

# Restricted $p$ -isometry property and its application for nonconvex compressive sensing <sup>\*</sup>

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## Abstract

Compressed sensing is a new scheme which shows the ability to recover sparse signal from fewer measurements, using  $l_1$  minimization. Recently, Chartrand and Staneva shown in [7] that the  $l_p$  minimization with  $0 < p < 1$  recovers sparse signals from fewer linear measurements than does the  $l_1$  minimization. They proved that  $l_p$  minimization with  $0 < p < 1$  recovers  $S$ -sparse signals  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$  from fewer Gaussian random measurements for some smaller  $p$  with probability exceeding

$$1 - 1/\binom{N}{S}.$$

The first aim of this paper is to show that above result is right for the case of random, Gaussian measurements with probability exceeding  $1 - 2e^{-c(p)M}$ , where  $M$  is the numbers of rows of random, Gaussian measurements and  $c(p)$  is a positive constant that guarantees  $1 - 2e^{-c(p)M} > 1 - 1/\binom{N}{S}$  for  $p$  smaller. The second purpose of the paper is to show that under certain weaker conditions, decoders  $\Delta_p$  are stable in the sense that they are  $(2, p)$  instance optimal for a large class of encoder for  $0 < p < 1$ .

**Keywords.** Compressed sensing,  $l_p$  minimization, instance optimality, stability

## 1 Introduction

Compressive sensing is a new type of sampling theory, that predicts that sparse signals and images can be reconstructed from what was previously believed to be incomplete information [2, 3, 10]. The key idea is that the sparsity helps in isolating the original vector. Given a vector  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$  and a matrix  $\Psi \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$  with  $M \ll N$ , we are interested in sparse solutions to the equation  $y = \Psi x$ , where  $\Psi$  is called *measurement matrix*. We also need a decoder  $\Delta$  which produces  $\Delta(\Psi x) \in \mathbb{R}^N$  and should be an approximation to  $x$ . The approach would be to solve the following optimization problems:

$$\Delta_0(y) := \arg \min_x \|x\|_0, \quad \text{subject to } \Psi x = y, \quad (1.1)$$

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where  $\|x\|_0$  denotes the numbers of non-zero elements of  $x$ . Thus, if  $\|x\|_0 \leq S$ , vector  $x$  is called  $S$ -sparse. Let  $\Psi \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$ , under certain conditions on the matrix  $\Psi$  [12], there is a decoder  $\Delta$  which satisfies  $\Delta(\Psi x) = x$  for all  $\|x\|_0 < S$

$$\text{when } M > 2S \tag{1.2}$$

with probability 1. However, because  $\|x\|_0$  is non-convex and combinatorial, solving it directly is NP-hard, (1.1) is impractical for real applications. A practical alternative is

$$\Delta_1(y) := \arg \min_x \|x\|_1, \quad \text{subject to } \Psi x = y. \tag{1.3}$$

It was shown in [4] that, when  $\Psi \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$  is an Gaussian random matrix, then every  $S$ -sparse vector can be recovered by solving (1.3)

$$\text{when } M \geq c_1 S \log(N/S) \tag{1.4}$$

with probability exceeding  $1 - 2e^{-c_2 M}$ , where  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are some positive constants.

The  $l_0$  norm is naturally related to the  $l_p$  norms with  $0 < p < 1$ ; all are measures of sparsity and, in fact the  $l_0$  norm is the limit as  $p \rightarrow 0$  of the  $l_p$  norms in the following sense:

$$\|x\|_0 = \lim_{p \rightarrow 0} \|x\|_p^p = \lim_{p \rightarrow 0} \sum_k |x_k|^p.$$

This motivates us to consider the  $l_p$ -minimization problem with  $0 < p < 1$ :

$$\Delta_p(y) := \arg \min_x \|x\|_p, \quad \text{subject to } \Psi x = y, \tag{1.5}$$

where the  $l_p$  norm, is defined by  $\|u\|_p = (\sum |u_i|^p)^{1/p}$ . It is well known that the  $l_p$  norm with  $0 < p < 1$  is not actually a norm and is only a quasi-norm. For any fixed  $0 < p < 1$ , checking the global minimal value of (1.5) is NP-hard; but computing a local minimizer of the problem is polynomial time doable [13]. Therefore, to solve (1.5) is still much faster than (1.1) at least locally. There are some papers to be devoted to studying the  $l_p$ -minimization problem with  $0 < p < 1$  [14, 15, 16]. Furthermore, the  $l_p$  minimization strategy offer some theoretical advantages. The fewer measurements are required for exact reconstruction with  $0 < p < 1$  than when  $p = 1$  that was demonstrated by numerical experiments in [6] and theorems in [5]. Chartarand and Staneva [7] shown that when there exist Gaussian random matrices  $\Psi \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$  with only

