

# Sparse Additive Subspace Clustering (Supplement)

Xiao-Tong Yuan<sup>1,2</sup>, Ping Li<sup>2</sup>

1. S-mart Lab, Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology  
Nanjing, 210044, China
2. Department of Statistics and Biostatistics, Department of Computer Science,  
Rutgers University  
Piscataway, New Jersey, 08854, USA  
Email: xtyuan@nuist.edu.cn, pingli@stat.rutgers.edu

## 1 Proof of Technical Lemmas

This section is devoted to proving several technical lemmas used in the paper.

### 1.1 Proof of Lemma 1

We need the following proposition which is almost standard in compressive sensing.

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $T \subseteq G$  be a subset of the groups. If the optimal solution*

$$\beta^* = \arg \min_{\beta} \frac{1}{2p} \|z - \Psi\beta\|^2 + \lambda \|\beta\|_{G,2} \quad \text{subject to } \beta_{T^c} = \mathbf{0}$$

*obeying  $\|\frac{1}{p}\Psi_{T^c}^\top(z - \Psi\beta^*)\|_{T^c, \infty} < \lambda$ , then any optimal solution*

$$\hat{\beta} = \arg \min_{\beta} \frac{1}{2p} \|z - \Psi\beta\|^2 + \lambda \|\beta\|_{G,2}$$

*must also satisfy  $\hat{\beta}_{T^c} = \mathbf{0}$ .*

*Proof.* Let us express  $\hat{\beta} = \beta^* + \mathbf{h}$ . Some algebraic manipulations show that

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2p} \|z - \Psi(\beta^* + \mathbf{h})\|^2 + \lambda \|\beta^* + \mathbf{h}\|_{G,2} \\ \geq & \frac{1}{2p} \|z - \Psi\beta^*\|^2 - \langle \frac{1}{p}\Psi^\top(z - \Psi\beta^*), \mathbf{h} \rangle + \frac{1}{2p} \|\Psi\mathbf{h}\|^2 \\ & + \lambda \sum_{g \in G} (\|\beta_g^*\| + \langle \text{sgn}(\beta_g^*), \mathbf{h}_g \rangle) + \lambda \sum_{g \in T^c} \|\mathbf{h}_g\| \\ = & \frac{1}{2p} \|z - \Psi\beta^*\|^2 + \lambda \|\beta^*\|_{G,2} + \frac{1}{2p} \|\Psi\mathbf{h}\|^2 + \lambda \sum_{g \in T^c} (\|\mathbf{h}_g\| - \langle \frac{1}{p\lambda}\Psi_g^\top(z - \Psi\beta^*), \mathbf{h}_g \rangle), \end{aligned}$$

where the “ $\geq$ ” follows from the simple inequality  $\|\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}\| \geq \|\mathbf{a}\| + \langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \rangle / \|\mathbf{a}\|$ , the “=” follows from the optimality conditions showing that  $\forall g \in T$ ,  $\frac{1}{p} \Psi_g^\top (\mathbf{z} - \Psi \beta^*) = \lambda \text{sgn}(\beta_g^*)$ . Assume that  $\exists g \in T^c$ ,  $\mathbf{h}_g \neq \mathbf{0}$ . Since by assumption  $\forall g \in T$ ,  $\|\frac{1}{p} \Psi_g^\top (\mathbf{z} - \Psi \beta^*)\| < \lambda$ , from the preceding inequality we have

$$\frac{1}{2p} \|\mathbf{z} - \Psi \hat{\beta}\|^2 + \lambda \|\hat{\beta}\|_{G,2} > \frac{1}{2p} \|\mathbf{z} - \Psi \beta^*\|^2 + \lambda \|\beta^*\|_{G,2},$$

which contradicts the optimality of  $\hat{\beta}$ . Therefore, we have  $\mathbf{h}_{T^c} = \mathbf{0}$ , which proves the claim.  $\square$

