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# Introduction to Machine Learning

## Lecture 6: Sparse processing

# Sparse processing

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- Linear regression (with sparsity constraints)
- Sparse algorithms : convex optimization, greedy search, Bayesian analysis
- Applications : compression, parameter estimation, signal reconstruction, classification, [Ex. Beamforming](#)

Low-dimensional understanding of high-dimensional data sets

# Sparse signals /compressive signals are important

- We don't need to sample at the Nyquist rate
- Many signals are sparse, but we have solved them under non-sparse assumptions
  - Beamforming
  - Fourier transform
  - Layered structure
- Inverse methods are inherently sparse: We seek the simplest way to describe the data

But all this requires **new developments**

- Mathematical theory
- New algorithms (interior point solvers, convex optimization)
- Signal processing
- New applications/demonstrations

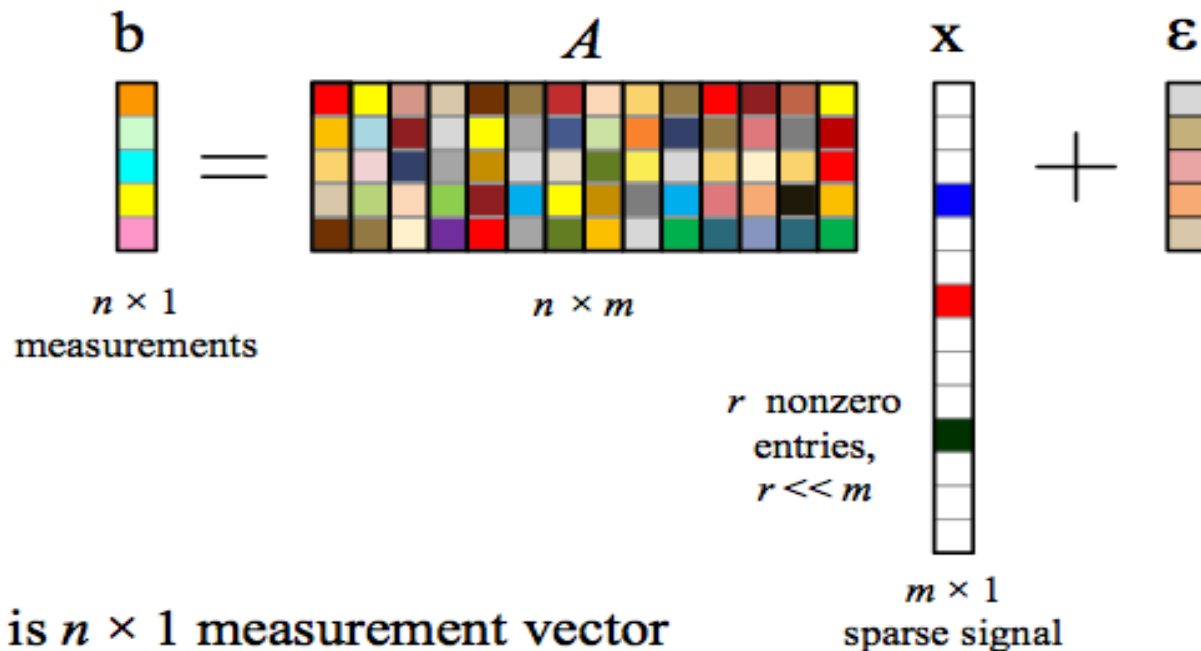
### Linear Basis Function Models (2)

- Generally

$$y(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}) = \sum_{j=0}^{M-1} w_j \phi_j(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{w}^T \boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x})$$

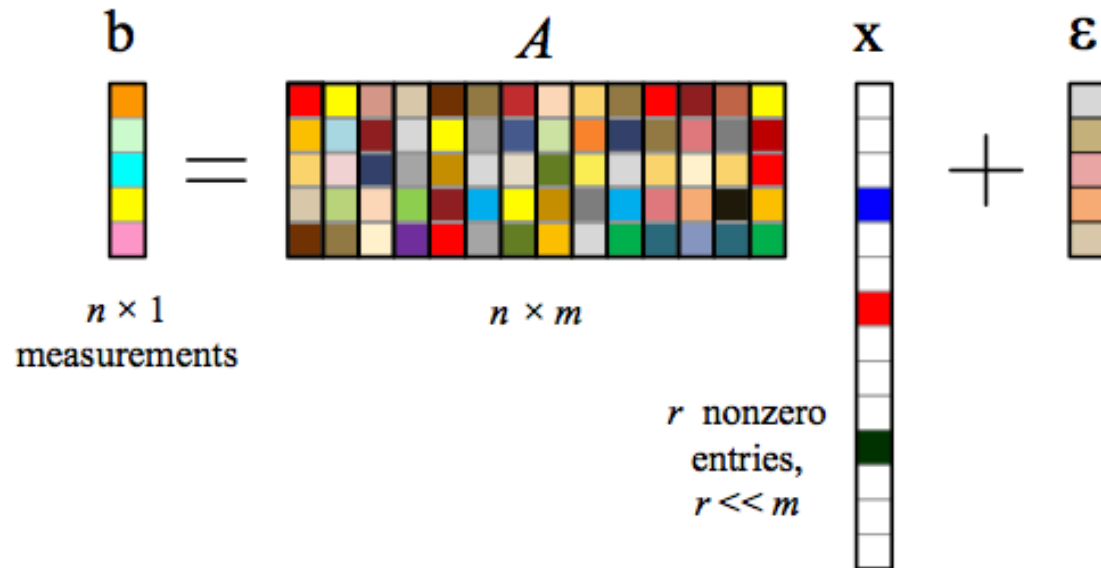
- where  $\phi_j(\mathbf{x})$  are known as *basis functions*.
- Typically,  $\phi_0(\mathbf{x}) = 1$ , so that  $w_0$  acts as a bias.
- In the simplest case, we use linear basis functions :  
 $\phi_d(\mathbf{x}) = x_d$ .

# Compressed sensing formulation



- $\mathbf{b}$  is  $n \times 1$  measurement vector
  - $\mathbf{A}$  is  $n \times m$  measurement/Dictionary matrix,  $m \gg n$
  - $\mathbf{x}$  is  $m \times 1$  desired vector which is sparse with  $r$  nonzero entries
  - $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$  is the measurement noise
- 
- An underdetermined system of equations has many solutions
  - Utilizing  $\mathbf{x}$  is sparse it can often be solved
  - This depends on the structure of  $\mathbf{A}$  (RIP!)

