

Sparsity Methods for Systems and Control

Greedy Algorithms

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ℓ^0 optimization

$$\underset{x \in \mathbb{R}^n}{\text{minimize}} \quad \|x\|_0 \quad \text{subject to} \quad y = \Phi x,$$

Here we **directly** solve the ℓ^0 optimization problem without any convex relaxations.

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Mutual coherence

For a matrix $\Phi = [\phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_n] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ with $\phi_i \in \mathbb{R}^m, i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, we define the **mutual coherence** $\mu(\Phi)$ by

$$\mu(\Phi) \triangleq \max_{\substack{i,j=1,\dots,n \\ i \neq j}} \frac{|\langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle|}{\|\phi_i\|_2 \|\phi_j\|_2}.$$

Mutual coherence

- Mutual coherence

$$\mu(\Phi) \triangleq \max_{\substack{i,j=1,\dots,n \\ i \neq j}} \frac{|\langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle|}{\|\phi_i\|_2 \|\phi_j\|_2}.$$

- The **cosine** of the angle θ_{ij} between ϕ_i and ϕ_j

$$\cos \theta_{ij} = \frac{\langle \phi_i, \phi_j \rangle}{\|\phi_i\|_2 \|\phi_j\|_2}.$$

- $\theta_{ij} \approx 0^\circ$ ($|\cos \theta_{ij}| \approx 1$) $\Rightarrow \phi_i$ and ϕ_j are **coherent**
- $\theta_{ij} \approx 90^\circ$ ($|\cos \theta_{ij}| \approx 0$) $\Rightarrow \phi_i$ and ϕ_j are **incoherent**

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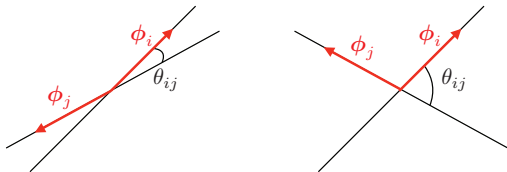
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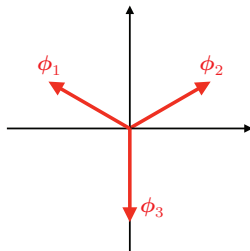
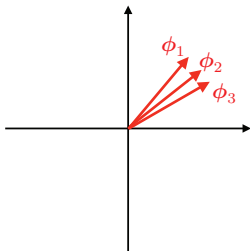


Mutual coherence

- For any Φ , we have $0 \leq \mu(\Phi) \leq 1$.
- Some of ϕ_1, \dots, ϕ_n are similar $\Rightarrow \mu(\Phi)$ is large ($\mu(\Phi) \approx 1$)
- ϕ_1, \dots, ϕ_n are uniformly spread $\Rightarrow \mu(\Phi)$ is small

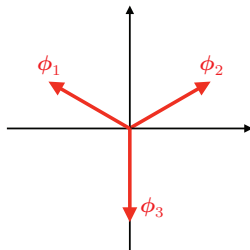
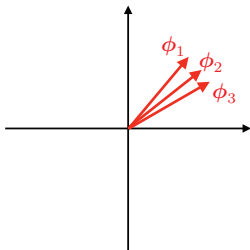
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Characterization of ℓ^0 solution

ℓ^0 optimization

$$\underset{x \in \mathbb{R}^n}{\text{minimize}} \quad \|x\|_0 \quad \text{subject to} \quad y = \Phi x,$$

Theorem

If there exists a vector $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ that satisfies linear equation $\Phi x = y$, and

$$\|x\|_0 < \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\mu(\Phi)} \right),$$

then x is the **sparsest solution** of the linear equation (i.e. the solution of the ℓ^0 optimization).

Characterization of ℓ^0 solution

- Suppose $\mu(\Phi) < 1$.
- Then,

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\mu(\Phi)} \right) > 1.$$

- From the theorem, if there exists a **1-sparse** vector x (i.e. $\|x\|_0 = 1$) satisfying $\Phi x = y$, this is ℓ^0 optimal.