*Proof (of Lemma 1). Part (a):* Let us consider a solution  $\beta^*$  to

$$\min_{\beta} \frac{1}{2p} \|\mathbf{z} - \Psi \beta\|^2 + \lambda \|\beta\|_{G,2} \quad \text{subject to } \beta_{T^c} = \mathbf{0}.$$

The optimality conditions show that

$$\frac{1}{p} \Psi_T^\top (\mathbf{z} - \Psi_T \beta_T^*) = \lambda \text{sgn}(\beta_T^*),$$

which implies

$$\beta_T^* = (\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1} (\Psi_T^\top \mathbf{z} - \lambda p \text{sgn}(\beta_T^*)). \quad (1)$$

The remaining task is to check that  $\|\frac{1}{p} \Psi_{T^c}^\top (\mathbf{z} - \Psi \beta^*)\|_{T^c, \infty} < \lambda$  for the selection of  $\lambda$  in the lemma and then apply Proposition 1. Indeed,  $\forall g \in T^c$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \frac{1}{p} \Psi_g^\top (\mathbf{z} - \Psi \beta^*) \right\| &= \left\| \frac{1}{p} \Psi_g^\top (\mathbf{z} - \Psi_T \beta_T^*) \right\| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{p} \|\Psi_g^\top \mathbf{z} - \Psi_g^\top \Psi_T (\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1} \Psi_T^\top \mathbf{z}\| + \lambda \|\Psi_g^\top \Psi_T (\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1} \text{sgn}(\beta_T^*)\| \\ &< \delta \lambda + (1 - \delta) \lambda = \lambda, \end{aligned}$$

where the “ $\leq$ ” uses (1) and triangle inequality, and the “ $<$ ” follows the condition on  $\lambda$ . This proves part (a).

**Part (b):** The optimality condition of  $\hat{\beta}$  is

$$\frac{1}{p} \Psi_T^\top (\mathbf{z} - \Psi_T \hat{\beta}_T) = \lambda \text{sgn}(\hat{\beta}_T).$$

After some algebraic manipulations we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|\hat{\beta}_T - \bar{\beta}_T\|_\infty &= \|(\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1} (\Psi_T^\top (\mathbf{z} - \Psi \bar{\beta}) - \lambda p \text{sgn}(\hat{\beta}_T))\|_\infty \\ &\leq \|(\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1}\|_{T, \infty} \|\Psi_T^\top (\mathbf{z} - \Psi \bar{\beta}) - \lambda p \text{sgn}(\hat{\beta}_T)\|_{T, \infty} \\ &\leq \left\| \left( \frac{1}{p} \Psi_T^\top \Psi_T \right)^{-1} \right\|_{T, \infty} \left( \left\| \frac{1}{p} \Psi_T^\top (\mathbf{z} - \Psi \bar{\beta}) \right\|_{T, \infty} + \lambda \right). \quad (2) \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof.  $\square$

## 1.2 Proof of Lemma 2

We need the following proposition which gives a concentration bound on the element-wise infinity norm of a random matrix.

**Proposition 2.** *Let  $\mathbf{A} = (a_{ij}) \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  is a random matrices whose entries has variance no larger than  $\sigma^2$ . Then we have*

$$\|\mathbf{A} - \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{A}]\|_{\infty, \infty} \leq \sigma \sqrt{\frac{mn}{\eta}}$$

holds with probability at least  $1 - \eta$ .

*Proof.* From Chebyshev's inequality we get that

$$\mathbb{P}(|a_{ij} - \mathbb{E}(a_{ij})| \geq \sqrt{mn}\sigma/\sqrt{\eta}) \leq \frac{\eta}{mn}.$$

By union of bound we get

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\max_{i,j} |a_{ij} - \mathbb{E}(a_{ij})| \geq \sqrt{mn}\sigma/\sqrt{\eta}\right) \leq \eta.$$

This proves the claim.

