## A Partial Derandomization of Phase Retrieval via PhaseLift



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[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
$\simeq \mid$ Fourier transform of object $\left.\right|^{2}$.


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

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Discrete model:

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diffraction pattern


- $\left\{A_{i}\right\}$ 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...

Solution set is algebraic variety:

$$
V:=\left\{x \mid\left(\left|A_{i} x\right|^{2}-y_{i}\right)=0 \forall i\right\} .
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One central result in this language:

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


## From AG to convex optimization

Problems with AG:

- III-equipped to handle approximations, noise, uncertainties.
- Doesn't naturally yield efficient algorithms.
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New approach in 2012: PhaseLift, based on convex optimization [Candès, Strohmer, Voroniski].

## Lift it. . .

"Lift" quadratic equation to matrix version [Balan et al.]:

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Then recovery equivalent to affinely constrained rank-minimization:

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\begin{array}{ll} 
& \min \operatorname{rank} X \\
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- Any hope?


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

## Low-rank matrix recovery via convex optimization

## Matrix version of compressed sensing

- Consider hermitian $(n \times n)$-matrix $X$ of rank $r \ll n$ :

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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.)

## Incoherences

- Some pairs of bases and matrices don't work:

$$
\left[\begin{array}{ccccc}
0 & 0 & \ldots & 0 & 1 \\
0 & 0 & \ldots & 0 & 0 \\
\vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots \\
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- Restrict basis:
- demand $B_{i}$ to have "small operator norm"; akin to Fourier basis in c.s.
- Unitary operator bases optimal [DG09]
- 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 $r n \mu\left(\log ^{2} n\right)$ 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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Neither condition for $\mu$ small works for phase retrieval:

- $B_{i}=A_{i} A_{i}^{*}$ are rank-1: worst case.
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First results [Candès, Strohmer, Voroninski, Li '12]:

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


## Great. But.



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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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[Emmanuel Candès, Xiadong Li, Mahdi Soltanolkotabi]:
- Practical point of view
- Solution for masked Fourier case
(Technical parts of papers surprisingly similar).


## Spherical designs



## Painless motivation for spherical designs

Brainstorm about properties of measurement vectors $A_{i}$ :

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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).

## Painless motivation for spherical designs

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

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- ...such that $\left\{A_{i} A_{i}^{*}\right\}$ is tight frame in matrix space iff

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P_{\mathrm{Sym}^{2}} \propto \sum_{i} A_{i} A_{i}^{*} \otimes A_{i} A_{i}^{*} \propto \int_{S^{n-1}} A A^{*} \otimes A A^{*} \mathrm{~d} A
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.... a k-design iff

$$
P_{\mathrm{Sym}^{k}} \propto \sum_{i}\left(A_{i} A_{i}^{*}\right)^{\otimes k} \propto \int_{S^{n-1}}\left(A A^{*}\right)^{\otimes k} \mathrm{~d} A
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i.e. if it agrees with Haar to moments of order $2 k$.

## 2-dimensional example

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

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\left(\sin \theta, e^{i \phi} \cos \theta\right) \rightarrow(\sin \theta \cos \phi, \sin \theta \sin \phi, \cos \theta)
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Then:


- 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

Spherical $k$-designs:

- Provide extrapolation between "basis" and "Haar random"
- Contain information about moments up to order $2 k$
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Some facts:

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


## Results

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

$$
O\left(d^{1+2 / k} \log ^{2} d\right)
$$

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


## Results

Basic philosophy:
Use "degree of agreement with Haar measure" as "wellposedness" parameter.

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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