$$M \geq C_1(p)S + pC_2(p)S \log(N/S) \tag{1.6}$$

rows such that for all  $S$ -sparse vector  $x$ , we can recover  $x$  exactly from  $\Psi x$  by (1.5) with probability exceeding

$$1 - 1/\binom{N}{S}.$$

It is important to note that  $pC_2(p)$  goes to zero as  $p$  goes to zero. The condition in (1.6) with various  $p$  fills in the gaps between the (1.2) and (1.4). This gives a wide range of choices of  $l_p$  minimization that meets various demands for approximation power, the sparse of  $x$  and the measurement matrices  $\Psi$  in applications. However, the probability of success is polynomial decay with  $N$  and do not match the case  $p = 0$  and  $p = 1$ . This motivated us to give the following results.

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $\Psi$  be an  $M \times N$  matrix whose entries are i.i.d. random distributed normally with mean zero and variance  $\sigma^2$ , where  $M < N$ . Then there exist constants  $C_1(p)$  and  $C_2(p)$  such that whenever  $0 < p \leq 1$  and  $M \geq C_1(p)S + pC_2(p)S \log(N/S)$ , the following is true with probability exceeding  $1 - 2e^{-c(p)M}$ : for any  $S$ -sparse  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $x$  is the unique solution of (1.5), where  $c(p)$  is a positive constant that guarantees  $1 - 2e^{-c(p)M} > 1 - 1/\binom{N}{S}$ .*

**Remark 1.2.** *The constants  $C_1(p)$  and  $C_2(p)$  are given in (2.10). In section 2, we show that decreasing  $p$  for (1.5) to successful  $S$ -sparse recovery with increasing probability. The limiting case of Theorem 1.1 as  $p \rightarrow 0$  is essentially the  $l_0$  case.*

Compressive sensing is based on the empirical observation that many types of real-world signals and images have a sparse expansion in terms of a suitable basis or frame, for instance a wavelet expansion. This means that the expansion has only a small number of significant terms, or in other words, that the coefficient vector can be well-approximated with one having only a small number of nonvanishing entries. It is an important problem to compare the performance of the best  $S$ -term approximation with compressive sampling. The best  $S$ -term approximation error of a vector  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$  in  $l_p$  is defined as

$$\sigma_S(x)_p = \inf_{\|z\|_0 \leq S} \|x - z\|_p.$$

If  $\sigma_S(x)_p$  decays quickly in  $S$ , then  $x$  is called compressible. Indeed, in order to compress  $x$ , one may simply store only the  $S$  largest entries. When reconstructing  $x$  from its compressed version, the reconstruction error is  $\sigma_S(x)_p$ . We say that an measurement-decoder pair  $(\Psi, \Delta)$  is  $(q, p)$  instance optimal of order  $S$  with constant  $C$  if

$$\|x - \Delta(\Psi x)\|_q \leq C \frac{\sigma_S(x)_p}{S^{1/p-1/q}}.$$

The instance optimal evaluate the efficiency of given measurement-decoder pair  $(\Psi, \Delta)$ . In this paper, we also discuss the instance optimal and stability of  $l_p$  minimization with respect to the measurement error and how those results depend on the measurement matrix  $\Psi$ .

**Theorem 1.3.** *Let  $0 < p \leq 1$  and  $\Psi$  be an  $M \times N$  matrix whose entries are i.i.d. random distributed normally with mean zero and variance  $\sigma^2$ , where  $M < N$ . Suppose that  $N \geq M[\log(M)]^2$ . There exist constants  $c_1, c_2 > 0$  such that for all  $S \in \mathbb{N}$  with*

$$M \geq C_1(p)S + pC_2(p)S \log(N/S),$$

where the constant  $C_1(p)$  and  $C_2(p)$  are given in (2.10).

The following are true.

- There exists  $\Omega_1$  with  $P(\Omega_1) \geq 1 - 3e^{-c_1M}$  such that for all  $\omega \in \Omega_1$

$$\|\Delta_p(\Psi x + r) - x\|_2 \leq C \left( \|r\|_2 + \frac{\sigma_S(x)_p}{S^{1/p-1/2}} \right) \quad (1.7)$$

for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$  and for any  $r \in \mathbb{R}^M$ .

