

8 Mar. 2021.

Last time:
Minimal # meas. to recover s -sparse vecs $x \in \mathbb{C}^N$ from $y = Ax \in \mathbb{C}^M$. $m \geq 2s$ is necessary and sufficient.

Today:
Recovery of individual sparse vecs
NP hardness of l_0 -min.
Basic algos.

Recovery of individual sparse vecs:

Thm. For any $N \geq s+1$, given an s -sparse $x \in \mathbb{C}^N$, \exists a measurement matrix $A \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times N}$ with $m = s+1$ s.t. x can be reconstructed from $y = Ax$ as a sole of

$$(P_s): \min_{x \in \mathbb{C}^N} \|x\|_0 \text{ s.t. } Ax = y.$$

Proof: Suppose $A \in \mathbb{C}^{(s+1) \times N}$ is s.t. s -sparse x cannot be recovered from $y = Ax$ via (P_s) .

$\Rightarrow \exists z \in \mathbb{C}^N, z \neq x$, with $S \subseteq \text{supp}(z) = \{j_1, \dots, j_s\}$ of size at most s (if $\|z\|_0 < s$, fill arbitrary indices whose entries are 0 into S), s.t. $Az = Ax$.

If $\text{supp}(x) \subset S$,
 $A(z-x) = 0 \Rightarrow A_S(z-x)_S = 0$ $A_S: s \text{ cols. } s+1 \text{ rows.}$

$\Rightarrow A_{[S], S}$ is not invertible, size $s \times s$
 $\Rightarrow f_1(A) \triangleq \det(A_{[S], S}) = 0$.

If $\text{supp}(x) \not\subset S$, then define the subspace

$$V \triangleq \{u \in \mathbb{C}^N : \text{supp}(u) \subset S\} + \alpha x.$$

V has dimension $s+1$.
The mapping $G: V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{s+1}: v \rightarrow Av$ is not invertible: $G(z-x) = A(z-x) = 0, z \neq x$.

The map G , in the basis $(e_{j_1}, e_{j_2}, \dots, e_{j_s}, x)$ has the form

$$B_{z,S} \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} a_{1,j_1} & a_{1,j_2} & \dots & a_{1,j_s} & \sum_{j \in \text{supp}(x)} x_j a_{1,j} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ a_{s+1,j_1} & a_{s+1,j_2} & \dots & a_{s+1,j_s} & \sum_{j \in \text{supp}(x)} x_j a_{s+1,j} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow g_1(A) = \det(B_{z,S}) = 0.$$

Thus, if x is not recoverable from $y = Ax$ via (P_s) , then A satisfies

$$A \in \bigcup_{S \subseteq [N], |S|=s} \{f_1^{-1}(0)\} \cup \bigcup_{|S|=s} \{g_1^{-1}(0)\}$$

Thus, if $A \notin \{f_1^{-1}(0)\} \cup \bigcup_{|S|=s} \{g_1^{-1}(0)\}$, then x is recoverable from $y = Ax$ via l_0 min.

But f_1 and all $g_1, |S|=s$ are polynomial fns. of the entries of $A \Rightarrow$ the sets $f_1^{-1}(0)$ and $g_1^{-1}(0), |S|=s$ have Lebesgue measure 0, and so does their union. Hence, choosing entries of A outside of this union of measure 0 ensures that x can be recovered from $y = Ax$ via l_0 min. \square

NP hardness of l_0 minimization

$$(P_s) \min_{z \in \mathbb{C}^N} \|z\|_0 \text{ s.t. } y = Az$$

is hard: if we know that the optimal z is s -sparse, straightforward approach:

$$A_S u = y \quad \forall S \subseteq [N], |S|=s.$$

$A_S^H A_S u = A_S^H y$ square system.

Each system is solvable w/ poly(s^3) complexity. But, # subsets = $\binom{N}{s}$ too large.

If $N=1000, s=10, \binom{1000}{10} \approx \left(\frac{1000}{10}\right)^{10} = 10^{20}$

systems of size 10×10 . If each system takes hrs. Need 10^{20} hrs ≈ 3000 years!

Can s.t. (P_s) is in fact intractable by any approach, not just the approach above.

Thm. For any $\gamma > 0$, the l_0 min. problem

$$(P_{\gamma, \gamma}) : \min_{z \in \mathbb{C}^N} \|z\|_0 \text{ s.t. } \|Az - y\|_2 \leq \gamma$$

for general $A \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times N}$ and $y \in \mathbb{C}^m$ is NP hard.

Exact cover by 3-sets:

Given a collection $\{C_i, i \in [N]\}$ of 3-element subsets of $[m]$, does \exists an exact cover (partition) of $[m]$. That is, a set $J \subseteq [N]$ s.t.

$$\bigcup_{j \in J} C_j = [m] \text{ and } C_j \cap C_{j'} = \emptyset \quad \forall j, j' \in J$$

NP hard.

Chapter 3: Basic algorithms

Optimization methods:

General opt. pb.

$$\begin{cases} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x) \text{ s.t. } f_i(x) \leq b_i, i \in [M] \\ \text{objective fn.} & \text{constraint fns.} \end{cases}$$

... equiv. to $g(x) \leq c$ and $-g(x) \leq -c$.

Encapsulation

If F_0, F_1, \dots, F_n convex \Rightarrow convex opt. pr.

Our problem:

$\min_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n} \|z\|_0$ s.t. $Az = y$
is nonconvex, NP hard in general.

Since $\|x\|_q \rightarrow \|x\|_0$ as $q \rightarrow 0^+$, can approximate (P_0) by

$(P_q) \min_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n} \|z\|_q$ s.t. $Az = y$

$q > 1$, even l_1 -sparse vecs are not solns. of (P_q) .
(Ex. 31)

For $0 < q < 1$, (P_q) is nonconvex, NP hard in gen.

$q = 1$: We get the convex problem:

$(P_1) \min_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n} \|z\|_1$ s.t. $Az = y$.

l_1 min, basis pursuit
"convex relaxation" of (P_0) (See App. B3).

Thm. 3.1 [l_1 min \Rightarrow sparse solns!]

Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ be a meas. matrix with cols. a_1, \dots, a_n . Assuming uniqueness of a minimizer $x^\#$ of (P_1) , the system $\{a_j, j \in \text{supp}(x^\#)\}$ is lin. indep., and $\|x^\#\|_0 \leq m$.