# Sparse recovery with partial support knowledge 

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## Sparse recovery

## Measurement:

- Data/signal in n-dimensional space: $x$
- Goal: compress $x$ into a "sketch" $A x$, where $A$ is an $m \times n$ matrix, $m \ll n$

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Recovery:

- Sparsity parameter $k$
- Informal: recover largest $k$ coordinates of $x$
- Formal: recover approximation $\hat{x}$ of $x$ such that

$$
\|\hat{x}-x\|_{p} \leq C(k) \min _{x^{\prime}}\left\|x^{\prime}-x\right\|_{q}
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over all $k$-sparse $x^{\prime}$ (at most $k$ non-zero coordinates)

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Want:

- Good compression: small $m=m(k, n)$
- Efficient algorithms for encoding and recovery


## Applications

- Monitoring network traffic data streams
- $x$ is traffic matrix, for every source/destination pair
- Too big to store!
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- Various forms of pooling experiments


## Previous results in sparse recovery

| Paper | Sketch length | Approx |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| CRT'04 | $O(k \log (n / k))$ | $\ell_{1} \leq O(1) \ell_{1}$ |
| GLPS'10 | $O((k / \epsilon) \log (n / k))$ | $\ell_{2} \leq(1+\epsilon) \ell_{2}$ |
| DIPW'10,FPRU'10 | $\Omega(k \log (n / k))$ | $\ell_{1} \leq O(1) \ell_{1}, \ell_{2} \leq O(1) \ell_{2}$ |

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Can we do better than $O(k \log (n / k))$ ?
Yes! With additional knowledge about the signal.

## Partial knowledge

- Model-based compressive sensing (Baraniuk et al.' 10 , Eldar-Bolcskei'09)
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- Bayesian compressive sensing (Cevher et al.'10)
signal generated from known distribution
- Support knowledge (Price'10, this paper)
some knowledge available about where the large coefficients lie


## Partial support knowledge

Sparse recovery with partial support knowledge (SRPSK):
(1) Construction of $A$ : parameters $n, k$ and $s$
(2) Measurement: $A x$
(3) Support knowledge: set $S \subset[n],|S|=s$, where top- $k$ "likely" lies
(4) Recovery: from $A x$ and $S$, find $\hat{x}$ such that

$$
\|\hat{x}-x\|_{p} \leq C \min _{x^{\prime}}\left\|x^{\prime}-x\right\|_{q}
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over all $k$-sparse $x^{\prime}$ with support in $S$

## Motivation

Applications:

- Tracking tasks: object position typically does not change quickly
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Theoretical:

- $s=n$ : "regular" sparse recovery
- $s=k$ : set query (Price'10)


## Our results

## Theorem (Upper bound)

SRPSK with the $\ell_{2} / \ell_{2}$ guarantee can be solved $(1+\epsilon)$-approximately using $O((k / \epsilon) \log (s / k))$ measurements.

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SRPSK with the $\ell_{2} / \ell_{2}$ guarantee can be solved $(1+\epsilon)$-approximately using $O((k / \epsilon) \log (s / k))$ measurements.

## Theorem (Lower bound)

Any $(1+\epsilon)$-approximate solution to SRPSK with either the $\ell_{1} / \ell_{1}$ or the $\ell_{2} / \ell_{2}$ guarantee requires $\Omega((k / \epsilon) \log (s / k))$ measurements, assuming $s=O(\epsilon n / \log (n / \epsilon))$.

## Proof sketch: upper bound

Noise-tolerant sparse recovery: recover $\hat{x}$ from $A x+\nu$ such that

$$
\|\hat{x}-x\|_{p} \leq(1+\epsilon) \min _{x^{\prime}}\left\|x^{\prime}-x\right\|_{p}+\epsilon\|\nu\|_{p}
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where $\mathbb{E}\left[\|A v\|_{\rho}\right] \leq\|v\|_{p}$ for every $v$.

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How to construct matrix so that specifying any $s$ columns yields a "good" measurement (sub)matrix? Independently generated columns!

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- If $b$ blocks used, construct $2 b$ blocks instead and, given $S$, pick $b$ "good" blocks to use
- Result: about 6 times as many rows, but columns now independent!


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Known: requires $\Omega(d)$ bits of communication

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- Use support knowledge to recover approximate $x_{j}$
- Use error correction to recover exact $x_{j}$
- Lower bound of AI implies lower bound for SRPSK

