A Partial Derandomization of Phase Retrieval via PhaseLift



[Building on, and evolving with, work by Candès, Strohmer, Voroninski, Li, Soltanolkotabi]

Outline

- Motivation
- Low-rank recovery
- Spherical Designs
- Results.

The Phase Retrieval Problem

Motivation: Far-Field Optics





- Illuminate small object with coherent light...
- ...at screen:

observed intenstity

 \simeq |Fourier transform of object|².

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Q: How does one recover the object from screen intensities?

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- $\{A_i\}$ a basis clearly not enough
- Small number of bases seems to work
- Practice: 2-D FT after masks

Problem has long history

Applications, geometry, algorithms studied since '70s...



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One central result in this language:

 O(4n) "generic" measurements required and sufficient [Mixon, Voroninski, Wolf, ...; past few years]

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New approach in 2012: PhaseLift, based on convex optimization [Candès, Strohmer, Voroniski].

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Well... rewind to 2009 & recall low-rank recovery results

Low-rank matrix recovery via convex optimization

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Problem statement:

(Low-rank matrix recovery). Can one recover a rank-r matrix X from only O(r n) randomly chosen expansion coefficients c_i w.r.t. some fixed matrix basis?

(*matrix* or *basis-independent* or *non-commutative* version of c.s.)

Some pairs of bases and matrices don't work:

$$\left[\begin{array}{cccccc} 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \end{array}\right]$$

Some pairs of bases and matrices don't work:

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	÷	÷	÷
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• Introduce "well-posedness parameter" μ :

$$|\operatorname{tr} B_i X|^2 \simeq \mu \frac{r}{n}.$$

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- Restrict signals:
 - demand singular vectors of X be "spread out" [Candès *et al.* 09].

General Low-Rank Recovery

Theorem [Candès, Recht, Tao...; DG '09]

Any rank-r matrix X can be exactly recovered (w.h.p.) from rnµ (log² n) randomly chosen expansion coefficients

$$c_k = \operatorname{tr} B_k X.$$

The unknown matrix X minimizes the nuclear norm in the affine space defined by the known coefficients.





... back to phase retrieval.

PhaseLift



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PhaseLift



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First results [Candès, Strohmer, Voroninski, Li '12]:

- Assume *Gaussian* measurements, $A_{i,j} \sim \mathcal{N}(0,1)$.
- $\blacktriangleright \Rightarrow O(n)$ samples guarantee recovery.

Great. But.



 $\begin{array}{l} \min \|X\|_* \\ \text{s.t.} \quad X = X^{\dagger} \\ \operatorname{tr}(A_i A_i^*) X = y_i. \end{array}$

Achieved - Put phase retrieval into convex optimization realm:

- Rigorous recovery guarantees
- Formulation is robust against noise
- Efficient algorithms (at least in computer science sense)

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To be done - Gaussian measurements not completely satisfactory:

- Practically: doesn't cover common use cases
- Conceptually: unclear which properties "make it work"
- \Rightarrow derandomize these results!

Two simultaneous pre-prints arXiv:1310

[DG, Richard Küng, Felix Krahmer]:

- Conceptual approach: find right "well-posedness parameter"
- Quite general, but rather abstract, condition
- Based on "spherical designs"

[Emmanuel Candès, Xiadong Li, Mahdi Soltanolkotabi]:

- Practical point of view
- Solution for masked Fourier case

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(Technical parts of papers surprisingly similar).

Spherical designs



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Hence:

What is condition on A_i such that outer products $A_i A_i^*$ form ortho-normal matrix basis?

(their traceless part a tight frame in space of traceless matrices).

A set of vectors A_i is...

▶ ... tight frame iff

$$\mathbb{1} \propto \sum_{i} A_{i} A_{i}^{*} \propto \int_{S^{n-1}} A A^{*} \, \mathrm{d}A,$$

i.e. if it agrees with Haar measure to 2nd moments.

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• ... such that $\{A_i A_i^*\}$ is tight frame in matrix space iff

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... a *k*-design iff
$$P_{\text{Sym}^{k}} \propto \sum_{i} (A_{i}A_{i}^{*})^{\otimes k} \propto \int_{S^{n-1}} (AA^{*})^{\otimes k} dA,$$
i.e. if it agrees with Haar to moments of order 2*k*.

2-dimensional example

Map \mathbb{C}^2 to \mathbb{R}^3 by:

 $(\sin \theta, e^{i\phi} \cos \theta) \rightarrow (\sin \theta \cos \phi, \sin \theta \sin \phi, \cos \theta).$

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ortho-normal basis is 1-design

set of equi-angular lines is 2-design

 set of "mutually unbiased bases" is 3-design

Spherical Designs: Summary

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Some facts:

- Efficient, randomized constructions for any order
- Explicit construction for any dimension up to order 3
- Cardinality: O(n^{2k})

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Theorem 1 [DG, Küng, Krahmer] PhaseLift works from random subset of *k*-design of size

$$O\big(d^{1+2/k}\,\log^2 d\big).$$

- Non-trivial for $k \ge 3$
- Tight if $k = 2 \log n$
- Conjecture: $O(n \operatorname{polylog}(n))$ possible for $k \geq 3$.

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Theorem 2 [DG, Küng, Krahmer] Conversely, for k = 2, phase retrieval from sub-quadratic number of measurements impossible.

► I.e. subsampling from Balan-type ensemble impossible.

Summary

We have...

- ... constructed a partial derandomization of PhaseLift,
- ... pointed to spherical designs as general-purpose derandomization tools for structured signal recovery schemes. [See also M. Fickus talk ("shockingly bad" in his context)]

Thank you for your attention!



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