

# Mathematics of Compressive Sensing: Random matrices and $\ell_1$ -recovery

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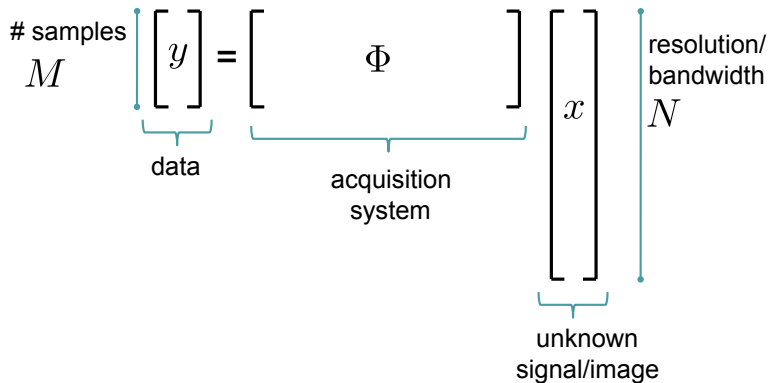
Georgia Tech, School of ECE

Dutch-Flemish Numerical Analysis Conference

October 7, 2011

Woudschoten, Zeist, Netherlands

# Acquisition as linear algebra



- Small number of samples = underdetermined system  
Impossible to solve in general
- If  $x$  is *sparse* and  $\Phi$  is *diverse*, then these systems can be “inverted”

# Agenda

We will prove (almost from top to bottom) two things:

- That an  $M \times N$  iid Gaussian random matrix satisfies

$$(1 - \delta)\|x\|_2^2 \leq \|\Phi x\|_2^2 \leq (1 + \delta)\|x\|_2^2 \quad \forall 2S\text{-sparse } x \quad (1)$$

with (extraordinarily) high probability when

$$M \geq \text{Const} \cdot S \log(N/S)$$

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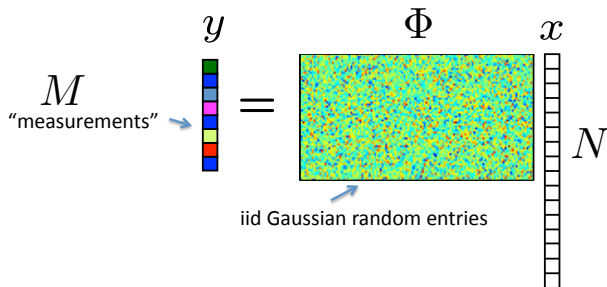
- Suppose an  $M \times N$  matrix  $\Phi$  obeys (1). Let  $x_0$  be an  $S$ -sparse vector, and suppose we observe  $y = \Phi x_0$ . Given  $y$ , the solution to

$$\min_x \|x\|_{\ell_1} \quad \text{subject to} \quad \Phi x = y$$

is *exactly*  $x_0$ .

# Gaussian random matrices

- Each entry of  $\Phi$  is iid  $\text{Normal}(0, M^{-1})$

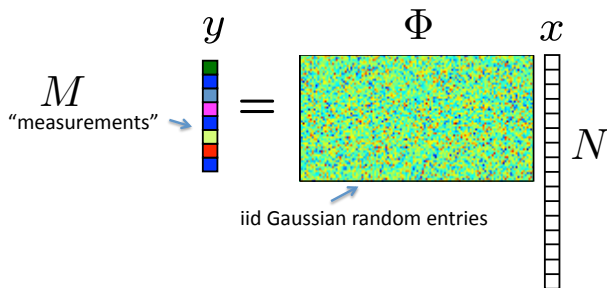


- For *any fixed*  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ , each measurement is

$$y_m \sim \text{Normal}(0, \|x\|_2^2/M)$$

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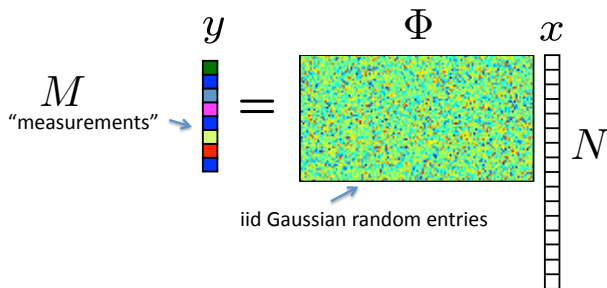
- For *any fixed*  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ , we have