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Finding 1-sparse vector

- Assume \mathbf{x} is 1-sparse. ($\|\mathbf{x}\|_0 = 1$)
- The equation $\mathbf{y} = \Phi\mathbf{x}$ becomes

$$\mathbf{y} = \Phi\mathbf{x} = x_1\phi_1 + x_2\phi_2 + \cdots + x_n\phi_n.$$

- Define the error

$$e(i) \triangleq \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \|x\phi_i - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2.$$

- A 1-sparse vector satisfying $\mathbf{y} = \Phi\mathbf{x}$ is found by searching i that minimizes $e(i)$.
- This is equivalent to sparse signal recovery, e.g., ℓ_1 -minimization.
- It needs $O(n)$ computations.

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- A 1-sparse vector satisfying $\mathbf{y} = \Phi\mathbf{x}$ is found by searching i that minimizes $e(i)$.
- This is actually a 1-sparse vector solution when $\mathbf{y} \in \text{Col}(\Phi)$.
- It needs $O(n)$ computations.

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- This is usually the i -sparse solution when $\|\mathbf{y}\|_2 \leq \|\phi_i\|_2$.
- It needs $O(n)$ computations.

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- A 1-sparse vector satisfying $\mathbf{y} = \Phi\mathbf{x}$ is found by **searching i that minimizes $e(i)$** .
 - Actually, if a 1-sparse solution exists, $e(i) = 0$ for some i .
- It needs $O(n)$ computations.

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Characterization of ℓ^0 solution

- Suppose $\mu(\Phi) < 1/3$.
- Then,

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\mu(\Phi)} \right) > 2.$$

- From the theorem, if there exists a **2-sparse** vector x (i.e. $\|x\|_0 \leq 2$) satisfying $\Phi x = y$, this is ℓ^0 optimal.
- Finding 2-sparse vector needs $O(n^2)$ computations.

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Characterization of ℓ^0 solution

- Suppose $\mu(\Phi) < 1/(2k - 1)$.
- Then,

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- From the theorem, if there exists a k -sparse vector x (i.e. $\|x\|_0 \leq k$) satisfying $\Phi x = y$, this is ℓ^0 optimal.
- Finding k -sparse vector x satisfying $\Phi x = y$ is almost impossible when k is large, since it needs $O(n^k)$ computations.
- In this chapter, we learn **greedy methods** for this problem.

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- Finding **1-sparse** solution of $\mathbf{y} = \Phi\mathbf{x}$ is of $O(n)$.
- This is done by searching an index i that minimizes

$$e(i) \triangleq \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \|x\phi_i - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2.$$

- If there is no 1-sparse solution, $e(i)$ never gets 0, but we **iterate** this minimization.

Matching Pursuit (MP)

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- 2 For $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ do
 - Compute the residue $\mathbf{r}[k] = \mathbf{y} - \Phi\mathbf{x}[k]$
 - Find a 1-sparse vector \mathbf{x}^* that minimizes $\|\Phi\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r}[k]\|_2$

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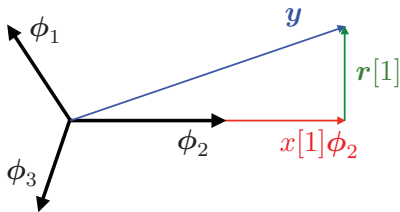
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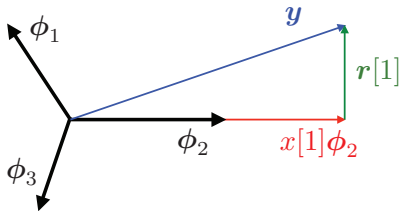
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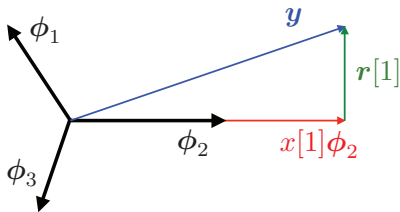
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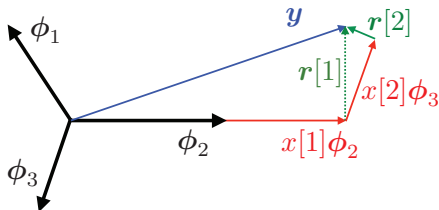
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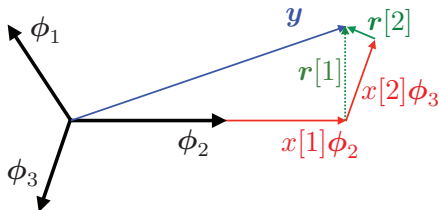
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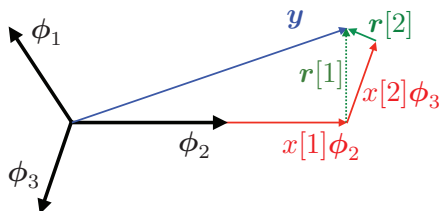
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- $r[1] = x[2]\phi_{i[2]} + r[2]$
- $y = x[1]\phi_{i[1]} + x[2]\phi_{i[2]} + r[2]$
- We can continue this for $k = 3, 4, 5, \dots$