- For any  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ , there exists  $\Omega_x$  with  $P(\Omega_x) \geq 1 - 4e^{-c_2 M}$  such that for all  $\omega \in \Omega_x$

$$\|\Delta_p(\Psi x + r) - x\|_2 \leq C(\|r\|_2 + \sigma_S(x)_2)$$

for any  $r \in \mathbb{R}^M$ .

**Remark 1.4.** In Theorem 1.3, we prove that the condition  $M \geq c_1 S \log(N/S)$  of Theorem 2.14 in [16] can be replaced by the weak condition in (1.6). In fact, we give a positive answer to the open question on the  $l_p$  minimization proposed in [16]: the decoder  $\Delta_p$  possess stability and instance optimality properties similar to those of  $\Delta_1$ , and these are obtained under weaker conditions on the measurement matrices that the analogous ones with  $p = 1$ .

The paper is organized as follows. In section 2, we determine how many Gaussian random matrix are sufficient for the  $l_p$  minimization with high probability for  $0 < p \leq 1$ . We also show that the restricted  $p$ -isometry property guarantee  $(2, p)$  instance optimal. In section 3, following the line of [16] and [17], we prove that for the fewer range of dimensions as for decoding by  $l_1$  minimization,  $l_p$  minimization is also  $(2, p)$  instance optimal in probability for  $0 < p \leq 1$ .

## 2 Instance Optimality

In [11], Candès and Tao introduced the notion of *restricted isometry constants* ( $\text{RIC}(S, \delta)$ ) of a matrix, which was shown to play a fundamental role in compressive sensing. Let  $\Psi$  be an  $M \times N$  matrix, where  $M < N$  and  $S$  is a positive integer, we define the constant  $\delta_S$  to be the smallest positive number such that

$$(1 - \delta_S)\|x\|_2^2 \leq \|\Psi x\|_2^2 \leq (1 + \delta_S)\|x\|_2^2, \quad \forall \|x\|_0 \leq S. \quad (2.1)$$

Chartrand and Staneva generalized *restricted isometry constants* of a matrix and considered the *restricted  $p$ -isometry constant* ( $p\text{-RIC}(S, \delta)$ ) of a matrix  $\Psi$ . Given  $0 < p \leq 1$ , let  $S$  be a positive integer. Then the  $p$ -restricted isometry constants  $\delta_S$  is denoted to be the smallest positive number such that

$$(1 - \delta_S)\|x\|_2^p \leq \|\Psi x\|_p^p \leq (1 + \delta_S)\|x\|_2^p, \quad \forall \|x\|_0 \leq S. \quad (2.2)$$

A similar definition in the case of  $p = 1$  appeared in [11], and is related to the Banach-Mazur distance of Banach space theory. The restricted isometry property implies instance optimal in  $l_1$  [8], as well as by  $l_p$  minimization for  $0 < p < 1$  [14, 16]. Our next theorem shows that  $p$ -restricted isometry property implies also a bound on the reconstruction error in  $l_2$  and  $l_p$ , respectively.

**Theorem 2.1.** Let  $0 < p \leq 1$ . Suppose the matrix  $\Psi$  satisfies the  $p\text{-RIC}(S + L, \delta)$  with  $\gamma := \frac{1+\delta_L}{1-\delta_{L+S}}(S/L)^{1-p/2} < 1$ . Then

$$\|x - \Delta_p \Psi(x)\|_p^p \leq \frac{2 + 2\gamma}{1 - \gamma} \sigma_S(x)_p^p$$

and

$$\|x - \Delta_p \Psi(x)\|_2^p \leq S^{p/2-1} \frac{2+2\gamma}{1-\gamma} \sigma_S(x)_p^p$$

for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ .

*Proof.* Let  $x^* \in \mathbb{R}^N$  be a solution of (1.5). Denote  $h = x - x^*$ . Let  $T_0$  denote the set of indices of the largest  $S$  entries of  $h$ ,  $T_1$  the next  $L$  largest, and so on. For  $j > 0$ , consider  $i \in T_j$  and  $i' \in T_{j+1}$ . Since  $|h_i| \leq |h_{i'}|$ , we derive that  $|h_i|^p \leq L^{-1} |h_{i'}|^p$ . It follows that

$$\|h_{T_{j+1}}\|_2^p \leq \|h_{T_j}\|_2^2 \leq L^{p/2-1} \|h_{T_j}\|_p^p.$$

The above inequality easily implies

$$\sum_{j>1} \|h_{T_j}\|_2^p \leq L^{p/2-1} \left( \sum_{j>0} \|h_{T_j}\|_p^p \right) = L^{p/2-1} \|h_{T_0^c}\|_p^p, \quad (2.3)$$

where  $T_0^c$  denoting the complement of  $T_0$  in  $\{1, \dots, N\}$ .