# Different applications, but the same math



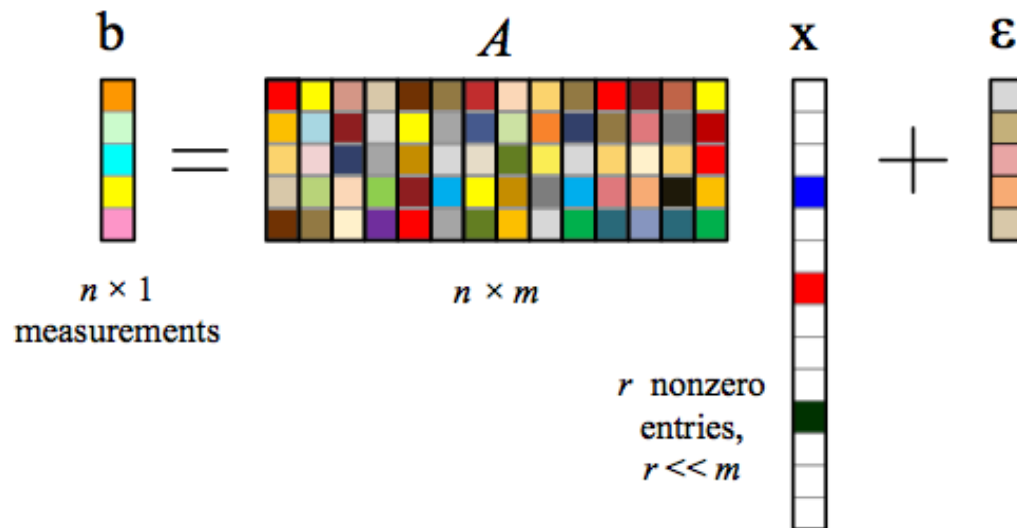
| <b>b</b>            | <b>A</b>      | <b>x</b>        |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Frequency signal    | DFT matrix    | Time-signal     |
| Compressed-Image    | Random matrix | Pixel-image     |
| signals             | Beam weight   | Source-location |
| Reflection sequence | Time delay    | Layer-reflector |

# Compressive Sensing / Sparse Recovery

- **Alternative viewpoint:** We try to find the sparsest solution which explains our noisy measurements

$$\min_x \|\mathbf{x}\|_0 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \|\mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{b}\|_2 < \varepsilon$$

- Here, the  $l_0$ -norm is a shorthand notation for *counting the number of non-zero elements in  $x$* .



# $l_p$ -Norms

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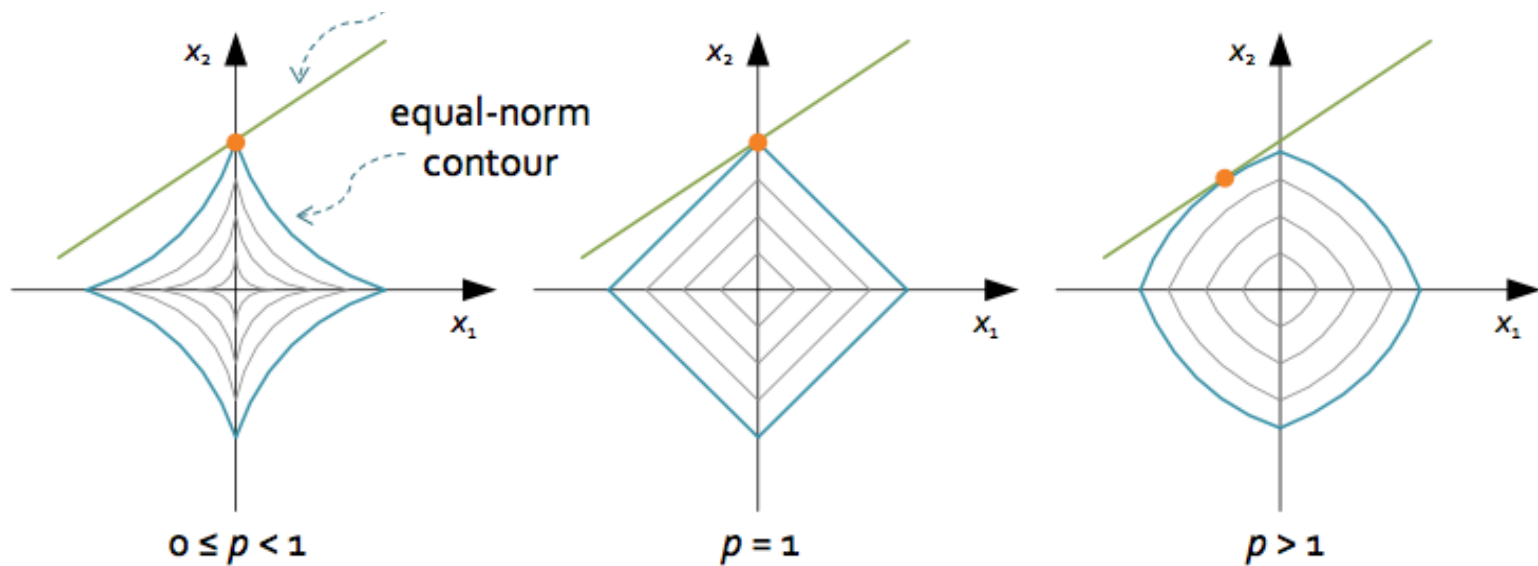
$$\|x\|_p = \left( \sum_{m=1}^M |x_m|^p \right)^{1/p} \quad \text{for } p > 0$$

- Classic choices for  $p$  are 1, 2, and  $\infty$ .
- We will abuse notation and allow also  $p = 0$ .



# Norms

$$\|x\|_p = \left( \sum_{m=1}^M |x_m|^p \right)^{1/p}$$



# Solutions

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- Regularized Inverse
- Orthogonal matching pursuit (OMP)
- Basis pursuit denoising
- Sparse Bayesian Learning

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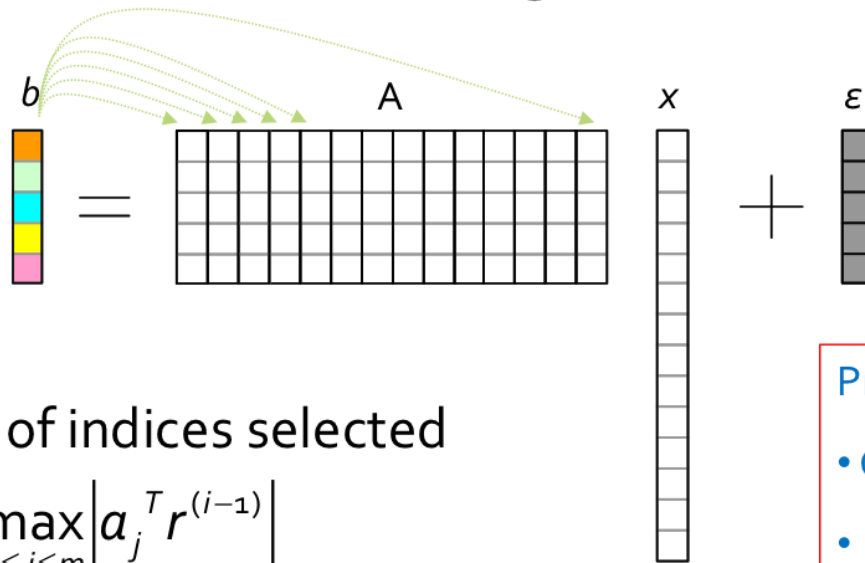
# Inverse Techniques