Matching pursuit



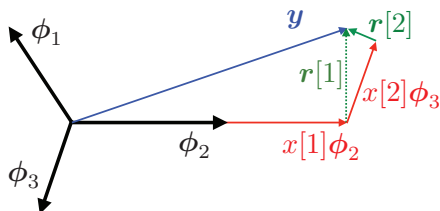
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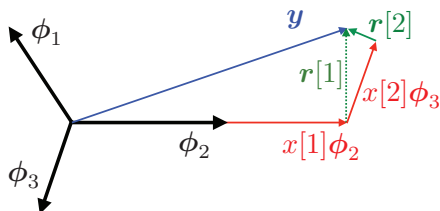
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- We can continue this for $k = 3, 4, 5, \dots$

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- After k step, we have

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Matching pursuit: convergence

Theorem

Assume that dictionary $\{\phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_n\}$ has m linearly independent vectors (i.e. $\text{rank } \Phi = m$). Then there exists a constant $c \in (0, 1)$ such that

$$\|r[k]\|_2^2 \leq c^k \|y\|_2^2, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots \quad (1)$$

- The residue $r[k]$ **monotonically decreases** and

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} r[k] = 0$$

- The convergence rate is **first order**; the residue decreases exponentially, that is, $O(c^k)$.
- Much faster than FISTA with $O(1/k^2)$.

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- MP cannot always achieve $\mathbf{r}[k] = \mathbf{0}$ with **finite** k .
- This is because MP may choose an index $i[k]$ that was **already chosen in previous steps**.
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- Choose the index $i[k]$ of a 1-sparse vector that minimizes $\|\Phi\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r}[k-1]\|_2$:

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- Store the index in the chosen index set:

$$\mathcal{S}_k = \mathcal{S}_{k-1} \cup \{i[k]\}, \quad \mathcal{S}_0 = \emptyset, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots$$

- Approximate \mathbf{y} by a vector $\tilde{\mathbf{y}}[k]$ in $C_k = \text{span}\{\phi_i : i \in \mathcal{S}_k\}$, that is,

