Compressed Sensing with Non-Gaussian Noise and Partial Support Information
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Abstract—We study the problem of recovering sparse and compressible signals using a weighted \( \ell_p \) minimization with \( 0 < p \leq 1 \) from noisy compressed sensing measurements when part of the support is known a priori. To better model different types of non-Gaussian (bounded) noise, the minimization program is subject to a data-fidelity constraint expressed as the \( \ell_q \) (\( 2 \leq q < \infty \)) norm of the residual error. We show theoretically that the reconstruction error of this optimization is bounded (stable) if the sensing matrix satisfies an extended restricted isometry property. Numerical results show that the proposed method, which extends the support is known a priori. To better model different types of non-Gaussian noise from noisy compressed sensing measurements when part of the space dimension \([1],[2]\). Consider a signal \( x \) to be sparse in some orthonormal basis \( \mathbf{Ψ} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N} \); in other words, \( x = \mathbf{Ψ}u \), where \( u \) is a \( K \)-sparse vector, i.e., there are only \( K \) \( (K \ll N) \) nonzero elements in \( u \). In CS, the encoder records \( M < N \) linear measurements given by \( y = \mathbf{Φ}x \), where \( \mathbf{Φ} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N} \) is a measurement matrix that satisfies the restricted isometry property (RIP); \( \mathbf{Φ} \) satisfies the RIP of order \( K \) if there exists \( \delta_K \in (0,1] \) such that, for any \( K \)-sparse \( u \), \( (1 - \delta_K)||u||_2^2 \leq ||\mathbf{Φ}u||_2^2 \leq (1 + \delta_K)||u||_2^2 \), where \( \delta_K \) is the RIP constant of order \( K \) and \( || \cdot ||_2 \) denotes the \( \ell_2 \) norm. Roughly speaking, the RIP condition states that any (sufficient) small subset of the columns of the sensing matrix “nearly” forms an orthogonal basis. The condition is satisfied when the elements of the matrix \( \mathbf{Φ} \) are samples from an independent and identically distributed (i.i.d.) Gaussian process where \( M \) is of the order of \( K \log_2(N/K) \). In this case, recovery of \( x \) from \( y \) works by solving the convex basis pursuit (BP) program: \( \min_x ||\mathbf{Ψ}^T \tilde{x}||_1 \) subject to \( \|\Phi x - \tilde{y}\|_2 \leq \epsilon \), where \( \epsilon \) bounds the total amount of noise in the measurements.

In many applications, it is possible to obtain some estimate about the support of the signal. To incorporate such prior information, several modified versions of the BPDN were studied in [4]–[6] based on a weighted \( \ell_1 \) minimization approach with zero weights on the known support. In [7], the author extends the work of [5] to the case of compressible signals and noisy measurements. In [8], an RIP-based condition for recovering compressively sampled signals using partial support information is derived. On the other hand, several works have attempted to close the gap in performance from using \( \ell_1 \) instead of \( \ell_0 \) (combinatorial problem) minimization by solving a nonconvex \( \ell_p \) \( (0 < p < 1) \) minimization. In [9]–[11], the authors provide sufficient conditions for recoverability of sparse/compressible signals from noisy measurements via such \( \ell_p \) minimization. In [12], the authors study weighted \( \ell_p \) minimization with zero weights on the known support.

In most previous works, the CS recovery program uses an \( \ell_2 \) norm fidelity constraint. From a Bayesian standpoint, the \( \ell_2 \) norm used in the fidelity term (of the BPDN) corresponds to the conditional log-likelihood associated with additive white Gaussian noise. However, the noise in the disturbed measurement might not be Gaussian. As an example, quantization distortion is highly non-Gaussian and is essentially bounded by the quantization bin widths. This motivates the need for a new CS decoder that better models different types of noise. The authors in [13] adapt BPDN to integrate the quantization distortion constraint. In [14], the authors study a new class of optimization problems coined basis pursuit dequantizing (BPDQ) that models more faithfully different types of noise than BPDN; this new class of optimization proceeds by minimizing the sparsity of the signal subject to a data-fidelity constraint expressed in the \( \ell_q \) \( (2 \leq q < \infty) \) norm of the residual error instead of the \( \ell_2 \) norm as in BPDN; the case of \( q = 1 \) is studied in [15]. The BPDQ of moment \( \bar{q} \), BPDQ_{\bar{q}}, is