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\Phi x\|_2^2] = \|x\|_2^2$$

the mean of the measurement energy is exactly  $\|x\|_2^2$

# Gaussian random matrices

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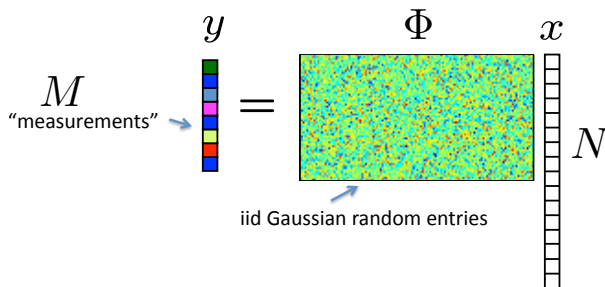


- For *any fixed*  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ , we have

$$\mathbb{P} \left\{ \left| \|\Phi x\|_2^2 - \|x\|_2^2 \right| < \delta \|x\|_2^2 \right\} \geq 1 - 2e^{-M\delta^2/8}$$

# Gaussian random matrices

- Each entry of  $\Phi$  is iid  $\text{Normal}(0, M^{-1})$



- For *all*  $2S$ -sparse  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ , we have

$$\mathbb{P} \left\{ \max_x \left| \|\Phi x\|_2^2 - \|x\|_2^2 \right| < \delta \|x\|_2^2 \right\} \geq 1 - 2e^{c \cdot S \log(N/S)} e^{-M\delta^2/8}$$

So we can make this probability close to 1 by taking

$$M \geq \text{Const} \cdot S \log(N/S)$$



## Random projection of a fixed vector

For Gaussian random  $\Phi$  operating on a *fixed*  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$

$$\|\Phi x\|_2^2 \approx \|x\|_2^2$$

**Theorem:** Let  $\Phi$  be an  $M \times N$  matrix whose entries are iid Gaussian

$$\Phi_{i,j} \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1/M).$$

Set  $v = \Phi x$ . Then

$$\mathbb{E} \|v\|_2^2 = \|x\|_2^2,$$

as

$$\mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{m=1}^M v_m^2 \right] = \sum_{m=1}^M \mathbb{E}[v_m^2] = \sum_{m=1}^M \frac{1}{M} \|x\|_2^2 = \|x\|_2^2,$$

since  $v_m = \langle x, \phi_m \rangle \sim \text{Normal}(0, M^{-1} \|x\|_2^2)$

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$$\Phi_{i,j} \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1/M).$$

Set  $v = \Phi x$ . Then

$$\mathbb{E} \|v\|_2^2 = \|x\|_2^2,$$

and for any  $0 < \delta \leq 1$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P} \left\{ \left| \|v\|_2^2 - \|x\|_2^2 \right| > \delta \right\} &\leq 2 \exp \left( -\frac{(\delta^2 - \delta^3)M}{4} \right) \\ &\leq 2 \exp(-\delta^2 M/8) \end{aligned}$$

for  $\delta \leq 1/2$ .

# The Markov inequality

Let  $Y$  be a positive random variable. Then for all  $t > 0$

$$P \{Y \geq t\} \leq \frac{E[Y]}{t}$$

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$$\mathbb{P}\{Y \geq t\} \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[Y]}{t}$$

**Proof:**

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[Y] &= \int_0^{\infty} y f_Y(y) dy \\ &\geq \int_t^{\infty} y f_Y(y) dy \\ &\geq t \int_t^{\infty} f_Y(y) dy \\ &= t \mathbb{P}\{Y \geq t\}.\end{aligned}$$

## The Markov inequality

Let  $Y$  be a positive random variable. Then for all  $t > 0$

$$\mathbb{P}\{Y \geq t\} \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[Y]}{t}$$