Note that  $\Psi h = 0$ , we have

$$0 = \|\Psi h\|_p^p = \left\| \Psi h_{T_{01}} + \sum_{j>1} \Psi h_{T_j} \right\|_p^p \geq \|\Psi h_{T_{01}}\|_p^p - \sum_{j>1} \|\Psi h_{T_j}\|_p^p,$$

where  $T_{01} := T_0 \cup T_1$ . From  $p$ -RIP, and the above inequality, the following sequence of inequalities is deduced,

$$(1 - \delta_{L+S}) \|h_{T_{01}}\|_2^p \leq (1 + \delta_L) \sum_{j>1} \|h_{T_j}\|_2^p. \quad (2.4)$$

Combining the estimates (2.3) and (2.4), we obtain

$$\|h_{T_0}\|_p^p \leq S^{1-p/2} \|h_{T_0}\|_2^p \leq \frac{1 + \delta_L}{1 - \delta_{L+S}} S^{1-p/2} L^{p/2-1} \|h_{T_0^c}\|_p^p = \gamma \|h_{T_0^c}\|_p^p. \quad (2.5)$$

Because  $x^*$  is a minimizer of (1.5), we have  $\|x^*\|_p^p \leq \|x\|_p^p$ . This, together with  $h = x - x^*$ , implies that

$$\|x_{T_0}\|_p^p - \|h_{T_0}\|_p^p + \|h_{T_0^c}\|_p^p - \|x_{T_0^c}\|_p^p \leq \|x_{T_0}^*\|_p^p + \|x_{T_0^c}^*\|_p^p \leq \|x_{T_0}\|_p^p + \|x_{T_0^c}\|_p^p. \quad (2.6)$$

Since  $\|x_{T_0}\|_q^q = \sigma_S(x)_p^p$ , (2.6) yields

$$\|h_{T_0^c}\|_p^p \leq 2\sigma_S(x)_p^p + \|h_{T_0}\|_p^p.$$

The use of this estimate, combined with the inequality (2.5), gives

$$\|h_{T_0^c}\|_p^p \leq \frac{2}{1-\gamma} \sigma_S(x)_p^p. \quad (2.7)$$

Consequently,

$$\|x - x^*\|_p^p = \|h\|_p^p = \|h_{T_0}\|_p^p + \|h_{T_0^c}\|_p^p \leq (1 + \gamma)\|h_{T_0^c}\|_p^p = \frac{2 + 2\gamma}{1 - \gamma}\sigma_S(x)_p^p.$$

Finally, we use (2.3), (2.5) and (2.7) to conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} \|x - x^*\|_2^p &= \|h\|_2^p \leq \|h_{T_0}\|_2^p + \|h_{T_0^c}\|_2^p \\ &\leq L^{p/2-1}\|h_{T_0^c}\|_p^p + S^{p/2-1}\gamma\|h_{T_0^c}\|_p^p \\ &\leq S^{p/2-1}\frac{2 + 2\gamma}{1 - \gamma}\sigma_S(x)_p^p. \end{aligned}$$

□

Let  $\Psi$  be an  $M \times N$  matrix whose entries are i.i.d Gaussian random variables with expectation 0 and variance  $\sigma^2$ . To prove Theorem 1.1, we need to determine how large  $M$  must be for  $\gamma < 1$  to hold with high probability. For a given  $p$ , let  $\mu_p := \sigma^p 2^{p/2} \Gamma(\frac{p+1}{2})/\sqrt{\pi}$ . The following result in [7] will be useful:

**Lemma 2.2.** [7, Lemma 3.3.] *Let  $0 < p \leq 1$ ,  $\Phi$  an  $M \times L$  submatrix of  $\Psi$ . Let  $\delta > 0$ . Choose  $\eta, \epsilon > 0$  such that  $\frac{\eta + \epsilon^p}{1 - \epsilon^p} \leq \delta$ . Then*

$$M\mu_p(1 - \delta)\|x\|_2^p \leq \|\Phi x\|_p^p \leq M\mu_p(1 + \delta)\|x\|_2^p \quad (2.8)$$

holds uniformly for  $x \in \mathbb{R}^L$  with probability exceeding  $1 - 2(1 + 2/\epsilon)^L e^{-\frac{\eta^2 M}{2p\beta_p^2}}$ , where

$$\beta_p = (31/40)^{1/4} \left[ 1.13 + \sqrt{p} \left( \frac{\Gamma(\frac{p+1}{2})}{\sqrt{\pi}} \right)^{-1/p} \right]. \quad (2.9)$$

