterations.

- Under Gaussian design, need $n = O(k \log p)$ measurements.
- Under RIP, CoSaMP attains ϵ -accuracy within $O\left(\log \frac{1}{\epsilon}\right)$ iterations
- Each iteration takes more time compared to IHT.

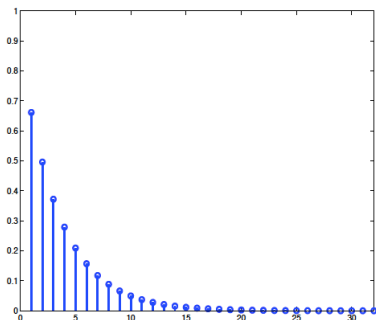
Iteration Count of CoSaMP

The number of iterations is at most $6(k + 1)$, and could be as small as $\log k$.

It heavily relies on the coefficient profile.



(a) Low profile



(b) High profile

FIGURE 1. Illustration of two unit-norm signals with sharply different profiles.

Phase transition for inverse problems

Suppose $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$ is i.i.d. Gaussian, and consider

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize}_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^p} && f(\mathbf{x}) \\ & \text{s.t.} && \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} \end{aligned} \tag{5.2}$$

Key: using convex geometry

(5.2) succeeds



$$\{\mathbf{h} : \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h} = \mathbf{0}\} \cap \mathcal{D}(f, \mathbf{x}) = \{\mathbf{0}\}$$



$$\underbrace{\text{stat-dim}(\{\mathbf{h} : \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h} = \mathbf{0}\})}_{= p-n} + \text{stat-dim}(\mathcal{D}(f, \mathbf{x})) \leq p \quad (\text{by Theorem ??})$$

Phase transition for inverse problems

Suppose $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$ is i.i.d. Gaussian, and consider

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize}_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^p} && f(\mathbf{x}) \\ & \text{s.t.} && \mathbf{y} = A\mathbf{x} \end{aligned} \tag{5.2}$$

Theorem 5.7 (Amelunxen, Lotz, McCoy & Tropp '13)

$$\begin{aligned} n &> \text{stat-dim}(\mathcal{D}(f, \mathbf{x})) + \Theta(\sqrt{p \log p}) \\ &\implies && (5.2) \text{ succeeds with high prob.} \\ n &< \text{stat-dim}(\mathcal{D}(f, \mathbf{x})) - \Theta(\sqrt{p \log p}) \\ &\implies && (5.2) \text{ fails with high prob.} \end{aligned}$$

Statistical dimension:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{stat-dim}(\mathcal{D}(\|\cdot\|_1, \mathbf{x})) \\ &= \inf_{\tau \geq 0} \left\{ k(1 + \tau^2) + (p - k) \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \int_{\tau}^{\infty} (z - \tau)^2 e^{-z^2} dz \right\} \end{aligned}$$

Numerical phase transition

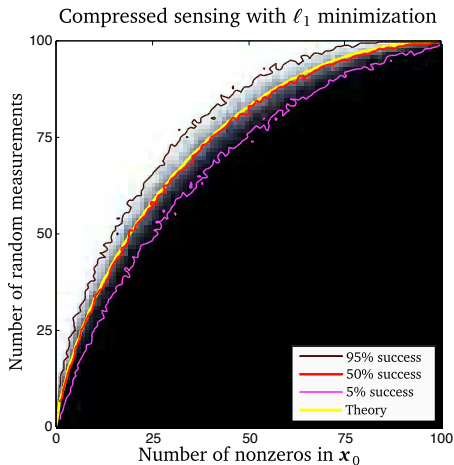


Figure credit: Amelunxen, Lotz, McCoy, & Tropp '13

Benchmark result by Donoho and Maleki

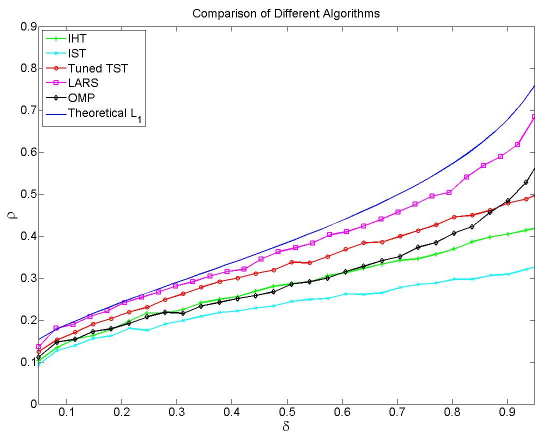


Figure 5.1: Phase Transitions of several algorithms at the standard suite. ρ is sparsity level and δ is subsampling ratio. [Donoho and Maleki, 2009].

References

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