\[
\min_x ||\mathbf{Ψ}^T \tilde{x}||_1, \text{ subject to } ||\Phi x - \tilde{y}||_q \leq \tilde{\epsilon}
\]

where \( ||x||_q^q \triangleq \sum_{i=1}^N |x_i|^q \) and \( \tilde{\epsilon} \) bounds the measurement noise. The authors in [14] study the problem in (1) and show that this approach gives some gain over BPDN. However, no prior information on the unknown signal is assumed in [14]. Motivated by the fact that the CS algorithm may have prior knowledge about the signal and that disturbance in the measurements might come from quantization distortion, we study weighted \( \ell_p \) \( (0 < p \leq 1) \) minimization subject to solving the convex basis pursuit denoising (BPDN) program: \( \min_x ||\mathbf{Ψ}^T \tilde{x}||_1 \) subject to \( ||\Phi x - \tilde{y}||_2 \leq \epsilon' \), where \( \epsilon' \) bounds the total amount of noise in the measurements.

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an $\ell_q$ ($2 \leq q < \infty$) norm fidelity constraint for compressively sampled signals with (not fully accurate) partial support information; we develop RIP-based guarantee conditions for stable recovery. This generalizes the problems in [8], [14] and [16] to a wider range of $p$ and $q$. We also discuss the implementation aspect for the algorithm for $p < 1$. In this case, the problem is no longer convex; we resort to the use of an iterative reweighted convex problem to solve the original nonconvex optimization.

II. WEIGHTED BASIS PURSUIT DEQUANTIZING

In this section, we present a CS recovery method that incorporates partial knowledge about the sparsity support and models more faithfully different types of measurement noise. Next we assume a canonical basis ($\Psi$ is the identity matrix).

**Definition 1** $\Phi$ satisfies the extended RIP$_{p,q,2}$ of order $K$ if $\mu_{q,2}(1 − \delta_K)^{1/2}\|u\|_2 \leq \|\Phi u\|_q \leq \mu_{q,2}(1 + \delta_K)^{1/2}\|u\|_2$, for all $K$-sparse signals $u$, and an RIP$_{p,q}$ constant $\delta_K \in [0, 1]$ [14]. Note that $\mu_{q,2}$ is equal to 1 for $q = 2$.

Consider a compressible signal $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$. Let $x_K$ be $K$-sparse where the $K$ nonzero coefficients of $x_K$ are equal to the $K$ largest-in-magnitude coefficients of $x$; we refer to $x_K$ as the best $K$ term approximation of $x$. Let $T_0 = \text{support}(x_K)$ be the support of $x_K$ (the locations of the nonzero coefficients), where $T_0 \subset \{1, \ldots, N\}$. Let the support estimate $\hat{T}$ be a subset of $\{1, \ldots, N\}$ with cardinality $|\hat{T}| = \rho K$, where $0 < \rho \leq a$ for some $a \geq 1$, and $x_\hat{T}$ be a sub-vector of $x$ with coefficient $x_{\hat{T}}(i) = x(T(i))$, $i = 1, \ldots, \rho K$. The generalized recovery process, coined the weighted BPDN$_{p,q}$ (WBPDQ$_{p,q}$), is given by

$$\min_{\hat{x}} \|\Psi^T \hat{x}\|_{p,w}, \text{ subject to } \|\Phi \hat{x} − \hat{y}\|_q \leq \epsilon \quad (2)$$

where $\|x\|_{p,w} = \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N} w^p_i |x_i|^p\right)^{1/2}$, $w_i = 1$ for $i \in \hat{T}^c$, $w_i = w$ for $i \in \hat{T}$, $0 \leq w \leq 1$, $0 < p \leq 1$, $q \geq 2$ and $\epsilon$ bounds the total amount of noise in the measurements. Next, we show that WBPDQ$_{p,q}$ is stable if $\Phi$ satisfies an RIP$_{p,q,2}$.