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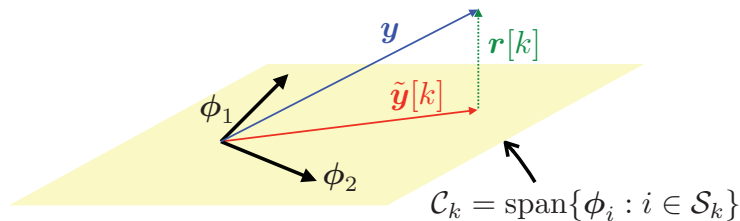
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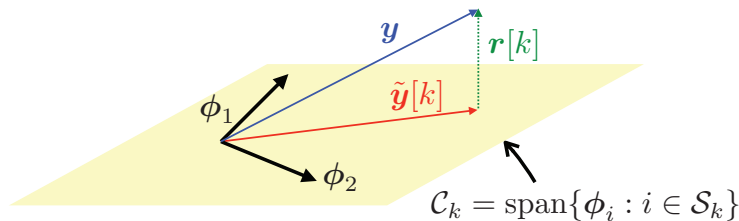
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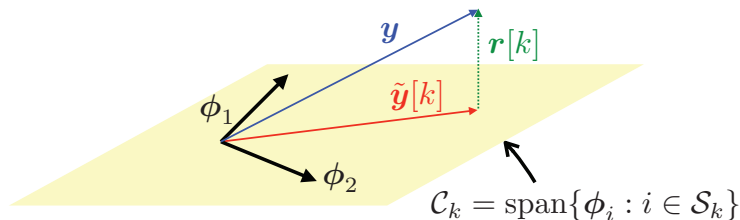
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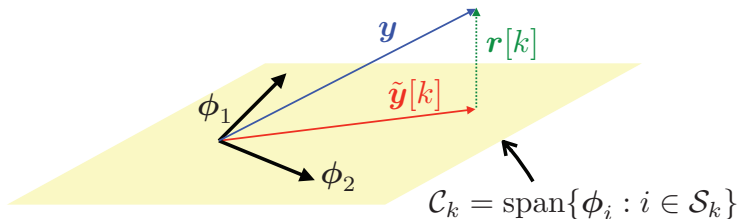
$$\langle v, r[k] \rangle = 0, \quad \forall v \in C_k.$$

- Any vector ϕ_i in C_k will **never be chosen** at the next step:

$$i[k+1] = \arg \max_{i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}} \frac{\langle \phi_i, r[k] \rangle^2}{\|\phi_i\|_2^2} = \arg \max_{\substack{i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \\ \phi_i \notin C_k}} \frac{\langle \phi_i, r[k] \rangle^2}{\|\phi_i\|_2^2}$$

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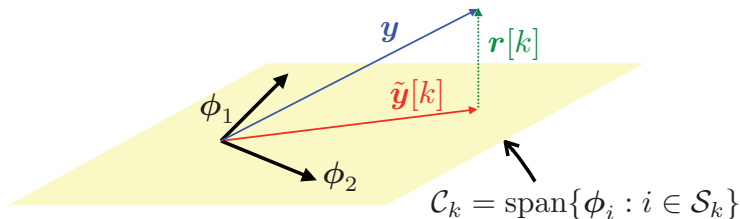
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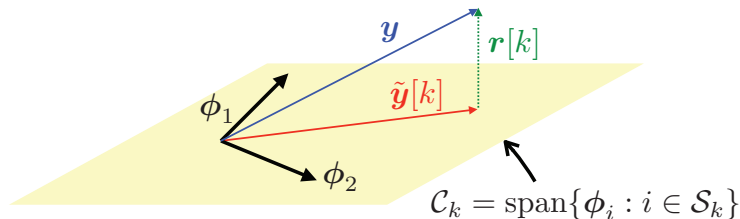
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Theorem

Assume that $\text{rank}(\Phi) = m$. Assume also that there exists a vector $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $\mathbf{y} = \Phi\mathbf{x}$ and

$$\|\mathbf{x}\|_0 < \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\mu(\Phi)} \right).$$

Then, this vector \mathbf{x} is the unique solution of the ℓ^0 optimization, and OMP gives it in $k = \|\mathbf{x}\|_0$ steps.

- At each step of OMP, we need to compute the **matrix inversion** of

$$(\Phi_{S_k}^\top \Phi_{S_k})^{-1} \Phi_{S_k}^\top \mathbf{y}$$

- If the number $k = \|\mathbf{x}\|_0$ is **very large**, then this inversion may impose a **heavy computational burden**.

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- 1 ℓ^0 Optimization
- 2 Orthogonal Matching Pursuit
- 3 Thresholding algorithm**
- 4 Numerical Example
- 5 Conclusion

Optimization problems

In this section, we consider the following two optimization problem:

ℓ^0 regularization

$$\underset{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n}{\text{minimize}} \quad \frac{1}{2} \|\Phi \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{x}\|_0$$

s -sparse approximation

$$\underset{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n}{\text{minimize}} \quad \frac{1}{2} \|\Phi \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \|\mathbf{x}\|_0 \leq s$$

We introduce greedy algorithms called **thresholding algorithms** for these ℓ^0 optimization problems.