- For the systems of equations  $Ax = b$ , the solution set is characterized by  $\{x_s : x_s = A^+ y + v; v \in N(A)\}$ , where  $N(A)$  denotes the null space of  $A$  and  $A^+ = A^T(AA^T)^{-1}$ .
- **Minimum Norm solution**: The minimum  $\ell_2$  norm solution  $x_{mn} = A^+ b$  is a popular solution
- **Noisy Case**: regularized  $\ell_2$  norm solution often employed and is given by

$$x_{reg} = A^T(AA^T + \lambda I)^{-1} b$$

# Greedy Search Method: Matching Pursuit

- Select a column that is most aligned with the current residual



- $r^{(0)} = b$
- $S^{(i)}$ : set of indices selected
- $l = \operatorname{argmax}_{1 \leq j \leq m} |a_j^T r^{(i-1)}|$

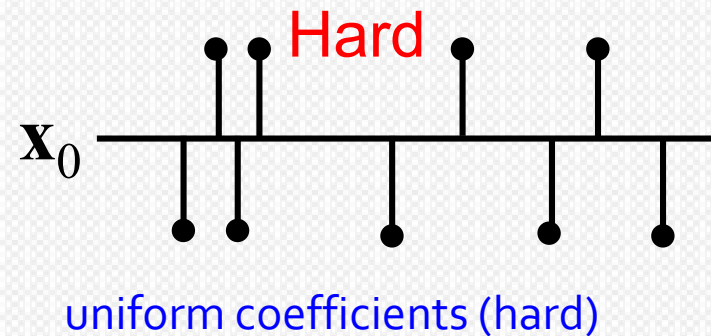
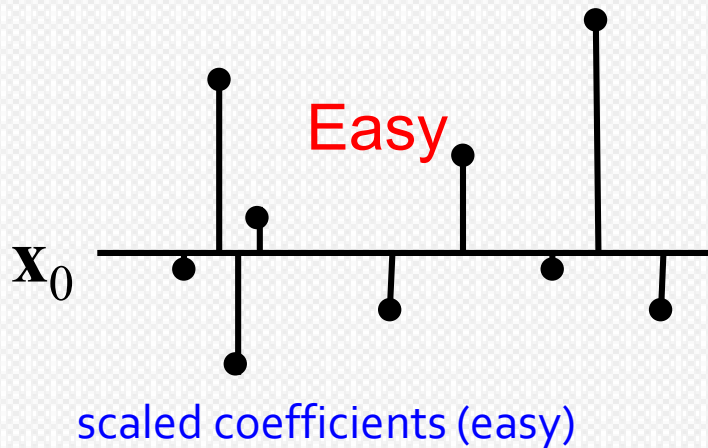
Practical stop criteria:

- Certain # iterations
- $\|r^{(i)}\|_2$  smaller than threshold

- Remove its contribution from the residual
  - Update  $S^{(i)}$ : If  $l \notin S^{(i-1)}$ ,  $S^{(i)} = S^{(i-1)} \cup \{l\}$ . Or, keep  $S^{(i)}$  the same
  - Update  $r^{(i)}$ :  $r^{(i)} = P_{a_l}^\perp r^{(i-1)} = r^{(i-1)} - a_l a_l^T r^{(i-1)}$

# Amplitude Distribution

- If the magnitudes of the non-zero elements in  $\mathbf{x}_0$  are highly scaled, then the canonical sparse recovery problem should be easier.



For strongly scaled coefficients, Matching Pursuit (or Orthogonal MP) works better. It picks one coefficient at a time.

# Basis Pursuit / LASSO

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- The  $l_0$ -norm minimization is not convex and requires combinatorial search.
- We convexify by substituting the  $l_1$ -norm in place of the  $l_0$ -norm.

$$\min_x \| \mathbf{x} \|_1 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \| \mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{b} \|_2 < \varepsilon$$

- This can also be formulated as

$$\min_x \| \mathbf{x} \|_1 + \lambda \| \mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{b} \|_2$$

$$\min_x \| \mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{b} \|_2 + \mu \| \mathbf{x} \|_1$$

$$\min_x \| \mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{b} \|_2 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \| \mathbf{x} \|_1 < \delta$$

# Basis Pursuit / LASSO

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- Why is it legal to substitute the  $l_1$ -norm for the  $l_0$ -norm?
- What are the conditions such that the two problems have the same solution?

$$\min_x \|x\|_1$$

$$\text{subject to } \|Ax - b\|_2 < \varepsilon$$

$$\min_x \|x\|_0$$

$$\text{subject to } \|Ax - b\|_2 < \varepsilon$$

Restricted Isometry Property (RIP)

$$(1 - \delta_s) \|\mathbf{u}\|_2 \leq \|\mathbf{A}_s \mathbf{u}\|_2 \leq (1 + \delta_s) \|\mathbf{u}\|_2$$

# The unconstrained -LASSO- formulation

Constrained formulation of the  $\ell_1$ -norm minimization problem:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\ell_1}(\epsilon) = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^N} \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \text{ subject to } \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{Ax}\|_2 \leq \epsilon$$

Unconstrained formulation in the form of least squares optimization with an  $\ell_1$ -norm regularizer:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\text{LASSO}}(\mu) = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^N} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{Ax}\|_2^2 + \mu \|\mathbf{x}\|_1$$

For every  $\epsilon$  exists a  $\mu$  so that the two formulations are equivalent

Regularization parameter :  $\mu$



# Regularization parameter selection

The objective function of the LASSO problem:

$$L(\mathbf{x}, \mu) = \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{Ax}\|_2^2 + \mu\|\mathbf{x}\|_1$$

is minimized if

$$\mathbf{0} \in \partial_{\mathbf{x}} L(\mathbf{x}, \mu)$$

where the subgradient is

$$\partial_{\mathbf{x}} L(\mathbf{x}, \mu) = 2\mathbf{A}^H (\mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{y}) + \mu \partial_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{x}\|_1$$

thus, the global minimum is attained if

$$\mu^{-1} \mathbf{r} \in \partial_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{x}\|_1, \quad \mathbf{r} = 2\mathbf{A}^H (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\hat{\mathbf{x}})$$

# Regularization parameter selection



The global minimum is attained if

$$\mu^{-1} \mathbf{r} \in \partial_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{x}\|_1, \quad \mathbf{r} = 2\mathbf{A}^H (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\hat{\mathbf{x}})$$

The subgradient for the  $\ell_1$ -norm is the set of vectors

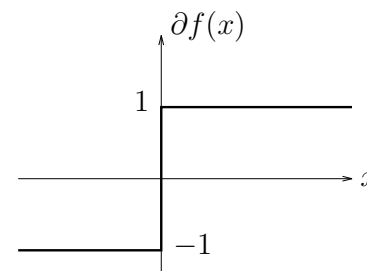
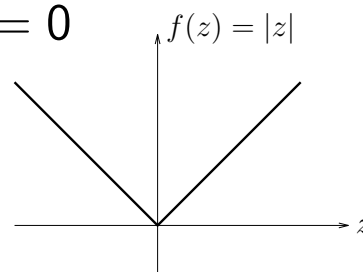
$$\partial_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 = \left\{ \mathbf{s} : \|\mathbf{s}\|_{\infty} \leq 1, \mathbf{s}^H \mathbf{x} = \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \right\}$$

which implies

$$\begin{aligned} s_i &= \frac{x_i}{|x_i|}, & x_i &\neq 0 \\ |s_i| &\leq 1, & x_i &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