Also:

$$\mathbb{P}\{Y^2 \geq t^2\} \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[Y^2]}{t^2}$$

$$\mathbb{P}\{Y^3 \geq t^3\} \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[Y^3]}{t^3}$$

$$\mathbb{P}\{e^{\lambda Y} \geq e^{\lambda t}\} \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[e^{\lambda Y}]}{e^{\lambda t}} \quad \lambda > 0$$

$\vdots$

$$\mathbb{P}\{\phi(Y) \geq \phi(t)\} \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[\phi(y)]}{\phi(t)}$$

for any strictly monotonic  $\phi(\cdot)$ .

## The Markov inequality

Let  $Y$  be a positive random variable. Then for all  $t > 0$

$$P\{Y \geq t\} \leq \frac{E[Y]}{t}$$

**Chernoff-type bound:**

$$P\{Y \geq t\} \leq \frac{E[e^{\lambda Y}]}{e^{\lambda t}} \quad \text{for any } \lambda > 0.$$

## A first upper concentration bound ...

For  $v = \Phi x$ ,  $\|x\|_2 = 1$ , we have that

$$\mathbf{P} \{ \|v\|_2^2 > 1 + \delta \} \leq \frac{\mathbf{E}[e^{\lambda \|v\|_2^2}]}{e^{\lambda(1+\delta)}}$$

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It is known that

$$\mathbb{E}[e^{\lambda v_1^2}] = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - 2\lambda/M}} \quad \text{for } \lambda < M/2.$$

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And so

$$\mathbb{P} \{ \|v\|_2^2 > 1 + \delta \} \leq \left( \frac{e^{-2\lambda(1+\delta)/M}}{1 - 2\lambda/M} \right)^{M/2} \quad \forall \lambda < M/2$$

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Choose

$$\lambda = \frac{M\delta}{2(1+\delta)}$$

(easy to see that in this case  $\lambda < M/2$ ).

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And so

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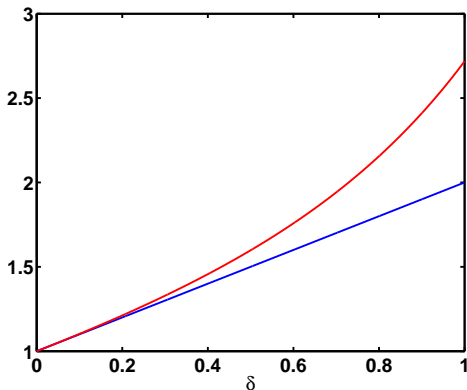


## The upper concentration bound

We have

$$\mathbb{P} \{ \|v\|_2^2 > 1 + \delta \} \leq \left( (1 + \delta)e^{-\delta} \right)^{M/2}.$$

blue:  $1 + \delta$ , red:  $e^{\delta - (\delta^2 - \delta^3)/2}$



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and so

$$\mathbb{P} \{ \|v\|_2^2 > 1 + \delta \} \leq e^{-(\delta^2 - \delta^3)M/4}$$

## The lower concentration bound

The lower bound follows the exact same sequence of steps (work them out at home!):

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P} \{ \|v\|_2^2 < 1 - \delta \} &\leq \left( \frac{e^{2(1-\delta)\lambda/M}}{1 + 2\lambda/M} \right)^{M/2} \\ &\leq \left( (1 - \delta)e^\delta \right)^{M/2} \quad \text{by taking } \lambda = \frac{M\delta}{2(1 - \delta)} \\ &\leq e^{-(\delta^2 - \delta^3)M/4} \end{aligned}$$

# The Johnson-Lindenstrauss Lemma

We have shown that for any *fixed*  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$

$$(1 - \delta)\|x\|_2^2 \leq \|\Phi x\|_2^2 \leq (1 + \delta)\|x\|_2^2$$

with probability exceeding  $1 - 2e^{-c\delta^2 M}$ .

(Can take  $c = 1/8$ .)