ℓ^0 regularization

$$\underset{x \in \mathbb{R}^n}{\text{minimize}} \quad \frac{1}{2} \|\Phi x - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|x\|_0$$

- Consider the optimization problem:

$$\underset{x \in \mathbb{R}^n}{\text{minimize}} \quad f_1(x) + f_2(x),$$

- f_1 : differentiable and convex, $\text{dom}(f_1) = \mathbb{R}^n$
- f_2 : ℓ^0 norm, convex, and compact

- The proximal gradient algorithm

$$x[k+1] = \text{prox}_{\gamma f_2}(x[k] - \gamma \nabla f_1(x[k])).$$

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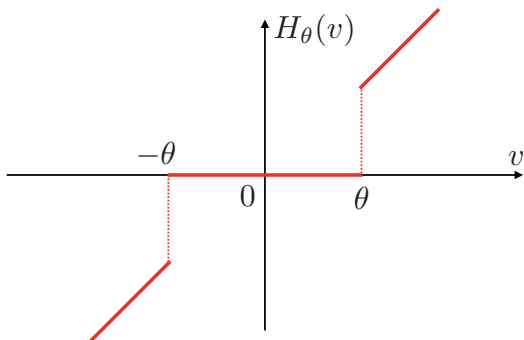
- The function $f_2(\mathbf{x}) = \lambda \|\mathbf{x}\|_0$ is **not convex**.
- The proximal operator of $\lambda \|\mathbf{x}\|_0$ is given by the **hard-thresholding operator** $H_\theta(\mathbf{v})$ with $\theta = \sqrt{2\gamma\lambda}$, where

$$[H_\theta(\mathbf{v})]_i \triangleq \begin{cases} v_i, & |v_i| \geq \theta, \\ 0, & |v_i| < \theta, \end{cases} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n,$$

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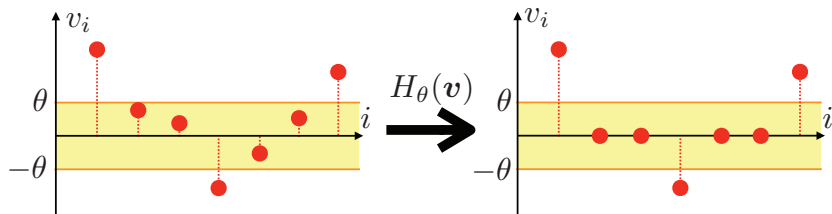
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Iteration: for $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ do

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Theorem

Assume that

$$\gamma < \frac{1}{\|\Phi\|^2},$$

holds. Then the sequence $\{\mathbf{x}[0], \mathbf{x}[1], \mathbf{x}[2], \dots\}$ generated by IHT converges to a *local minimizer* of the ℓ^0 regularization. Moreover, the convergence is *first order*:

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$$\underset{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n}{\text{minimize}} \quad \frac{1}{2} \|\Phi \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \|\mathbf{x}\|_0 \leq s$$

- The set of s -sparse vectors in \mathbb{R}^n :

$$\Sigma_s \triangleq \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|\mathbf{x}\|_0 \leq s\}.$$

- This is **non-convex**.
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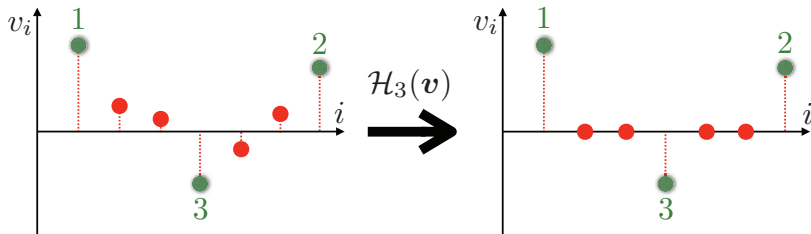
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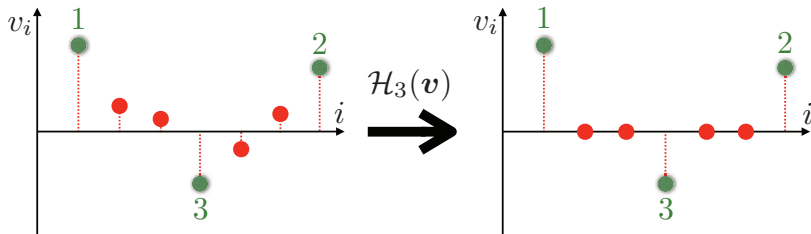