**Theorem 1** Define $\rho$ and $\alpha$ so that $|\hat{T}| = \rho K$, $|\hat{T} \cap T_0| = \alpha \rho K$ and $\hat{T}_0 = T_0 \cap \hat{T}$. Suppose that there exists an $a \geq (1 − \alpha)\rho$, $a \geq 1$ and that $\Phi$ satisfies RIP$_{p,q,2}$ with

$$(1 - \delta_{a+1})K \rho p - c_{\gamma}^p > 0 \quad (3)$$

where $\gamma = w^p + (1 - w)p a^{2-1}(1 + \rho - 2a \rho)^{1-2}$ and $c_{\gamma} = C_{\Phi}(\Phi, (1 + a)K, a K)$ with $C_{\Phi}(\Phi, K, K')$ given by

$$\left|\delta_{K} + \delta _{K + K'} \right| \left(\delta_{K} + \delta _{K + K'} + e(1 + \delta_{K'})\right)^{1/2}$$

and $\bar{\delta} = q - 2 \geq 0$. Then the solution $\hat{x}$ to (2) satisfies

$$\|x - \hat{x}\|_p^p \leq C_0 (e^p ||x||_p^p)^{p/2} + C_1 (\bar{\delta} K^{\bar{\delta} - 1})$$

where

$$C_0 = \frac{2p(1 + \gamma)(1 + \delta_{a+1} K)\gamma}{[(1 - \delta_{a+1} K)^p - c_{\gamma}^p]}$$

and $\bar{\delta} = (w^p ||x||_p^p)^{p/2} + (1 - w)^p ||x||_p^p$. The first term in the right hand side of (5) depends on the measurement matrix and the measurement noise; the second term, which also depends on the measurement matrix, comes from the compressibility of the signal.

The proof of Theorem 1 is presented in the Appendix; the proof uses a combination of techniques used to prove [2, Theorem 2], [14, Theorem 2] and [8, Theorem 3].

**Remark 1** For $w = 1$, $a = 1$ and $p = 1$, Theorem 1 reduces to Theorem 2 in [14]. For $\alpha = 0.5$, $a = 1$ and $p = 1$, the sufficient condition and the bound on the reconstruction error given by Theorem 1 is identical to that of Theorem 2 in [14]; this means that choosing $w = 1$ in (2) gives the best performance for $\alpha = 0.5$.

Next, we discuss some implementation aspects of the optimization problem given by (2). For the case of $p = 1$, the WBPDQ$_{1,q}$ program is convex and can be solved using the toolbox in [17]. For $0 < p < 1$, however, the optimization is no longer convex. Algorithms that have been used to solve such optimization include the projected gradient method [9], [16], the iterative reweighted $\ell_1$ method [18] and the iterative reweighted least squares method [19], [20]. We herein use a variant of the iteratively reweighted $\ell_2$ algorithm to compute a local minimum. The approach is to replace the weighted $\ell_p$ objective function in (2) by a weighted $\ell_2$ norm as follows

$$\hat{x}^{(t+1)} = \min_{\hat{x}} \sum_{i=1}^{N} m_i^{(t)} \hat{x}_i^2, \text{ subject to } ||\Phi \hat{x} - \hat{y}||_q \leq \epsilon \quad (7)$$

where $m_i^{(t)} = w^p_i (\hat{x}_i^{(t)})^2 + \epsilon / q^{2-1}$; the weight $m_i^{(t)}$ is updated at each iteration $t$ and $\epsilon > 0$ is a regularization factor. This process is repeated with decreasing value of $\epsilon$ until convergence. Since $p/2 - 1 < 0$, allowing $\epsilon$ to be zero, the weights in (7) are undefined whenever the value of the signal size is zero ($\hat{x}_i^{(t)} = 0$). To overcome this, we use the approach of regularizing the optimization problem by incorporating a small $\epsilon > 0$. Algorithm 1 is stated as follows