A simple application of the union bound means that for any set of  $K$  vectors  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_K$ , the above holds with probability exceeding  $1 - Ke^{-\delta^2 M/8} \dots$

# The Johnson-Lindenstrauss Lemma

**Theorem:** (J&L, 1984): Let  $\mathcal{Q}$  be a arbitrary set of  $Q$  vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , and let  $\Phi$  be an  $M \times N$  random linear mapping. Then

$$(1 - \delta)\|x_1 - x_2\|_2^2 \leq \|\Phi(x_1 - x_2)\|_2^2 \leq (1 + \delta)\|x_1 - x_2\|_2^2$$

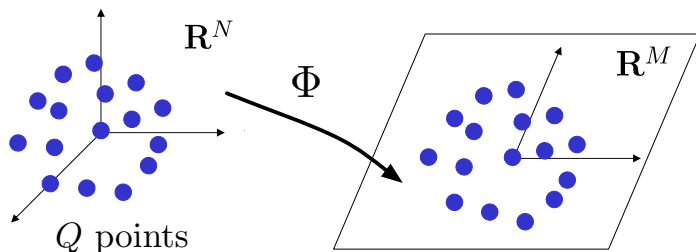
for *all*  $x_1, x_2 \in \mathcal{Q}$  with

$$P \{\text{Failure}\} \leq 2Q^2 e^{-\delta^2 M/8} \leq \epsilon$$

when

$$M \geq \frac{8}{\delta^2} \left[ 2 \log(Q) + \log\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right) + 0.7 \right]$$

# The Johnson-Lindenstrauss Lemma



$\Phi$  embeds to precision  $\delta$  with probability  $\epsilon$  when

$$M \geq \frac{8}{\delta^2} \left[ 2 \log(Q) + \log \left( \frac{1}{\epsilon} \right) + 0.7 \right]$$

## Concentration bound

**We have:** For any *fixed*  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$

$$(1 - \delta)\|x\|_2^2 \leq \|\Phi x\|_2^2 \leq (1 + \delta)\|x\|_2^2$$

with probability exceeding  $1 - 2e^{-c\delta^2 M}$ .

(Can take  $c = 1/8$ .)

**We want:** this for *all*  $2S$ -sparse  $x$  simultaneously...

## A single $2S$ -dimensional subspace

**Theorem:** Let  $V$  be a  $2S$ -dimensional subspace of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . Then

$$\mathbb{P} \left\{ \sup_{x \in V} \left| \|\Phi x\|_2^2 - \|x\|_2^2 \right| > \delta \right\} \leq 2 \cdot 9^{2S} \cdot e^{-c' \delta^2 M}$$

where the constant  $c' = c/4$  with  $c$  from the previous theorem.

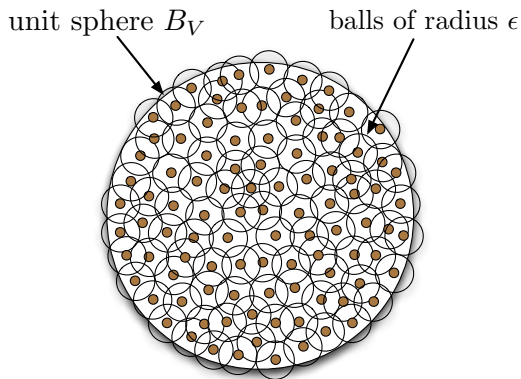
As before, it is enough to prove this for

$$x \in B_V = \{x \in V : \|x\|_2 = 1\}$$



# Covering the sphere

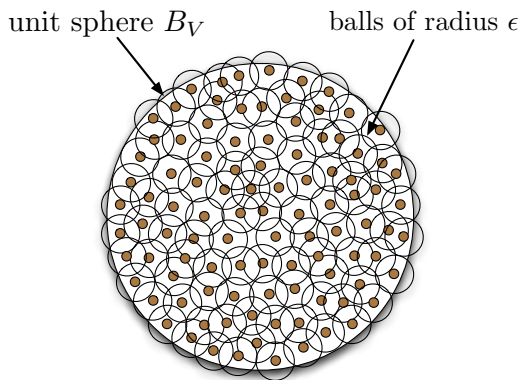
An  $\epsilon$ -net for  $B_V$ :



for every  $x \in B_V$ , there is a  $y \in \text{Net}$  such that  $\|x - y\|_2 \leq \epsilon$