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CoSaMP algorithm for s -sparse approximation

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Initialization: $x[0] = \mathbf{0}$, $r[0] = \mathbf{y}$, $\mathcal{S}_0 = \emptyset$

Iteration: for $k = 1, 2, \dots$ do

$$\mathcal{I}[k] := \text{supp} \left\{ \mathcal{H}_{2s} \left(\left\langle \frac{\phi_i}{\|\phi_i\|_2}, r[k-1] \right\rangle^2 \right) \right\},$$

$$\mathcal{S}_k := \mathcal{S}_{k-1} \cup \mathcal{I}[k],$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{x}}[k] := (\Phi_{\mathcal{S}_k}^\top \Phi_{\mathcal{S}_k})^{-1} \Phi_{\mathcal{S}_k}^\top \mathbf{y},$$

$$(z[k])_{\mathcal{S}_k} := \tilde{\mathbf{x}}[k],$$

$$(z[k])_{\mathcal{S}_k^c} := \mathbf{0},$$

$$\mathbf{x}[k] := \mathcal{H}_s(z[k]),$$

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- 1 ℓ^0 Optimization
- 2 Orthogonal Matching Pursuit
- 3 Thresholding algorithm
- 4 Numerical Example**
- 5 Conclusion

Sparse polynomial curve fitting

- 80th-order **sparse** polynomial: $y = -t^{80} + t$.
- Generate data from this polynomial

$$\mathcal{D} = \{(t_1, y_1), (t_2, y_2), \dots, (t_{11}, y_{11})\}, \quad y_i = -t_i^{80} + t_i.$$

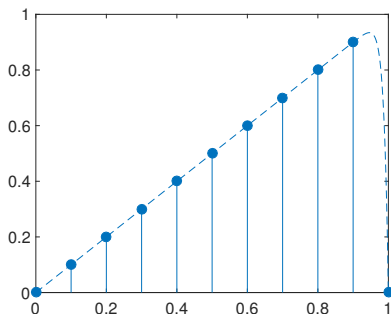
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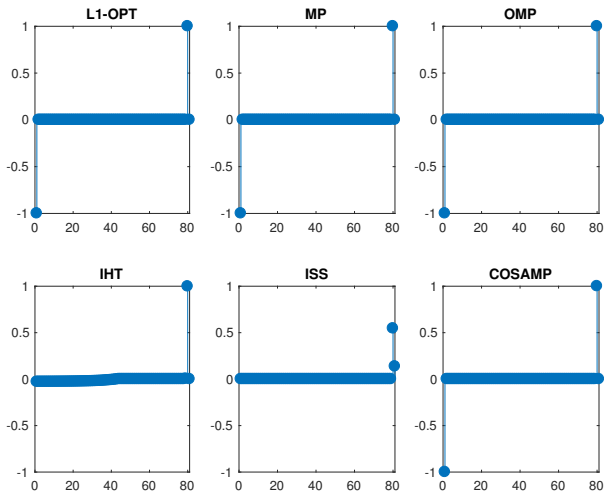
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Results

$$\mathbf{c} = (-1, \underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{78}, 1, 0)$$

78



Results

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Error	2.7×10^{-10}	9.1×10^{-6}	4.1×10^{-16}	0.0017	0.83	4.1×10^{-11}
Iterations	10	18	2	10^5	10^5	3

- The error $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{y} - \Phi\mathbf{x}^*$ is smallest with OMP.
- The number of iteration is smallest with OMP.
- IHT and ISS converged to **local minimizers** with large residues.
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