

Last time: Underdetermined linear systems  
 $y = Ax$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times N}$ ,  $y \in \mathbb{R}^m$

- (i)  $m < N$ , (ii)  $A$  has full (row) rank.
- $J(x)$ : Cost:  $\mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
- $\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^N} J(x)$  s.t.  $y = Ax$
- $J(x) = \|x\|_2^2$ , unique globally optimal closed form soln.
- $J(x) = \|x\|_p^p$ ,  $p > 1$ , " " " " soln. but not closed form for  $p \neq 2$ .
- $J(x) = \|x\|_1$ , convex but not strictly convex
  - Set of solns. form a bounded convex set
  - $\exists$  at least 1 soln. which has at most  $m$  nonzero.
- $J(x) = \|x\|_p^p$ ,  $p < 1$ : Nonconvex cost.
- $\ell_1$  min.  $\equiv$  linear program.

[Chapter 2]:  
 Notation:  $[N] = \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$   
 $|S|$  or  $\text{Card}(S) \equiv$  Cardinality of set  $S$   
 $\bar{S}$  or  $S^c = [N] \setminus S$ .

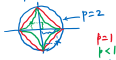
For  $x \in \mathbb{C}^N$ ,  
 $\text{supp}(x) = \{j \in [N] : x_j \neq 0\}$ .

$x \in \mathbb{C}^N$  is  $s$ -sparse if  
 $|\text{supp}(x)| \leq s$ .  
 $\|x\|_p^p = \sum_{j \in [N]} |x_j|^p \stackrel{p>0}{\geq} \sum_{j \in \text{supp}(x)} |x_j|^p = \sum_{j \in \text{supp}(x)} |x_j|^p \cdot 1 = \sum_{j \in \text{supp}(x)} |x_j|^p \cdot 1$

Defn. For  $p > 0$ , the  $\ell_p$  error in the best  $s$ -term approx to  $x \in \mathbb{C}^N$  is  
 $\sigma_s(x)_p \equiv \inf \{ \|x - z\|_p : z \in \mathbb{C}^N, z \text{ } s\text{-sparse} \}$   
 The infimum is achieved by an  $s$ -sparse vec.  $z \in \mathbb{C}^N$  whose nonzero entries equal the  $s$ -largest absolute entries of  $x$ .

- $z$  need not be unique
- The optimum  $z$  is independent of  $p$ .

Informally,  $x \in \mathbb{C}^N$  is "compressible" if  $\sigma_s(x)_p$  decays very quickly with  $s$ . Turns out: this happens if  
 $x \in B_p^N \equiv \{z \in \mathbb{C}^N : \|z\|_p \leq 1\}$  for small  $p > 0$ .



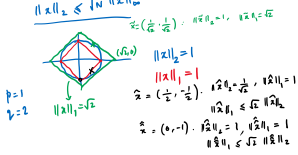
$B_p^N$ ,  $p < 1$  is a good model for compressible vecs.

Defn. A nonincreasing rearrangement of  $x \in \mathbb{C}^N$  is a vec.  $x^* \in \mathbb{R}_+^N$  for which

$$x_1^* \geq x_2^* \geq \dots \geq x_N^* \geq 0$$

and there is a permutation  $\pi: [N] \rightarrow [N]$  with  $x_j^* = |x_{\pi(j)}|$ ,  $j=1, 2, \dots, N$ .

For  $0 < p < q$ ,  
 $\|x\|_p \geq \|x\|_q$  [ $\|x\|_1 \geq \|x\|_2$ ]  
 opposite inequality:  $\|x\|_1 \leq \sqrt{N} \|x\|_2$  [ $N$  is the dim. of  $x$ ]  
 $\|x\|_2 \leq \sqrt{N} \|x\|_\infty$



For  $0 < p < q$ , the sphere with radius  $\sqrt{N}$  and  $\| \cdot \|_p$  describes the sphere of radius 1 with  $\| \cdot \|_q$ .