$N(B_V, \epsilon)$  is the *size of the smallest  $\epsilon$ -net*

## Covering the sphere



It is a fact that

$$N(B_V, \epsilon) \leq \left(1 + \frac{2}{\epsilon}\right)^{2S}$$

## From discrete to continuous

**Lemma:** Fix  $0 \leq \epsilon < 1/2$ , and let  $\mathcal{N}_\epsilon$  be the minimal  $\epsilon$ -net for  $B_V$ . Then

$$\sup_{x \in B_V} \left| \|\Phi x\|_2^2 - \|x\|_2^2 \right| \leq \frac{1}{1 - 2\epsilon} \max_{y \in \mathcal{N}_\epsilon} \left| \|\Phi y\|_2^2 - \|y\|_2^2 \right|$$

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where the constant  $c' = c/4$  with  $c$  from the previous theorem.

So  $\Phi$  is “well-conditioned” on  $V$  when

$$M \geq \text{Const} \cdot S$$

## A single $2S$ -dimensional subspace

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where the constant  $c' = c/4$  with  $c$  from the previous theorem.

We want this for *all subspaces* in which  $2S$ -sparse signals live...

There are  $\binom{N}{2S} \leq \left(\frac{Ne}{2S}\right)^{2S}$  such subspaces...

## All $2S$ -dimensional subspaces

For  $\Gamma \subset \{1, \dots, N\}$ , let

$$B_\Gamma = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^N : x_\gamma = 0, \gamma \notin \Gamma, \|x\|_2 = 1\}.$$

**Theorem:**

$$\mathbb{P} \left\{ \max_{|\Gamma| \leq 2S} \sup_{x \in B_\Gamma} \left| \|\Phi x\|_2^2 - \|x\|_2^2 \right| > \delta \right\} \leq 2 \left( \frac{Ne}{2S} \right)^{2S} 9^{2S} e^{-c'\delta^2 M}$$

SUCCESS!!!



## All $2S$ -dimensional subspaces

**Theorem:**

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P} \left\{ \sup_{\text{all } 2S \text{ sparse } x} \left| \|\Phi x\|_2^2 - \|x\|_2^2 \right| > \delta \right\} &\leq 2 \left( \frac{Ne}{2S} \right)^{2S} 9^{2S} e^{-c'\delta^2 M} \\ &= e^{\log 2 + 2S \log(Ne/2S) + 2S \log 9 - c'\delta^2 M} \end{aligned}$$

Which is to say

$$(1 - \delta)\|x\|_2^2 \leq \|\Phi x\|_2^2 \leq (1 + \delta)\|x\|_2^2 \quad \forall 2S - \text{ sparse } x$$

with high probability when

$$M \geq \frac{\text{Const}}{\delta^2} \cdot S \log(N/S)$$

**SUCCESS!!!**

## Next up ...

**Theorem:** Let  $\Phi$  be an  $M \times N$  matrix that is an approximate isometry for  $3S$ -sparse vectors. Let  $x_0$  be an  $S$ -sparse vector, and suppose we observe  $y = \Phi x_0$ . Given  $y$ , the solution to

$$\min_x \|x\|_1 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \Phi x = y$$

is *exactly*  $x_0$ .