*Proof of Theorem 1.1.* Let  $L = (a + 1)S = (\lceil b^{\frac{2}{2-p}} \rceil + 1)S$ ,  $b > 1$ . Theorem 2.1 states that for  $\delta_{(a+1)S} < (b - 1)/(b + 1)$ , there exists unique solution of (1.5). We choose  $\eta = r(b - 1)/(b + 1)$  for  $r \in (0, 1)$  and  $\epsilon^p = (1 + r)(b - 1)/2b$  to satisfy

$$\frac{\eta + \epsilon^p}{1 - \epsilon^p} \leq \delta_{(a+1)S} \leq \frac{b - 1}{b + 1}.$$

By Lemma 2.2, the matrix  $\Psi$  will fail to satisfy  $p$ -restricted isometry property with probability

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq \binom{N}{L} (1 + 2/\epsilon)^L e^{-\frac{\eta^2 M}{2p\beta_p^2}} = (eN/L)^L (1 + 2/\epsilon)^L e^{-\frac{\eta^2 M}{2p\beta_p^2}} \\ &= e^{L \ln(eN/L) + L \ln(1 + 2/\epsilon) - \frac{\eta^2 M}{2p\beta_p^2}}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\beta_p$  is given in (2.9). It suffices to show that right hand side of above quantity can be bounded by  $e^{-\frac{\eta^2 M}{4p\beta_p^2}}$ , i.e

$$\frac{\eta^2 M}{4p\beta_p^2} \geq L \ln(eN/L) + L \ln(1 + 3/\epsilon).$$

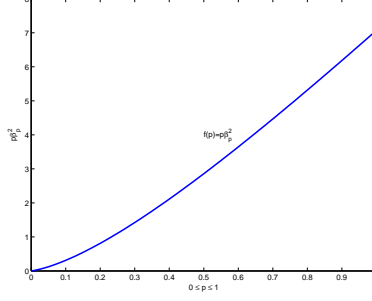


Figure 1: The graph of function  $f(p) = p\beta_p^2$

It is equal to show that

$$\begin{aligned}
M &\geq \frac{4p\beta_p^2}{\eta^2} [L \ln(eN/L) + L \ln(1 + 3/\epsilon)] \\
&= \frac{4p\beta_p^2(b+1)^2}{r^2(b-1)^2} \left[ S(\lceil b^{\frac{2}{2-p}} \rceil + 1) \left( \ln \frac{N}{S} + \ln 3 + \ln \frac{1}{\lceil b^{\frac{2}{2-p}} \rceil + 1} + \frac{1}{p} \ln \frac{2b}{(1-r)(b-1)} \right) \right] \\
&= \frac{4\beta_p^2(b+1)^2}{r^2(b-1)^2} S(\lceil b^{\frac{2}{2-p}} \rceil + 1) \ln \frac{2b}{(1-r)(b-1)} \\
&\quad + \frac{4\beta_p^2(b+1)^2}{r^2(b-1)^2} \left[ S(\lceil b^{\frac{2}{2-p}} \rceil + 1) \left( \ln \frac{N}{S} + \ln 3 + \ln \frac{1}{\lceil b^{\frac{2}{2-p}} \rceil + 1} \right) \right].
\end{aligned}$$

With the same arguments as in [7], we choose  $r = 0.849$  and  $b = 5$ . Then the following inequality holds:

$$\begin{aligned}
M &\geq 35.2\beta_p^2(\lceil 5^{\frac{2}{2-p}} \rceil + 1)S \\
&\quad + 12.5p\beta_p^2 \left[ (\lceil 5^{\frac{2}{2-p}} \rceil + 1)(\ln 3 - \ln(\lceil 5^{\frac{2}{2-p}} \rceil + 1) + 1)S + (\lceil 5^{\frac{2}{2-p}} \rceil + 1)S \ln \frac{N}{S} \right]. \quad (2.10)
\end{aligned}$$

From the above discussion, we conclude that Theorem 1.1 holds with probability exceeding

$$1 - 2e^{-\frac{\eta^2 M}{4p\beta_p^2}} = 1 - 2e^{-\frac{r^2(b-1)^2}{4(b+1)^2} \frac{M}{p\beta_p^2}} = 1 - 2e^{-0.7049 \frac{M}{p\beta_p^2}} \geq 1 - 2e^{-c(p)M}$$

where  $c(p) = \frac{1}{2p\beta_p^2}$ . □

In Figure 1, the graph of the function  $f(p) = p\beta_p^2$  shows that  $f(p)$  is an increasing function in  $[0, 1]$  and  $\lim_{p \rightarrow 0} c(p) = +\infty$ . Therefore, decreasing  $p$  for (1.5) to successful  $S$ -sparse recovery with increasing probability. The limiting case of Theorem 1.1 as  $p \rightarrow 0$  is essentially the  $l_0$  case. The following propositions show that our results improve the Theorem 3.1 in [7].