1) Set $t = 0$, $\epsilon = \epsilon_0$ and start with an initial solution $\hat{x}^{(0)}$.
2) Set $t = t + 1$; solve for $\hat{x}^{(t)}$ using (7).
3) Decrease $\epsilon$ as follow: $\epsilon = \epsilon/10$.
4) Evaluate the convergence function $J = \frac{||x^{(t)} - \hat{x}^{(t-1)}||_q^2}{||x^{(t-1)} - \hat{x}^{(t-1)}||_q^2}$.

If $J$ is less than some positive threshold $J_{th}$ or $t > T_{max}$ stop iterating. Else go to step 2.

In our simulation, we solve (7) using the toolbox in [17]; we set $J_{th} = 10^{-5}$, $T_{max} = 15$, $\epsilon_0 = 1$ and $\hat{x}^{(0)}$ to be the solution of the problem for $p = 1$.

**Remark 2** We also implemented a variant of the iterative reweighted $\ell_2$ method in [18] to solve the nonconvex problem; we replace the objective function in (7) in Algorithm 1 with a weighted $\ell_2$ function $\sum_{i=1}^{N} m_i^{(t)} |\hat{x}_i|$, where $m_i^{(t)} = w^p_i (|\hat{x}_i^{(t)}| + \epsilon)^{p-1}$. Simulation results show that this method gives similar performance as the reweighted $\ell_2$ norm method.
III. Numerical Results

We consider $x$ to be sparse in the canonical basis where the nonzero elements in $x$ are chosen to be i.i.d. zero-mean Gaussian with unit variance and the signal support is uniformly distributed. The support knowledge $\tilde{T}$ is uniformly chosen with accuracy rate $\alpha$. Fig. 1 shows the SDR $\triangleq \frac{\mathbb{E}[||\tilde{x}||^2]}{\mathbb{E}[||x-\tilde{x}||^2]}$ performance versus the number of measurements $M$ for an accuracy rate of 80% (i.e., $\alpha = 0.8$). We assume that the noise $n$ is uniform on the interval $[-0.5, 0.5]$ and choose a weight parameter of $w = 0$ in (2). We notice that the WBPDQ $p,q$ ($p = 0.7, q = 4$), solved using Algorithm 1, gives the best performance. Comparing WBPDQ $p,q$ to WBPDQ $1,2$ (i.e., WBPDN), we notice that the SDR gap increases with $M$. This is from the fact that when $M$ is low, we operate in the region where the constraint on the RIP $q,2$ constant (3) in Theorem 1 is barely met and hence the benefit of using the $\ell_q$ norm constraint over the $\ell_2$ is not as high as larger $M$. Although Fig. 1 aims to show the performance of different recovery algorithms over $M$, it is worth mentioning that the value of $q$ used is not the optimal one.