## Moving to the solution

$$\min_x \|x\|_1 \quad \text{such that} \quad \Phi x = y$$

Call the solution to this  $x^\sharp$ . Set

$$h = x^\sharp - x_0.$$

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Two things must be true:

- $\Phi h = 0$   
Simply because both  $x^\sharp$  and  $x_0$  are feasible:  $\Phi x^\sharp = y = \Phi x_0$
- $\|x_0 + h\|_1 \leq \|x_0\|_1$   
Simply because  $x_0 + h = x^\sharp$ , and  $\|x^\sharp\|_1 \leq \|x_0\|_1$

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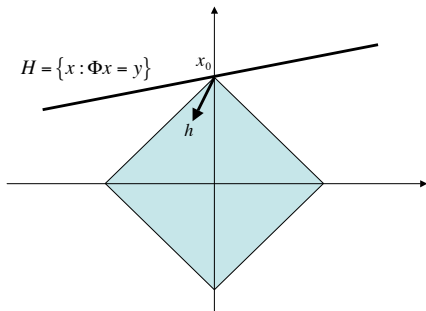
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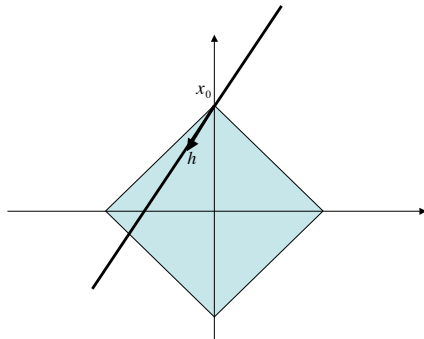
We'll show that if  $\Phi$  is 3S-RIP, then these conditions are *incompatible* unless  $h = 0$

# Geometry

SUCCESS



FAILURE



Two things must be true:

- $\Phi h = 0$
- $\|x_0 + h\|_1 \leq \|x_0\|_1$

## Cone condition

For  $\Gamma \subset \{1, \dots, N\}$ , define  $h_\Gamma \in \mathbb{R}^N$  as

$$h_\Gamma(\gamma) = \begin{cases} h(\gamma) & \gamma \in \Gamma \\ 0 & \gamma \notin \Gamma \end{cases}$$

Let  $\Gamma_0$  be the support of  $x_0$ . For any “descent vector”  $h$ , we have

$$\|h_{\Gamma_0^c}\|_1 \leq \|h_{\Gamma_0}\|_1$$

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Why? The triangle inequality..

$$\begin{aligned} \|x_0\|_1 &\geq \|x_0 + h\|_1 = \|x_0 + h_{\Gamma_0} + h_{\Gamma_0^c}\|_1 \\ &\geq \|x_0 + h_{\Gamma_0^c}\|_1 - \|h_{\Gamma_0}\|_1 \\ &= \|x_0\|_1 + \|h_{\Gamma_0^c}\|_1 - \|h_{\Gamma_0}\|_1 \end{aligned}$$



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We will show that if  $\Phi$  is 3S-RIP, then

$$\Phi h = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \|h_{\Gamma_0}\|_1 \leq \rho \|h_{\Gamma_0^c}\|_1$$

for some  $\rho < 1$ , and so  $h = 0$ .

## Some basic facts about $\ell_p$ norms

- $\|h_\Gamma\|_\infty \leq \|h_\Gamma\|_2 \leq \|h_\Gamma\|_1$
- $\|h_\Gamma\|_1 \leq \sqrt{|\Gamma|} \cdot \|h_\Gamma\|_2$
- $\|h_\Gamma\|_2 \leq \sqrt{|\Gamma|} \cdot \|h_\Gamma\|_\infty$

## Dividing up $h_{\Gamma_0^c}$

Recall that  $\Gamma_0$  is the support of  $x_0$

Fix  $h \in \text{Null}(\Phi)$ . Let

$\Gamma_1 =$  locations of  $2S$  largest terms in  $h_{\Gamma_0^c}$ ,

$\Gamma_2 =$  locations next  $2S$  largest terms in  $h_{\Gamma_0^c}$ ,

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Then

$$0 = \|\Phi h\|_2 = \left\| \Phi \left( \sum_{j \geq 1} h_{\Gamma_j} \right) \right\|_2 \geq \|\Phi(h_{\Gamma_0} + h_{\Gamma_1})\|_2 - \left\| \sum_{j \geq 2} \Phi h_{\Gamma_j} \right\|_2$$