**Proposition 2.3.** *Let  $c(p) = \frac{1}{2p\beta_p^2}$ . Suppose  $M > c(p)(S + S \ln(N/S) + \ln 2)$ . Then*

$$1 - 2e^{-c(p)M} > 1 - \frac{1}{\binom{N}{S}},$$

where  $\beta_p = (31/40)^{1/4} \left[ 1.13 + \sqrt{p} \left( \frac{\Gamma(\frac{p+1}{2})}{\sqrt{\pi}} \right)^{-1/p} \right]$ .

*Proof.* For  $M > 2p\beta_p^2(S + S \ln(N/S) + \ln 2)$ , we have

$$\frac{M}{2p\beta_p^2} > S + S \ln(N/S) + \ln 2.$$

By Stirling approximation, we deduce

$$2e^{c(p)M} > \frac{N^S e^S}{S^S} \geq \binom{N}{S}.$$

Therefore,  $1 - 2e^{-c(p)M} > 1 - 1/\binom{N}{S}$ . □

**Proposition 2.4.** Let  $c(p) = \frac{1}{2p\beta_p^2}$ . Suppose that  $M$  satisfies (2.10) with constants  $C'_1, C'_2$  such that  $M \geq C'_1\beta_p^2S + C'_2p\beta_p^2S \ln(N/S)$ . Then

$$\frac{2e^{-c(p)M}}{1/\binom{N}{S}} \leq 2e^{-\frac{C'_1S}{p}} \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{p \rightarrow 0} \frac{2e^{-c(p)M}}{1/\binom{N}{S}} = 0.$$

*Proof.* Since  $C'_1 > 1$  and  $C'_2 > 1$ , by Stirling approximation we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{2e^{-c(p)M}}{1/\binom{N}{S}} &\leq \frac{2e^{-\frac{1}{2p\beta_p^2}(C'_1\beta_p^2S + C'_2p\beta_p^2S \ln(N/S))}}{1/\binom{N}{S}} \\ &= 2e^{-\frac{C'_1S}{2p}} \frac{e^{-C'_2S \ln(N/S)}}{1/\binom{N}{S}} \leq 2e^{-\frac{C'_1S}{2p}} \frac{e^{-S \ln(N/S)}}{1/\binom{N}{S}} \leq 2e^{-\frac{C'_1S}{2p}}. \end{aligned}$$

□

### 3 Stability results

In this section, we mainly consider the case when the measurement is corrupted by noise i.e. we apply the decoder to the vector  $\Psi(x) + r$ . The stability results for  $l^p$  minimization have been considered in [17] for  $p = 1$  and in [16] for  $0 < p < 1$ . We suppose that entries of  $\Psi = \Psi_\omega$  are chosen as i.i.d. Gaussian random variables with expectation 0 and variance  $1/\sqrt{M}$ .  $(\Omega, P)$  denotes the associated probability space. The proof of Theorem 1.3 relies heavily on the geometrical property of the Gaussian random matrix. There are some well known results for measurement matrices which satisfies quotient property. A matrix  $\Psi$  has  $l_p$  quotient property ( $LQ_p(\alpha)$  for short) if

$$\alpha B_2^M \subset \Psi(B_p^N), \quad 0 < p \leq 1,$$

where  $B_p^N$  denotes the  $l_p$  unit ball in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . The  $LQ_p(\alpha)$  is satisfied with high probability by random Gaussian matrices [16, 17]. Let  $0 < p \leq 1$ , and let  $\Psi$  be an  $M \times N$  Gaussian random matrix. For



$0 < \mu < 1/\sqrt{2}$ . Suppose that  $K_1 M (\log M)^\xi \leq N \leq e^{K_2 M}$  for some  $\xi > (1 - 2\mu^2)^{-1}$  and some constants  $K_1, K_2 > 0$ . Then, there exist a constant  $c_3 = c_3(\mu, \xi, K_1, K_2) > 0$ , independent of  $p, M$  and  $N$ , and a set

$$\Omega_\mu = \left\{ \omega \in \Omega : \frac{1}{C_3(p)} \left( \mu^2 \frac{\log N/M}{M} \right)^{1/p-1/2} B_2^M \subset \Psi(B_p^N) \right\}$$

such that  $P(\Omega_\mu) \geq 1 - e^{-c_3 M}$ . Here  $C_3(p)$  is a positive constant that depends only on  $p$ .