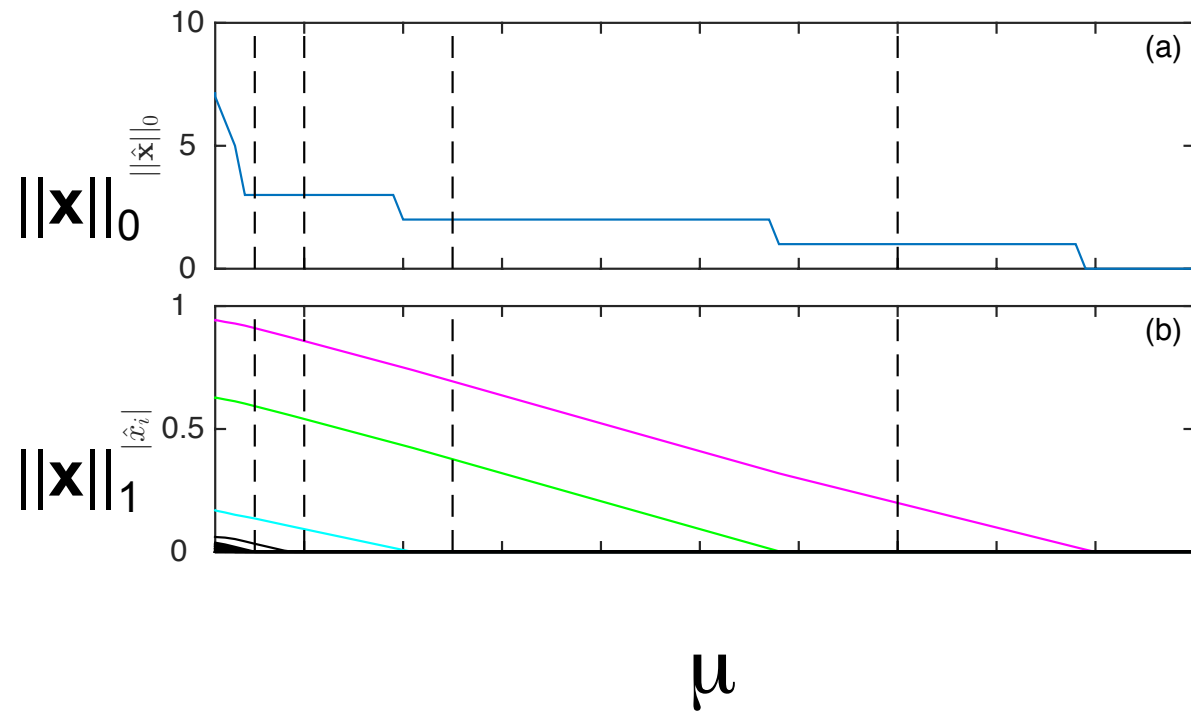
thus,

$$\begin{aligned} |r_i| &= \mu, & \hat{x}_i &\neq 0 \\ |r_i| &\leq \mu, & \hat{x}_i &= 0 \end{aligned}$$



**Figure 3:** The absolute value function (left), and its subdifferential  $\partial f(x)$  as a function of  $x$  (right).

# Lasso Path



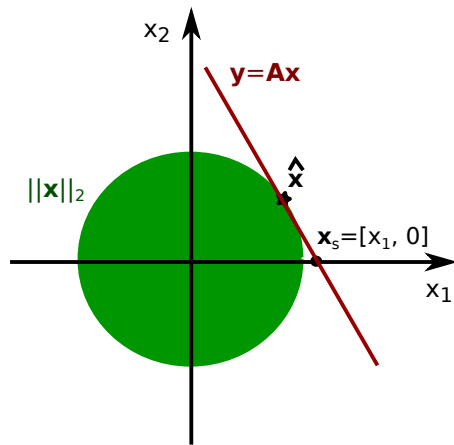
# Solving an underdetermined problem

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}_{M \times N} \mathbf{x}, \quad M < N$$

$\mathbf{x}$ : K-sparse,  $K \ll N$

$l_2$ -norm minimization (min energy)

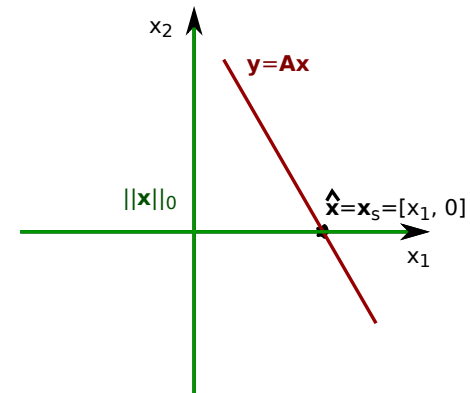
$$\min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^N} \|\mathbf{x}\|_2 \text{ subject to } \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$$



$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}^H (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^H)^{-1} \mathbf{y}$$

$l_0$ -norm minimization (min sparsity)

$$\min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^N} \|\mathbf{x}\|_0 \text{ subject to } \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$$



$\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ : combinatorial intractable problem

The  $l_2$ -solution has minimum energy while the  $l_0$ -solution is sparse

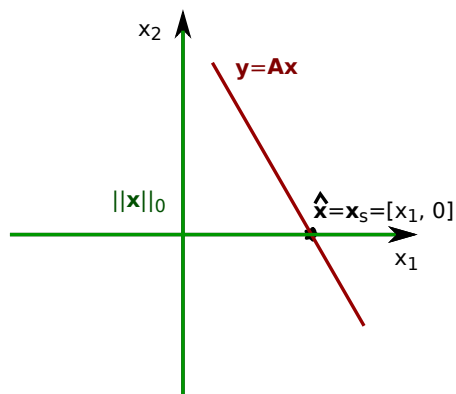
# Compressive sensing

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}_{M \times N} \mathbf{x}, \quad M < N, \quad \mathbf{x}: K\text{-sparse}, \quad K \ll N, \quad K < M$$
$$\mathbf{A} = [\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_N] : |\mathbf{a}_i^H \mathbf{a}_j|_{i \neq j} < 1$$

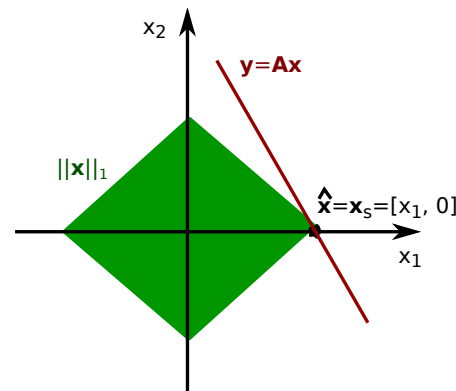
$l_0$ -norm minimization (min sparsity)

$l_1$ -norm convex relaxation

$$\min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^N} \|\mathbf{x}\|_0 \text{ subject to } \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$$



$$\min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^N} \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \text{ subject to } \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$$



$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^N} \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \text{ subject to } \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$$