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$$\begin{aligned} 0 = \|\Phi h\|_2 &= \left\| \Phi \left( \sum_{j \geq 1} h_{\Gamma_j} \right) \right\|_2 \geq \|\Phi(h_{\Gamma_0} + h_{\Gamma_1})\|_2 - \left\| \sum_{j \geq 2} \Phi h_{\Gamma_j} \right\|_2 \\ &\geq \|\Phi(h_{\Gamma_0} + h_{\Gamma_1})\|_2 - \sum_{j \geq 2} \|\Phi h_{\Gamma_j}\|_2 \end{aligned}$$

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$\vdots$

Applying the  $3S$ -RIP gives

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{1 - \delta_{3S}} \|h_{\Gamma_0} + h_{\Gamma_1}\|_2 &\leq \|\Phi(h_{\Gamma_0} + h_{\Gamma_1})\|_2 \\ &\leq \sum_{j \geq 2} \|\Phi h_{\Gamma_j}\|_2 \leq \sum_{j \geq 2} \sqrt{1 + \delta_{2S}} \|h_{\Gamma_j}\|_2 \end{aligned}$$

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Applying the  $3S$ -RIP gives

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Then

$$\|h_{\Gamma_0} + h_{\Gamma_1}\|_2 \leq \sqrt{\frac{1 + \delta_{2S}}{1 - \delta_{3S}}} \sum_{j \geq 2} \sqrt{2S} \|h_{\Gamma_j}\|_\infty$$

since  $\|h_{\Gamma_j}\|_2 \leq \sqrt{2S} \|h_{\Gamma_j}\|_\infty$

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$\vdots$

Then

$$\|h_{\Gamma_0} + h_{\Gamma_1}\|_2 \leq \sqrt{\frac{1 + \delta_{2S}}{1 - \delta_{3S}}} \sum_{j \geq 1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2S}} \|h_{\Gamma_j}\|_1$$

since  $\|h_{\Gamma_j}\|_\infty \leq \frac{1}{2S} \|h_{\Gamma_{j-1}}\|_1$

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Which means

$$\|h_{\Gamma_0} + h_{\Gamma_1}\|_2 \leq \sqrt{\frac{1 + \delta_{2S}}{1 - \delta_{3S}}} \frac{\|h_{\Gamma_0^c}\|_1}{\sqrt{2S}}$$

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Working to the left

$$\|h_{\Gamma_0}\|_2 \leq \|h_{\Gamma_0} + h_{\Gamma_1}\|_2 \leq \sqrt{\frac{1 + \delta_{2S}}{1 - \delta_{3S}}} \frac{\|h_{\Gamma_0^c}\|_1}{\sqrt{2S}}$$

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Fix  $h \in \text{Null}(\Phi)$ . Let

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Working to the left

$$\frac{\|h_{\Gamma_0}\|_1}{\sqrt{S}} \leq \|h_{\Gamma_0}\|_2 \leq \|h_{\Gamma_0} + h_{\Gamma_1}\|_2 \leq \sqrt{\frac{1 + \delta_{2S}}{1 - \delta_{3S}}} \frac{\|h_{\Gamma_0^c}\|_1}{\sqrt{2S}}$$

## Wrapping it up

We have shown

$$\begin{aligned}\|h_{\Gamma_0}\|_1 &\leq \sqrt{\frac{1 + \delta_{2S}}{1 - \delta_{3S}}} \sqrt{\frac{S}{2S}} \|h_{\Gamma_0^c}\|_1 \\ &= \rho \|h_{\Gamma_0^c}\|_1\end{aligned}$$

for

$$\rho = \sqrt{\frac{1 + \delta_{2S}}{2(1 - \delta_{3S})}}$$

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We have shown

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for

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Taking  $\delta_{2S} \leq \delta_{3S} < 1/3 \Rightarrow \rho < 1$ .

# SUCCESS!!

**Theorem:** Let  $\Phi$  be an  $M \times N$  matrix that is an approximate isometry for  $3S$ -sparse vectors. Let  $x_0$  be an  $S$ -sparse vector, and suppose we observe  $y = \Phi x_0$ . Given  $y$ , the solution to

$$\min_x \|x\|_1 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \Phi x = y$$

is *exactly*  $x_0$ .