*Proof (of Lemma 2).* Since  $\|\frac{1}{p}(\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1}\|_{T, \infty} \leq l$  holds with high probability and the elements of  $\Psi$  are bounded, we have that the entries of  $(\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1} \Psi_T^\top \Psi_{T^c}$  have variance  $o(1/p)$ . From Proposition 2 we get that

$$\|(\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1} \Psi_T^\top \Psi_{T^c} - \mathbb{E}[(\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1} \Psi_T^\top \Psi_{T^c}]\|_{\infty, \infty} = o\left(\frac{n}{\sqrt{p\eta}}\right).$$

holds with probability at least  $1 - \eta$ . Therefore, with high probability

$$\begin{aligned} & \|(\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1} \Psi_T^\top \Psi_{T^c}\|_{T^c, \infty} \\ & \leq \|\mathbb{E}[(\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1} \Psi_T^\top \Psi_{T^c}]\|_{T^c, \infty} + \|(\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1} \Psi_T^\top \Psi_{T^c} - \mathbb{E}[(\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1} \Psi_T^\top \Psi_{T^c}]\|_{T^c, \infty} \\ & \leq 1 - 2\delta + q^{1/2} n \|(\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1} \Psi_T^\top \Psi_{T^c} - \mathbb{E}[(\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1} \Psi_T^\top \Psi_{T^c}]\|_{\infty, \infty} \\ & \leq 1 - 2\delta + o\left(\frac{n^2}{\sqrt{p\eta}}\right) \leq 1 - \delta, \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

where the last inequality follows when  $p$  is sufficiently large. Next, we show that with high probability

$$\lambda > \frac{\|\Psi_{T^c}^\top \mathbf{z} - \Psi_{T^c}^\top \Psi_T (\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1} \Psi_T^\top \mathbf{z}\|_{T^c, \infty}}{p\delta}.$$

Indeed, since  $\mathbf{z} = \Psi_T \bar{\beta}_T + \varepsilon$ , we have that

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{1}{p} \|\Psi_{T^c}^\top \mathbf{z} - \Psi_{T^c}^\top \Psi_T (\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1} \Psi_T^\top \mathbf{z}\|_{T^c, \infty} \\
&= \frac{1}{p} \|\Psi_{T^c}^\top \varepsilon - \Psi_{T^c}^\top \Psi_T (\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1} \Psi_T^\top \varepsilon\|_{T^c, \infty} \\
&= \frac{1}{p} \|\Psi_{T^c}^\top (\mathbf{I} - \Psi_T (\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1} \Psi_T^\top) \varepsilon\|_{T^c, \infty} \\
&\leq \sqrt{q} \left\| \frac{1}{p} \Psi_{T^c}^\top (\mathbf{I} - \Psi_T (\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1} \Psi_T^\top) \varepsilon \right\|_\infty.
\end{aligned}$$

Since  $\mathbf{I} - \Psi_T (\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1} \Psi_T^\top$  is a projection matrix, we get that the rows of the matrix  $\Psi_{T^c}^\top (\mathbf{I} - \Psi_T (\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1} \Psi_T^\top)$  lie within a bounded ball. Also, it is easy to see that  $\varepsilon$  and  $\Psi_{T^c}^\top (\mathbf{I} - \Psi_T (\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1} \Psi_T^\top)$  are uncorrelated, and thus  $\mathbb{E}[\frac{1}{p} \Psi_{T^c}^\top (\mathbf{I} - \Psi_T (\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1} \Psi_T^\top) \varepsilon] = \mathbf{0}$ . Therefore, from Proposition 2 we know that with probability at least  $1 - \eta$ ,

$$\frac{1}{p} \|\Psi_{T^c}^\top \mathbf{z} - \Psi_{T^c}^\top \Psi_T (\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1} \Psi_T^\top \mathbf{z}\|_{T^c, \infty} \leq \frac{c\sigma\sqrt{n}}{\sqrt{pn}}.$$

Therefore, with probability at least  $1 - \eta$ ,

$$\lambda > \frac{\|\Psi_{T^c}^\top \mathbf{z} - \Psi_{T^c}^\top \Psi_T (\Psi_T^\top \Psi_T)^{-1} \Psi_T^\top \mathbf{z}\|_{T^c, \infty}}{p\delta}.$$

The remaining follows Lemma 1. This proves the desired result.