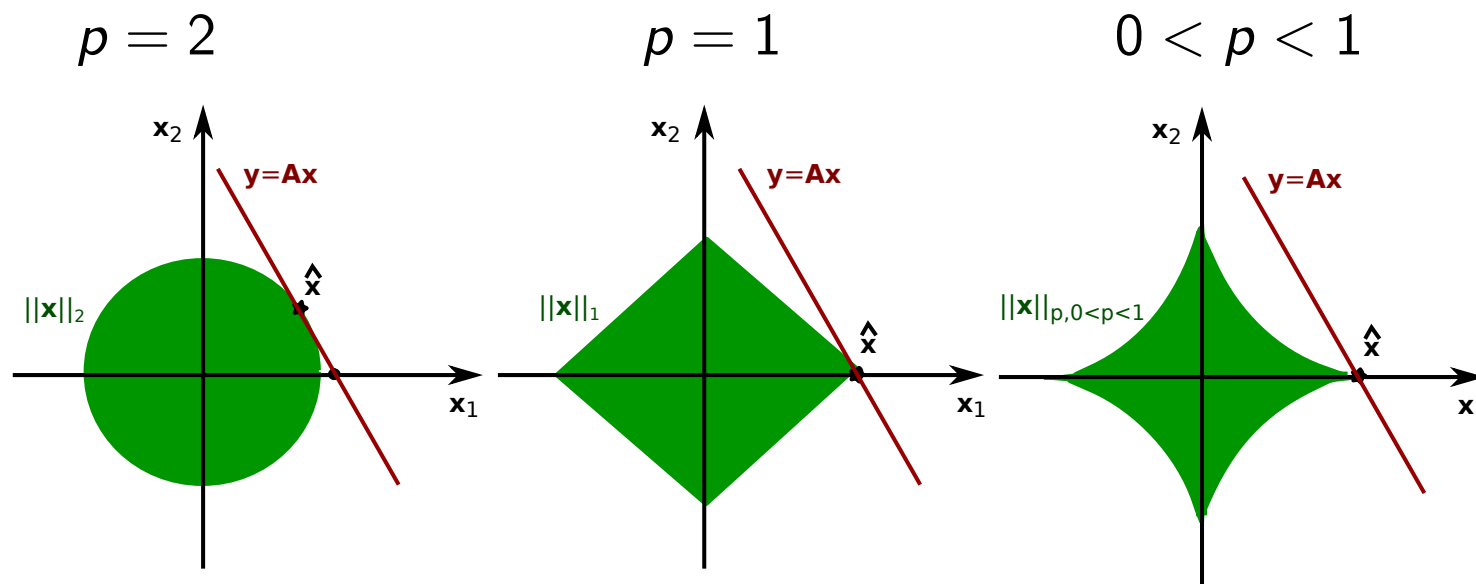
$\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ : combinatorial intractable problem

The  $l_1$ -problem is both convex and promotes sparse solutions

# Enhancing sparsity

$$\arg \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^n} J(\mathbf{x}) \text{ subject to } \|\mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{y}\|_2 \leq \epsilon$$

$$J(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} \|\mathbf{x}\|_p^p = \sum_{i=1}^N |x_i|^p, & 0 < p < 1 \\ \sum_{i=1}^N \ln(|x_i|) \end{cases}, \text{ concave}$$

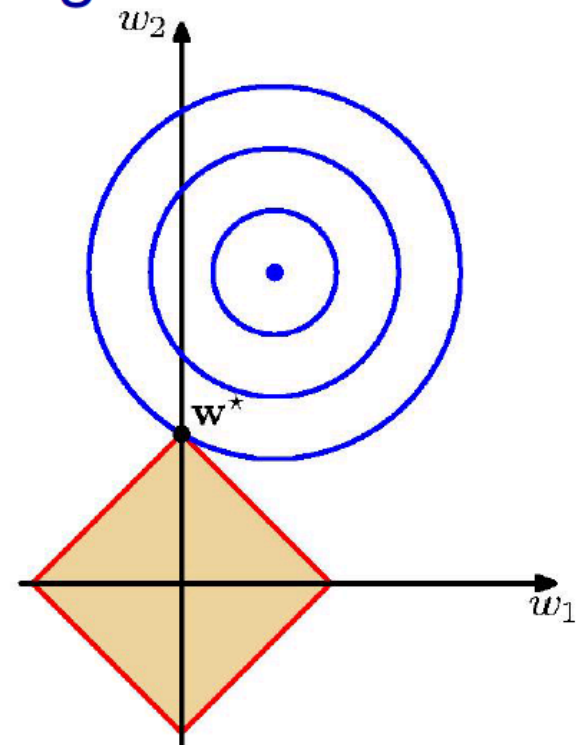
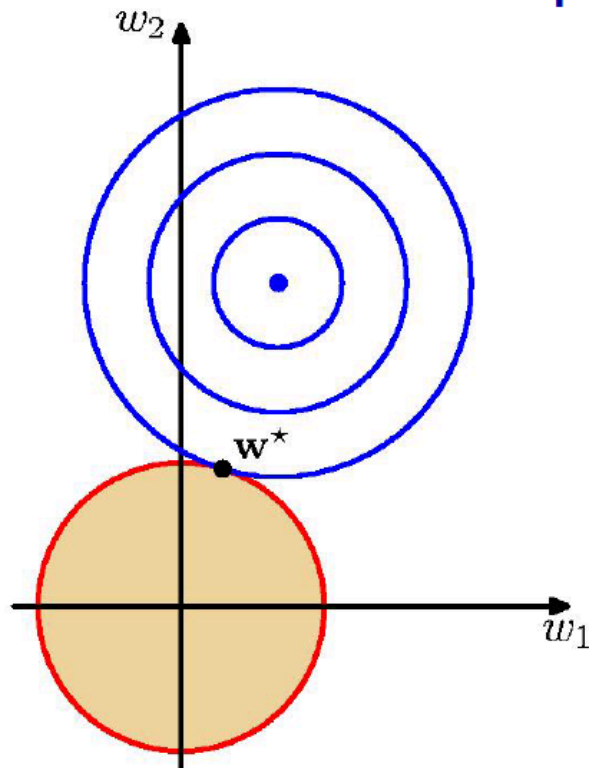


Minimization of a concave function with an iterative majorization-minimization algorithm

# Geometrical view

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Geometrical view of the lasso compared with a penalty on the squared weights

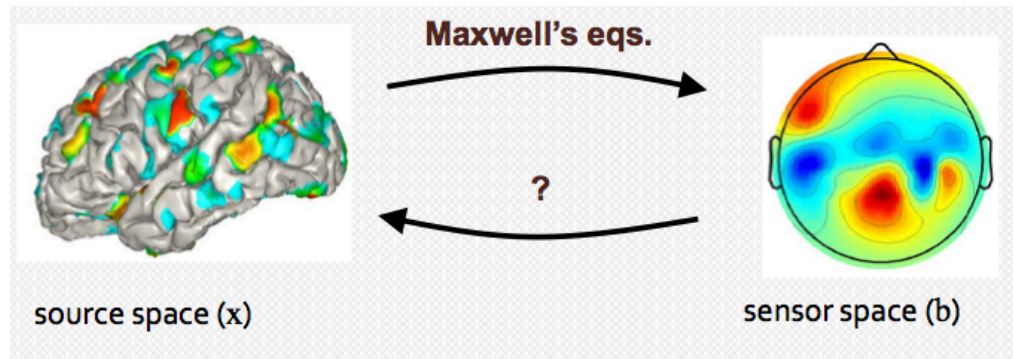


# Applications

- MEG/EEG/MRI source location (earthquake location)
- Channel equalization
- Compressive sampling (beyond Nyquist sampling!)
- Compressive camera!