Hölder's inequality  
 $\sum_{i=1}^N |a_i| |b_i| \leq (\sum_{i=1}^N |a_i|^p)^{\frac{1}{p}} (\sum_{i=1}^N |b_i|^q)^{\frac{1}{q}}$

Set  $|a_i| = |x_i|^p$ ,  $|b_i| = 1$ ,  $p = \frac{q}{q-1} > 1$ ,  $q = 2$   
 $\sum_{i=1}^N |x_i|^p \leq (\sum_{i=1}^N (|x_i|^p)^{\frac{q}{q-1}})^{\frac{q-1}{q}} (\sum_{i=1}^N 1)^{\frac{1}{q}}$

$$\text{RHS} = (\sum_{i=1}^N |x_i|^p)^{\frac{q}{q-1}} N^{-\frac{1}{q}}$$

$$\text{LHS} = \|x\|_p^p$$

$$\Rightarrow \|x\|_p^p \leq (\sum_{i=1}^N |x_i|^p)^{\frac{q}{q-1}} N^{-\frac{1}{q}}$$

$$\|x\|_q \leq \|x\|_p \leq N^{\frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{p}} \|x\|_q, \quad 0 < p < q$$

In general,  $\exists c, c'$  s.t.  
 $c \|x\|_p \leq \|x\|_q \leq c' \|x\|_p$

Prop. For any  $q > p > 0$  and any  $x \in \mathbb{C}^N$ ,  
 $\sigma_s(x)_q \leq \frac{1}{s^{\frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{p}}} \|x\|_p$  (with use the  $\ell_1$ - $\ell_2$  inequality)

When  $p=1, q=2$   
 $\sigma_s(x)_2 \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{s}} \|x\|_1$   
 When  $q=2, p<2$ ,  $\|x\|_\infty$

$\sigma_s(x)_2 \leq \frac{1}{\lambda^{\frac{1}{p}-\frac{1}{2}}}$   
 $\Rightarrow$  Unit balls in the  $\ell_p$  quasi-norm for  $p \leq 1$   
 are good models for compressible vectors.



Proof: Let  $\pi \in \mathbb{R}_+^N$  be a noninc. rearrangement

of  $x \in \mathbb{C}^N$ . Then,  
 $\sigma_s(x)_p^p = \sum_{j=1}^s (x_j^*)^p \leq \underbrace{(x_s^*)^p \sum_{j=1}^s (x_j^*)^p}_{\text{RHS}}$

$$(x_s^*)^p = (x_j^*)^{p-p} (x_j^*)^p$$

$$\leq (x_s^*)^{p-p} (x_j^*)^p \quad j \geq s$$

$$\text{RHS} \leq \left( \frac{1}{s} \sum_{j=1}^s (x_j^*)^p \right)^{\frac{p-p}{p}} \sum_{j=1}^s (x_j^*)^p$$

$$\underbrace{(x_j^*)^p, j=1,2,\dots,s \text{ are all } \geq (x_s^*)^p}_{\text{avg.} \geq (x_s^*)^p}$$

$$\left( \text{avg.} \right)^{\frac{p-p}{p}} \geq (x_s^*)^{p-p}$$

$$\leq \left( \frac{1}{s} \|x\|_p^p \right)^{\frac{p-p}{p}} \cdot \|x\|_p^p \quad (\text{Just adds more noisy terms})$$

$$= \left( \frac{1}{s} \right)^{\frac{p-p}{p}} \cdot \|x\|_p^{p-p} \cdot \|x\|_p^p$$

$$\text{Thus, } \sigma_s(x)_p^p \leq \frac{1}{s^{\frac{1}{p}-1}} \|x\|_p^p$$

$$\sigma_s(x)_p \leq \frac{1}{s^{\frac{1}{p}-\frac{1}{2}}} \|x\|_p \quad \square$$