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $0 < p \leq 1$ , and suppose that the matrix  $\Psi \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$  satisfies  $p$ -RIP( $S, \delta$ ) and  $LQ_p(\gamma_p/S^{1/p-1/2})$  with  $\gamma_p := \mu^{2/p-1}/C_3(p)$ . Then for every  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ , there exists  $\tilde{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N$  such that*

$$\Psi x = \Psi \tilde{x}, \quad (3.1)$$

$$\|\tilde{x}\|_p \leq \frac{S^{1/p-1/2}}{\gamma_p} \|\Psi x\|_2, \quad (3.2)$$

$$\|\tilde{x}\|_2 \leq C_4(S, p, \delta_S, \gamma_p) \|\Psi x\|_2. \quad (3.3)$$

*Proof.* Vector  $\tilde{x}$  satisfies (3.1) and (3.2) we get directly from LQ condition. Let  $T_0$  denote the set of indices of the largest  $S$  entries of  $\tilde{x}$ ,  $T_1$  the next  $S$  largest, and so on. Now for any  $i \in T_{j+1}$  and  $i' \in T_j$ , we have  $|\tilde{x}_i| \leq |\tilde{x}_{i'}|$ . It follows that  $\|\tilde{x}_{T_{j+1}}\|_2^p \leq S^{\frac{p}{2}-1} \|\tilde{x}_{T_j}\|_p^p$ , and consequently,

$$\|\tilde{x}_{T_0^c}\|_2^p \leq \sum_{j>0} \|\tilde{x}_{T_j}\|_2^p \leq S^{\frac{p}{2}-1} \sum_{j>0} \|\tilde{x}_{T_j}\|_p^p \leq S^{\frac{p}{2}-1} \|\tilde{x}\|_p^p \leq \frac{1}{\gamma_p} \|\Psi x\|_2^p. \quad (3.4)$$

Use the fact  $\Psi x = \Psi \tilde{x}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\tilde{x}_{T_0}\|_2^p &\leq \frac{1}{1 - \delta_S} \|\Psi \tilde{x}_{T_0}\|_p^p \\ &\leq \frac{1}{1 - \delta_S} \|\Psi \tilde{x}\|_p^p = \frac{1}{1 - \delta_S} \|\Psi x\|_p^p \\ &\leq \frac{S^{1-\frac{p}{2}}}{1 - \delta_S} \|\Psi x\|_2^p. \end{aligned} \quad (3.5)$$

Together with (3.4), we obtain

$$\|\tilde{x}\|_2^p \leq \|\tilde{x}_{T_0^c}\|_2^p + \|\tilde{x}_{T_0}\|_2^p \leq \left( \frac{S^{1-\frac{p}{2}}}{1 - \delta_S} + \frac{1}{\gamma_p} \right) \|\Psi x\|_2^p.$$

This leads to the estimate (3.2) with  $C_4(S, p, \delta_S, \gamma_p) := \frac{S^{1-\frac{p}{2}}}{1 - \delta_S} + \frac{1}{\gamma_p}$ .  $\square$

Using Lemma 3.1, we prove the following results.

**Lemma 3.2.** *Let  $0 < p \leq 1$ . Suppose that  $\Psi \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$  satisfies  $p$ -RIP( $S, \delta$ ) and  $LQ_p(\gamma_p)$ . If the pair  $(\Psi, \Delta)$  is  $(2, p)$  instance optimal with constant  $C_{2,p}$ . Then there exists  $C_5, C_6, C_7$  such that for every  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$  and  $r \in \mathbb{R}^M$ , all of the following hold.*

$$(i) \quad \|x - \Delta(\Psi(x) + r)\|_2 \leq C_5 \left( \|r\|_2 + \frac{\sigma_S(x)_p}{S^{1/p-1/2}} \right) \quad (3.6)$$

$$(ii) \quad \|x - \Delta(\Psi(x))\|_2 \leq C_6(\|\Psi x_{T_0^c}\|_2 + \sigma_S(x)_2) \quad (3.7)$$

$$(iii) \quad \|x - \Delta(\Psi(x) + r)\|_2 \leq C_7(\|r\|_2 + \sigma_S(x)_2 + \|\Psi x_{T_0^c}\|_2). \quad (3.8)$$

*Proof.* Since  $\Psi$  satisfies LQ, there exists  $z \in \mathbb{R}^N$  such that  $\Psi(z) = r$ . It follows that

$$\Psi(x + z) = \Psi(x) + r.$$

By Lemma 3.1, we have that

$$\|z\|_p \leq \frac{S^{1/p-1/2}}{\gamma_p} \gamma_p \|r\|_2, \quad \|z\|_2 \leq C_4 \|r\|_2.$$