## Lots of low hanging fruits

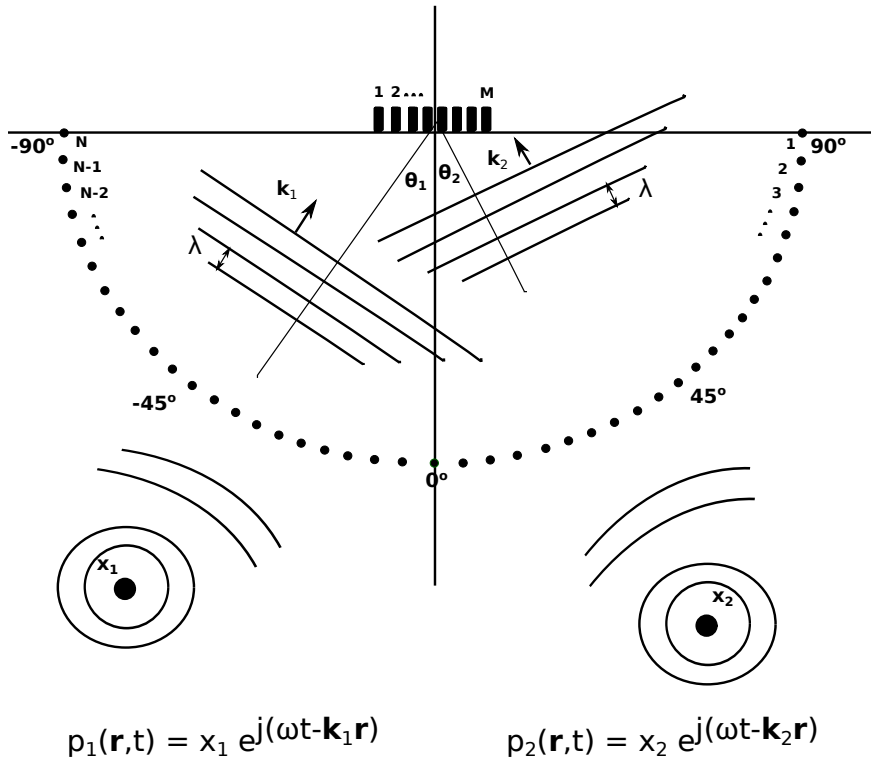
- Beamforming
- Fathometer
- Geoacoustic inversion
- Sequential estimation
- Bayesian
- Grid free methods





# Beamforming / DOA estimation

## DOA estimation with sensor arrays



$$y_m = \sum_n x_n e^{j \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} r_m \sin \theta_n}$$

$m \in [1, \dots, M]$ : sensor

$n \in [1, \dots, N]$ : look direction

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$$

$$\mathbf{y} = [y_1, \dots, y_M]^T, \quad \mathbf{x} = [x_1, \dots, x_N]^T$$

$$\mathbf{A} = [\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_N]$$

$$\mathbf{a}_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}} [e^{j \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} r_1 \sin \theta_n}, \dots, e^{j \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} r_M \sin \theta_n}]^T$$

$$x \in \mathbb{C}, \quad \theta \in [-90^\circ, 90^\circ]$$

$$\mathbf{k} = -\frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \sin \theta, \quad \lambda: \text{wavelength}$$

The DOA estimation is formulated as a linear problem

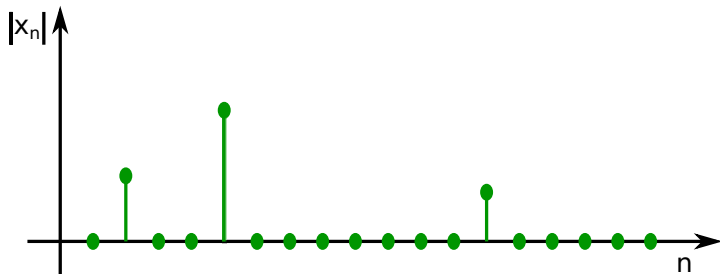
# Sparse representation of the DOA estimation problem

Underdetermined problem

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}, \quad M < N$$

Prior information

$$\mathbf{x}: K\text{-sparse}, K \ll N$$

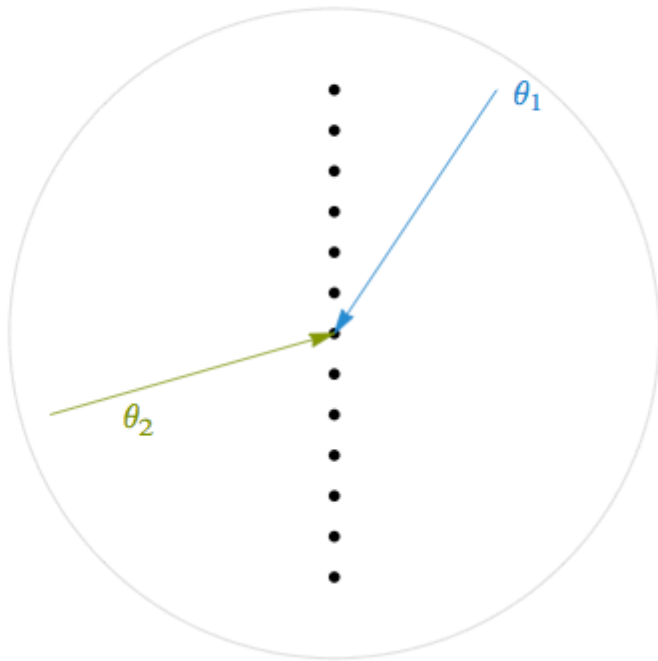


$$\|\mathbf{x}\|_0 = \sum_{n=1}^N 1_{x_n \neq 0} = K$$

Not really a norm:  $\|a\mathbf{x}\|_0 = \|\mathbf{x}\|_0 \neq |a|\|\mathbf{x}\|_0$

