

13 Apr 2022

## Sparse recovery

Announcement:

Quiz 2 is now graded.

Approx mapping of Q2 grade to letter grade

18-24	A
10-18	B
< 10	C

Quiz 3 will be a week from today.

Email me if I conflict.

Rubric for 3a, 3b, 3c was meant to be:

- 4 pts for 3a algo

- 4 pts for 3b algo

- 4 pts for proving (at least) one of these two algorithms is correct.

If you had a correctness proof

(resenting the solution set)

and you got  $\emptyset$  on 3c,

maybe the grader overlooked your proof

$\implies$  request a regrade.

Recall: random linear transformation  
 $\mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^O(k \times n)$  approximately  
preserves distances between all pairs  
in a set of  $n$  points.

Today we'll see:

(a) It also preserves distances between  
all pairs of sparse vectors.

Def. A vector  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  has sparsity pattern  
 $J \subset [n]$  if  $x_i = 0 \forall i \notin J$ .

$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$  has sparsity pattern  $\{3, 5\}$ .

$x$  is  $s$ -sparse if it has  
sparsity pattern  $J$  for some  $|J| \leq s$ .

( $x$  has at most  $s$  non-zero coordinates)

E.g. partial derivatives of natural images  
are nearly sparse.

"bag of words" representation of a  
document is usually very sparse.

(b) If  $R$  is a (Gaussian) random matrix representing a lin. transformation  $\mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{O(\log n)}$  then given  $Rx$  where  $x$  is sparse we can efficiently "invert"  $R$  and recover  $x$ .

Lem. If  $R: \mathbb{R}^S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$  is a lin. transf. with indep Gaussian  $N(0, \frac{1}{k})$  entries and  $k > \frac{72}{\epsilon^2} \left( \ln\left(\frac{2}{\delta}\right) + 7s \right)$  then with probability at least  $1-\delta$

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^S \quad (1-\epsilon) \|x\|_2^2 \leq \|Rx\|_2^2 \leq (1+\epsilon) \|x\|_2^2.$$

Proof. Obs.  $\|Rx\|_2^2 = \langle x, R^T R x \rangle$ .  
Let's calculate  $\mathbb{E}[R^T R]$ .

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} - & r_1^T & - \\ - & r_2^T & - \\ & \vdots & \\ - & r_k^T & - \end{bmatrix} \quad R^T R = \sum_{i=1}^k r_i r_i^T$$

Each  $r_i$  is  $N(0, \frac{1}{k} \mathbb{1})$  so  $\mathbb{E}[r_i r_i^T] = \frac{1}{k} \mathbb{1}$ .

$$\mathbb{E}[R^T R] = \sum_{i=1}^k \mathbb{E}[r_i r_i^T] = k \cdot \frac{1}{k} \cdot \mathbb{1} = \mathbb{1}.$$

We're trying to prove with prob.  $\geq 1-\delta$

$$(1-\epsilon) \langle x, \mathbb{E}(R^T R) x \rangle \leq \langle x, R^T R x \rangle \leq (1+\epsilon) \langle x, \mathbb{E}(R^T R) x \rangle$$

Prop 4.3 from lecture notes says for Gaussian  $R$ ,

$$\Pr \left( \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^k} \left| \frac{\langle x, R^T R x \rangle}{\langle x, \mathbb{E}(R^T R) x \rangle} - 1 \right| \geq \epsilon \right) \leq e^{-\frac{1}{72} \epsilon^2 k}$$

The assumption  $k > 72 \epsilon^{-2} (\ln(\frac{2}{\delta}) + 7s)$  was designed so RHS would be  $\leq \delta$ . When event on LHS doesn't happen then  $\forall x$

$$(1-\epsilon) \langle x, \mathbb{E}(R^T R) x \rangle \leq \langle x, R^T R x \rangle \leq (1+\epsilon) \langle x, \mathbb{E}(R^T R) x \rangle.$$

Proof. If  $s \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $s \geq 3$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n \geq s$ ,  $0 < \epsilon \delta < 1$  and  $k > \frac{72}{\epsilon^2} (\ln(\frac{2}{\delta}) + 7s + s \ln(n))$  then with probability  $\geq 1-\delta$

$\forall$   $s$ -sparse  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  where  $\ln(\frac{2}{\delta}) + 7s$

$$(1-\epsilon) \|x\|_2^2 \leq \|R x\|_2^2 \leq (1+\epsilon) \|x\|_2^2.$$

Proof. If  $J$  is any sparsity pattern, and  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  has sparsity pattern  $J$ ,

$$k \begin{bmatrix} R \\ \vdots \\ R \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ \vdots \\ x \in \mathbb{R}^n \end{bmatrix} = R_J x_J$$

(kxs)  $\in \mathbb{R}^s$

where  $R_J$  selects the columns of  $R$  indexed by  $J$ ,  $x_J$  selects the entries of  $x$  indexed by  $J$ ,

$$S = \Pr\left(\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^S \quad (1-\epsilon)\|x_J\|_2^2 \leq \|R_J x_J\|_2^2 \leq (1+\epsilon)\|x_J\|_2^2\right) \geq 1 - \delta'$$

$$\text{and} \quad \ln\left(\frac{2}{\delta'}\right) = \ln\left(\frac{2}{\delta}\right) + s \ln(n)$$

$$\frac{2}{\delta'} = \frac{2}{\delta} \cdot n^s$$

$$\delta' = \delta \cdot n^{-s}$$

Union Bound over all possible  $J$  with  $|J|=s$ .  
Number of these is  $\binom{n}{s} \leq n^s$ .

So probab that  $\exists J$ ,  $|J|=s$ , and  $\exists x$  with sparsity pattern  $J$  s.t.

$$\|R x\|_2^2 - \|x\|_2^2 > \epsilon \|x\|_2^2$$

is less than  $\delta' \cdot \binom{n}{s} < \delta$ .  $\square$

Def. A matrix  $R$  satisfies the  $s$ -restricted isometry property (RIP) with constant  $\epsilon$  if

$$\forall s\text{-sparse } x \in \mathbb{R}^n \quad (1-\epsilon)\|x\|_2^2 \leq \|R x\|_2^2 \leq (1+\epsilon)\|x\|_2^2.$$