Fig. 2 shows the SDR performance of WBPDQ $p,q$ ($p = 1, q = 4$) versus $w$ for different accuracy rates $\alpha$ and uniform noise on $[-0.5, 0.5]$. We remark that for low accuracy $\alpha$, it is beneficial to increase $w$; for high accuracy, however, using a lower $w$ gives a better performance. Comparing the gap between WBPDQ $1,4$ and WBPDN over several accuracy rates, we notice that this gap gets wider for higher accuracy. This can be explained from the fact that for higher accuracy, the cardinality of the unknown sparsity pattern is lower and hence less measurements are needed to satisfy the RIP $q,2$ constraint of Theorem 1; as a result, the benefit of using $\ell_q$ norm is more visible. Note that for the extreme case of $w = 1$, the SDR gap between WBPDQ $1,4$ and WBPDN is small; this is from the fact that no side information is used at the decoder and since $M$ is relatively small compared to $K$. Fig. 3 shows the SDR performance as a function of $|\tilde{T}|$ for different values of accuracy $\alpha$ and weight $w$. We can notice that using a larger support estimate favours better performance for most cases. The only case where increasing $|\tilde{T}|$ decreases the SDR performance is when choosing $w = 0$ (very small) for low accuracy rate $\alpha$. This can be explained from the fact that for low accuracy $\alpha$, increasing $|\tilde{T}|$ leads to a relatively more increase in the amount of wrong indices than true ones; as a result, choosing $w = 0$ (i.e., favouring the indices in $\tilde{T}$) leads to a decrease in the performance. Moreover, the drastic increase in the performance for $|\tilde{T}| = 25$ and $w = 0$ in Fig. 3-(a) is from the fact that in this case $\tilde{T}$ contains all indices of the true support $T$. Fig. 4 shows the SDR performance versus $|\tilde{T}|$ for uniform noise distribution $[-0.5, 0.5]$. The solid curves correspond to WBPDQ $1,q$ while the dashed ones are for WBPDN. The signal has $N = 150$ and $K = 20$. The number of measurements is $M = 80$; Fig. 3(a) is for $\alpha = 0.8$ while (b) for $\alpha = 0.5$. The performance of WBPDQ $p,q$ ($p = 1$) as a function of $q$ for different measurement noise models; our aim is to show the importance of $q$ with respect to the noise model. As expected, for Gaussian noise, the best performance is shown for $q = 2$. For uniform noise, we notice that the best $q$ is 3. We also study the performance of WBPDQ $1,q$ for the Beta distribution (which subsumes the uniform distribution as a special case), with domain $[0,1]$ and a probability distribution function (pdf) given by $f(x,\alpha,\beta) = \frac{1}{B(\alpha,\beta)} x^{\alpha-1}(1-x)^{\beta-1}$, where $B$ is a normalization constant, and $(\alpha,\beta)$ denote the distribution parameters.
parameters. We experiment with different parameters for the Beta distribution, and we notice that choosing higher $q$ gives better performance than choosing $q = 2$ for several cases. More precisely, when the pdf is symmetric and behaves more like a uniform distribution for most of its range ($\alpha = 0.5$ and $\alpha = \beta = 2$), the best $q$ is greater than 2. For $\alpha = 5$ and $\beta = 1$, the distribution has a similar shape as a limited one-sided-Gaussian; this makes $q = 2$ to be the best choice. Moreover, choosing $p = 0.7$ leads to similar conclusions; reducing $p$, in principle, gives a better performance. It is worth mentioning that in Fig. 4, the curves do not have the same noise levels; changing the noise level does not affect the curve trend (the curve simply shifts vertically). For future work, we will investigate different penalty functions to increase the recovery tolerance against large (unbounded) noise [21], [22].

Combining (8) and (9), we obtain the following

$$\| h_{T_0} \|_2^p \leq (aK)^{\frac{2}{p}-1} \left( w^p \| h_{T_0} \|_2^p + (1-w^p) \| h_{\tilde{T}_0 \cup \tilde{T}_1} \|_2^p + 2(w^p \| x_{T_0} \|_2^p + (1-w^p) \| x_{\tilde{T}_0 \cap \tilde{T}_1} \|_2^p) \right). \tag{10}$$

**Lemma 1** [14] Let $u, v \in \mathbb{R}^N$ be $K$-sparse and $K'$-sparse, respectively, with disjoint supports. If $\Phi$ is RIP,$q,2$ order $K + K'$ with constant $\delta_{K+K'}$ and of orders $K$ and $K'$ with constants $\delta_K$, $\delta_{K'}$, respectively, then

$$| < J(\Phi u), \Phi v > | \leq \mu_{q,2}^a C_q(\Phi, K, K') \| u \|_2 \| v \|_2 \tag{11}$$

where $(\| J(u) \|_1 = \| u \|_{2,q}^a \| u \|_{1,q} - 1 \| \text{sign}(u) \|_q$ and $C_q(\Phi, K, K')$ is as defined in (4).