There are only few sources with unknown locations and amplitudes

# Direction of arrival estimation



Plane waves from a source/interferer  
impinging on an array/antenna

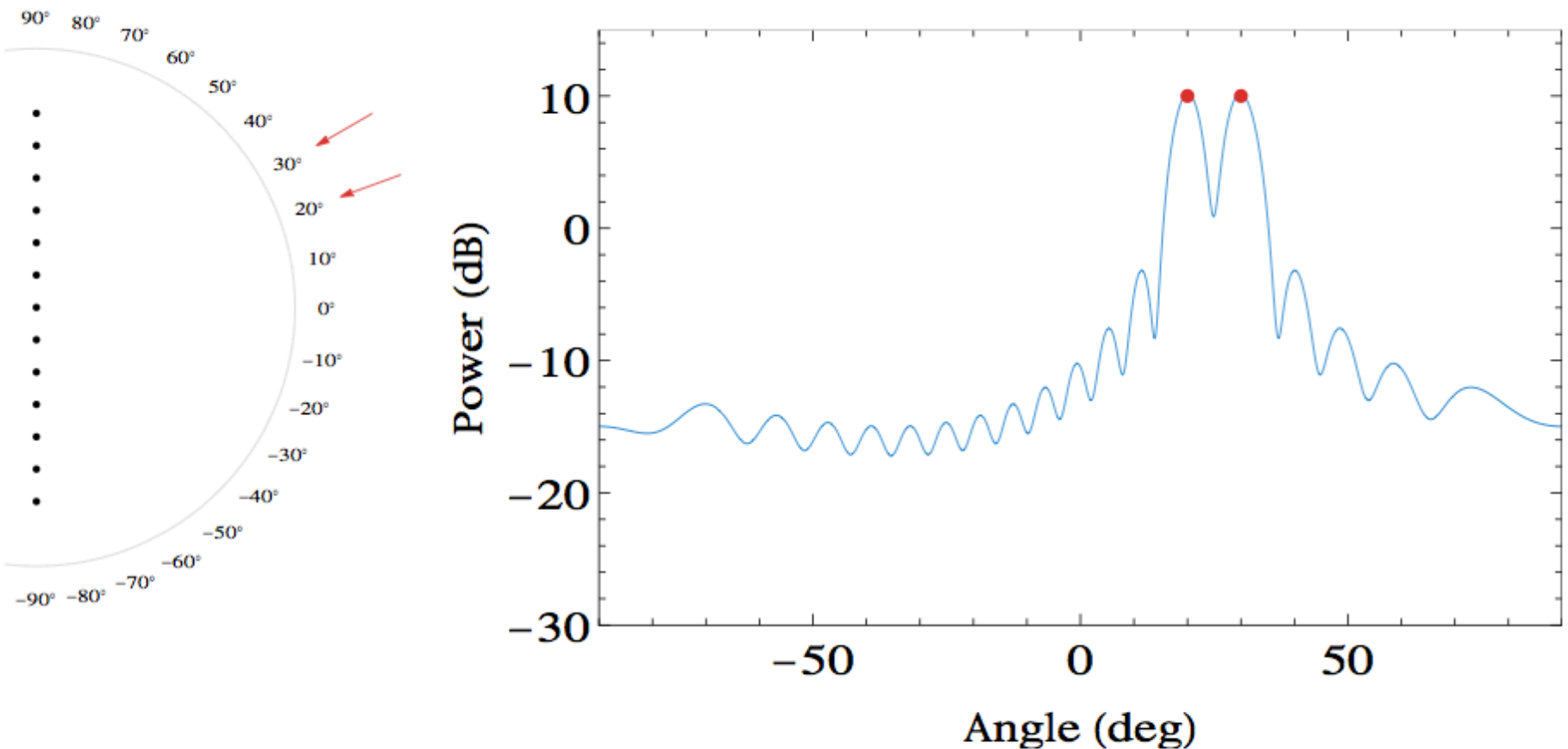
True DOA is sparse in the angle domain

$$\Theta = \{0, \dots, 0, \theta_1, 0, \dots, 0, \theta_2, 0, \dots, 0\}$$

# Conventional beamforming

Plane wave weight vector  $\mathbf{w}_i = [1, e^{-j \sin(\theta_i)}, \dots, e^{-j(N-1) \sin(\theta_i)}]^T$

$$\mathcal{B}(\theta) = |\mathbf{w}^H(\theta) \mathbf{b}|^2$$

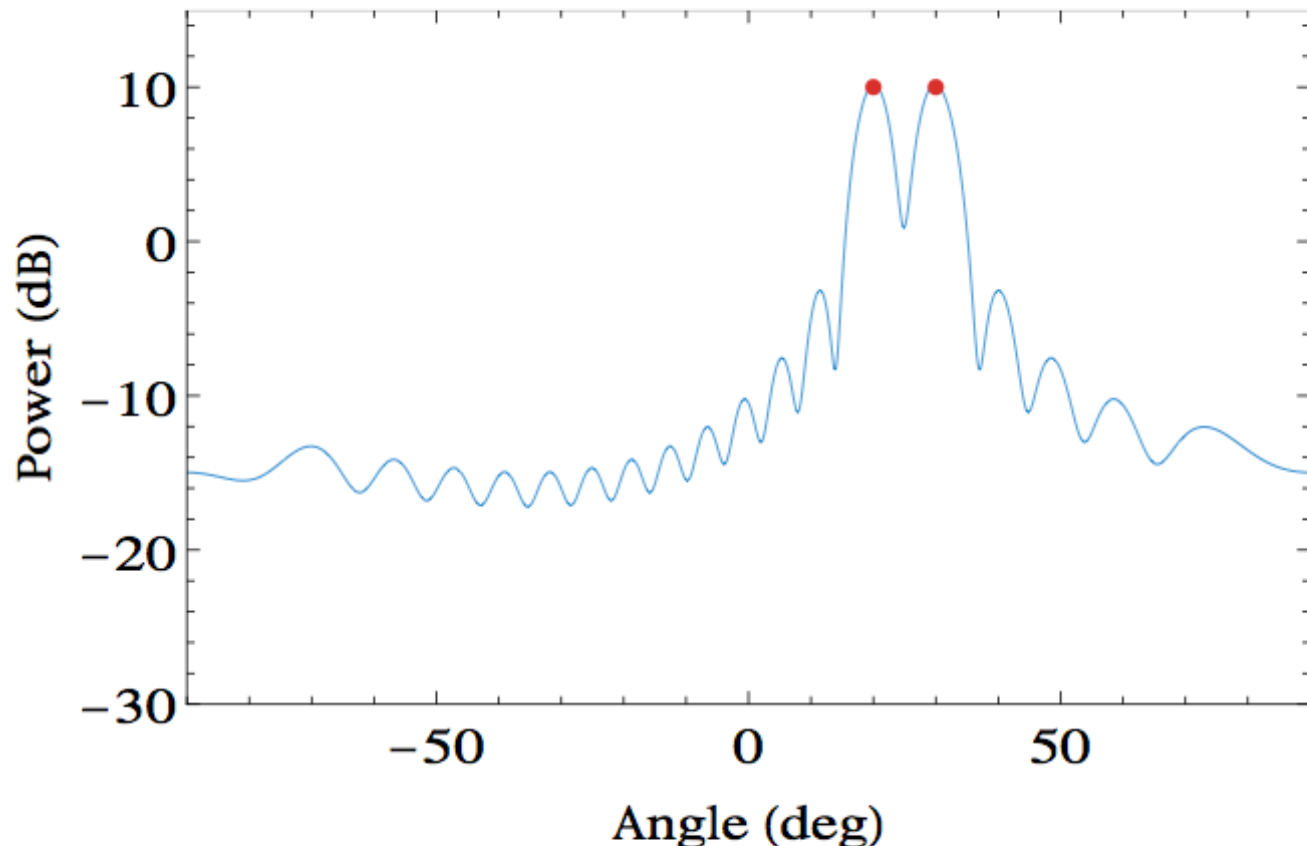
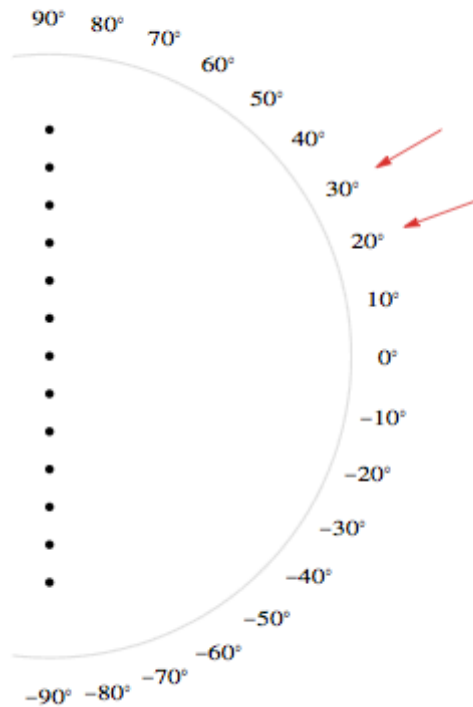