The instance optimal of  $\Psi$  implies that

$$\|(x + z) - \Delta(\Psi x + r)\|_2 \leq C_{2,p} \frac{\sigma_S(x + z)_p}{S^{1/p-1/2}}.$$

This shows that

$$\begin{aligned} \|x - \Delta(\Psi x + r)\|_2 &\leq \|z\|_2 + C_{2,p} \frac{\sigma_S(x + z)_p}{S^{1/p-1/2}} \\ &\leq C_4 \|r\|_2 + C_{2,p} \frac{\sigma_S(x + z)_p}{S^{1/p-1/2}} \\ &\leq C_4 \|r\|_2 + 2^{1/p-1} C_{2,p} \frac{\sigma_S(x)_p + \|z\|_p}{S^{1/p-1/2}} \\ &\leq C_4 \|r\|_2 + 2^{1/p-1} C_{2,p} \frac{\sigma_S(x)_p}{S^{1/p-1/2}} + 2^{1/p-1} C_4 C_{2,p} \|r\|_2. \end{aligned}$$

Taking  $C_5 = C_4 + 2^{1/p-1} C_4 C_{2,p}$ , we prove (3.6).

Note that (3.7) is a special case of (3.8) with  $r = 0$ , we only need to prove (3.8). Given  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ , let  $T_0$  be the set of  $S$ -largest entries of  $x$  in absolute value. Then  $\|x_{T_0^c}\|_2 = \sigma_S(x)_p$ . Consider  $r \in \mathbb{R}^M$  and  $x_{T_0^c} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ . By Lemma 3.1, there exist  $v, z \in \mathbb{R}^N$  such that

$$\Psi(v) = r, \quad \|v\|_p \leq \frac{S^{1/p-1/2}}{\gamma_p} \|r\|_2, \quad \|v\|_2 \leq C_4 \|r\|_2.$$

$$\Psi(z) = \Psi(x_{T_0^c}), \quad \|z\|_p \leq \frac{S^{1/p-1/2}}{\gamma_p} \|\Psi x_{T_0^c}\|_2, \quad \|z\|_2 \leq C_4 \|\Psi(x_{T_0^c})\|_2.$$

Note the fact  $\Psi(x_{T_0} + z + v) = \Psi x + r$ , it follows that

$$\|(x_{T_0} + z + v) - \Delta(\Psi x + r)\|_2 \leq C_{2,p} \frac{\sigma_S(x_{T_0} + z + v)_p}{S^{1/p-1/2}}.$$

Since  $\sigma_S(x_{T_0}) = 0$ , we have

$$\sigma_S(x_{T_0} + z + v)_p \leq 2^{1/p-1}(\|z\|_p + \|v\|_p).$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \|x - \Delta(\Psi x + r)\|_2 &= \|x_{T_0} + x_{T_0^c} - \Delta(\Psi x + r)\|_2 \\ &\leq \|x_{T_0^c} - z - v\|_2 + \|(x_{T_0} + z + v) - \Delta(\Psi x + r)\|_2 \\ &\leq \|x_{T_0^c} - z - v\|_2 + C_{2,p} \frac{\sigma_S(x_{T_0} + z + v)_p}{S^{1/p-1/2}} \\ &\leq \sigma_S(x)_2 + \|z\|_2 + \|v\|_2 + 2^{1/p-1} C_{2,p} \frac{\|z\|_p + \|v\|_p}{S^{1/p-1/2}} \\ &\leq \sigma_S(x)_2 + C_4 \|\Psi(x_{T_0^c})\|_2 + C_4 \|r\|_2 + 2^{1/p-1} \frac{C_{2,p}}{\gamma_p} (\|\Psi x_{T_0^c}\|_2 + \|r\|_2) \\ &\leq \sigma_S(x)_2 + \left( C_4 + 2^{1/p-1} \frac{C_{2,p}}{\gamma_p} \right) (\|\Psi(x_{T_0^c})\|_2 + \|r\|_2). \end{aligned}$$

That is (3.8) holds with  $C_7 := C_4 + 2^{1/p-1} \frac{C_{2,p}}{\gamma_p}$ . Let  $r = 0$  in (3.8), we get (3.7) with constants  $C_6 = C_7$ .  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 1.3.* By Theorem 1.1 and Lemma 3.2, the proof of Theorem 1.3 follows with little modification from the analogous proof of Theorem 2.14 in [16].  $\square$

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