From the definition of $J$, similar to [14], we can write

$$\| \Phi h_{T_0} \|_{q}^p \leq \gamma < J(\Phi h_{T_0}), \Phi h_{T_0} > = < J(\Phi h_{T_0}), \Phi h > - \sum_{j \geq 2} < J(\Phi h_{T_0}), \Phi h_j > \leq < J(\Phi h_{T_0}), \Phi h > + \sum_{j \geq 2} \| < J(\Phi h_{T_0}), \Phi h_j > \| \tag{12}$$

Taking the $p$th power and using the fact that for any $b, c \geq 0$ and $0 \leq p < 1$, $(b+c)^p < b^p + c^p$, we obtain

$$\| \Phi h_{T_0} \|_{q}^p \leq ( < J(\Phi h_{T_0}), \Phi h > )^p + \sum_{j \geq 2}( < J(\Phi h_{T_0}), \Phi h_j > )^p \tag{13}$$

Using the fact that $x$ and $\tilde{x}$ are feasible solutions, we have $\| \Phi h_0 \|_q \leq \| \Phi x - \tilde{x} \|_q + \| \Phi \tilde{x} - y \|_q \leq 2c$; applying Holder’s inequality with parameters $r = \frac{q}{q-1}$ and $s = q$, we get

$$< J(\Phi h_{T_0}), \Phi h > \leq \| J(\Phi h_{T_0}) \|_r \| \Phi h \|_s = \| \Phi h_{T_0} \|_q \| \Phi h \|_q \leq 2c \| \Phi h_{T_0} \|_q \tag{14}$$

where the last inequality follows from the definition of RIP,$q,2$ and by noting that $\Phi h_{T_0}$ is an $(a+1)K$ sparse vector. Using Lemma 1 and the fact that $\Phi h_{T_0}$ is $(a+1)K$ sparse and $\Phi h_j$ is $aK$ sparse for $j \geq 2$, we can write the following

$$< J(\Phi h_{T_0}), \Phi h_j > \leq \mu_{q,2}^a c_q \| h_{\tilde{T}_0} \|_2 \| h_j \|_2 \tag{15}$$

where $c_q = C_q(\Phi, (a+1)K, aK)$. Combining (13), (14) and (15), $\| \Phi h_{T_0} \|_{q}^p$ can be upper bounded. By lower bounding $\| \Phi h_{T_0} \|_{q}^p$ using RIP,$q,2$ and applying it to the upper bound found on $\| \Phi h_{T_0} \|_{q}^p$, we obtain after some manipulations

$$\| h_{T_0} \|_{2}^p \leq \frac{(2c)^p}{\mu_{q,2}^a(1-\delta_{a+1})^p} + \frac{c_q^p}{(1-\delta_{a+1})^p} \| h_{\tilde{T}_0} \|_2^p \tag{16}$$

Using (10) in (16), the fact that $\| h_{T_0} \|_{2}^p \leq (aK)^{\frac{2}{p}-1} \| h_{\tilde{T}_0} \|_2^p \| h_{\tilde{T}_0} \|_2 \leq \| h_{\tilde{T}_0} \|_2^p$ and $\| h_{\tilde{T}_0} \|_2^p \leq \| h_{T_0} \|_2^p$, we derive the following after some manipulations

$$\| h_{T_0} \|_{2}^p \leq \frac{(2c)^p(1+\delta_{a+1})K^{\frac{2}{p}} + 2c_q^p(aK)^{\frac{2}{p}-1} \| h_{\tilde{T}_0} \|_2^p}{\mu_{q,2}^a(1-\delta_{a+1})^p - c_q^p} \tag{17}$$

Using (17) and (10), we bound $\| h_{\tilde{T}_0} \|_{2}^p \leq \| h_{T_0} \|_{2}^p + \| h_{\tilde{T}_0} \|_2^p$; this completes the proof provided that the denominator in (17) is positive which reduces to (3).
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