ULA, half-wavelength spacing,  $N = 20$  sensors,  $\theta_1 = 20^\circ$ ,  $\theta_2 = 30^\circ$ ,

# Conventional beamforming

Equivalent to solving the  $\ell_2$  problem with  $\mathbf{A} = [\mathbf{w}_1, \dots, \mathbf{w}_M]$ ,  $M > N$ .

$$\min \|\mathbf{x}\|_2 \text{ subject to } \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$$

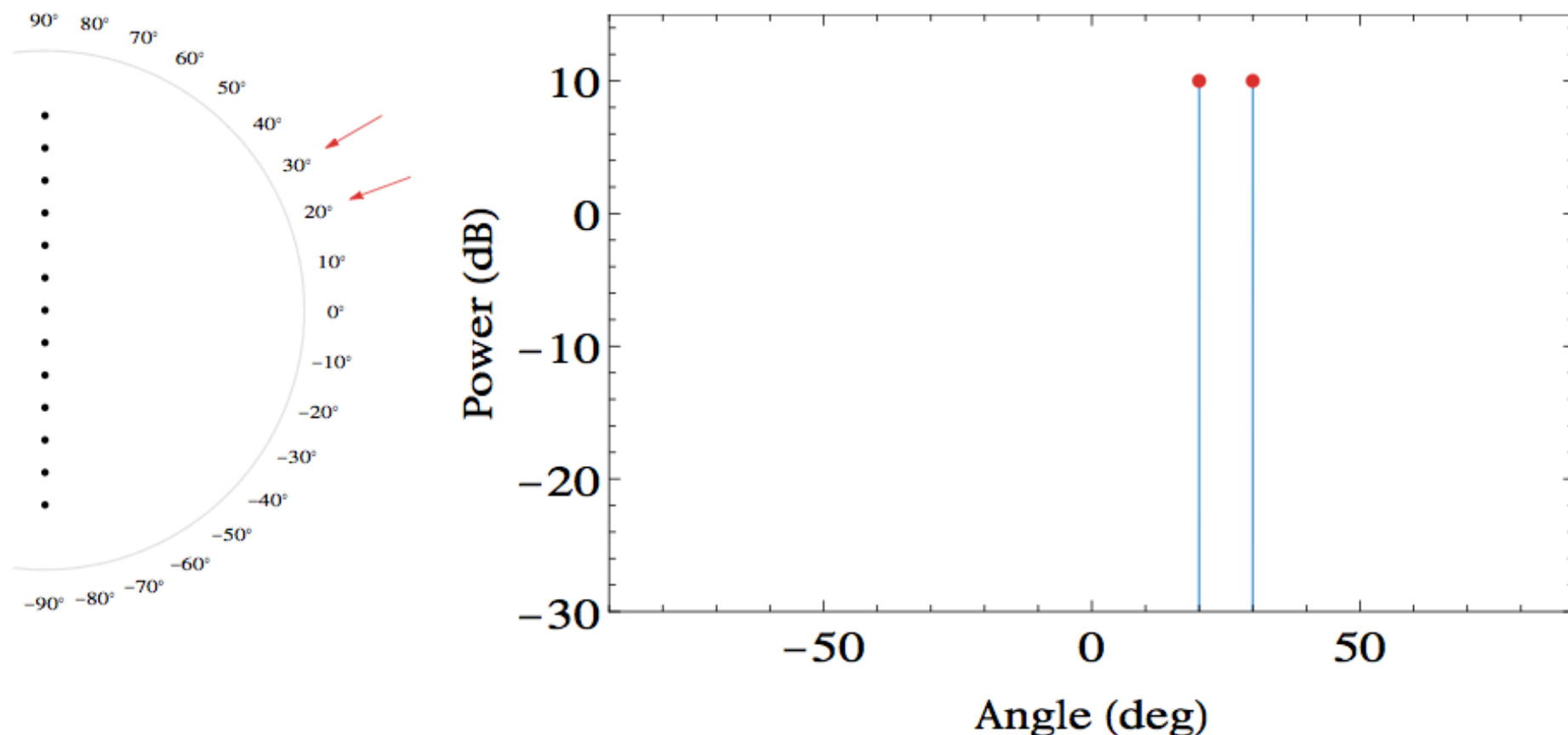


$\mathbf{A}$  is an overcomplete dictionary of candidate DOA vectors. Columns span  $-90^\circ$  to  $90^\circ$  in steps of  $1^\circ$  ( $M = 181$ ).

## $\ell_1$ minimization

In contrast  $\ell_1$  minimization provides a sparse solution with exact recovery:

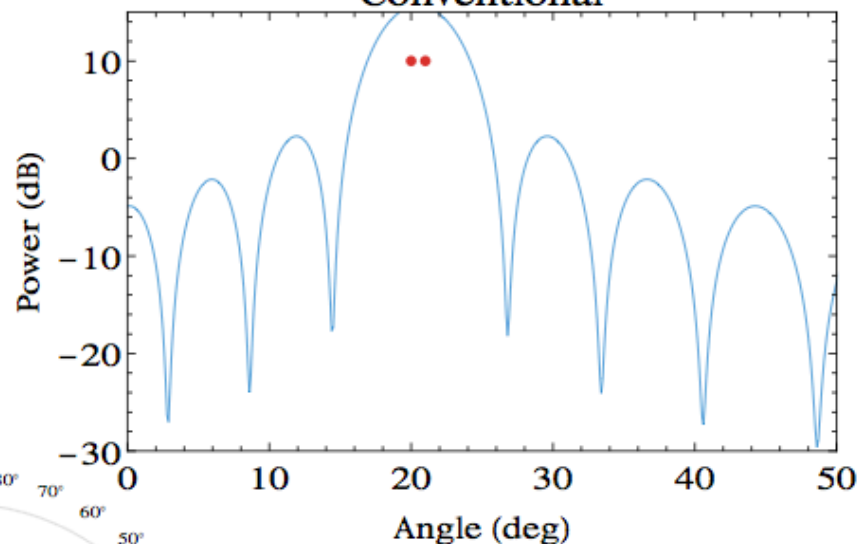
$$\min \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \text{ subject to } \mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$$



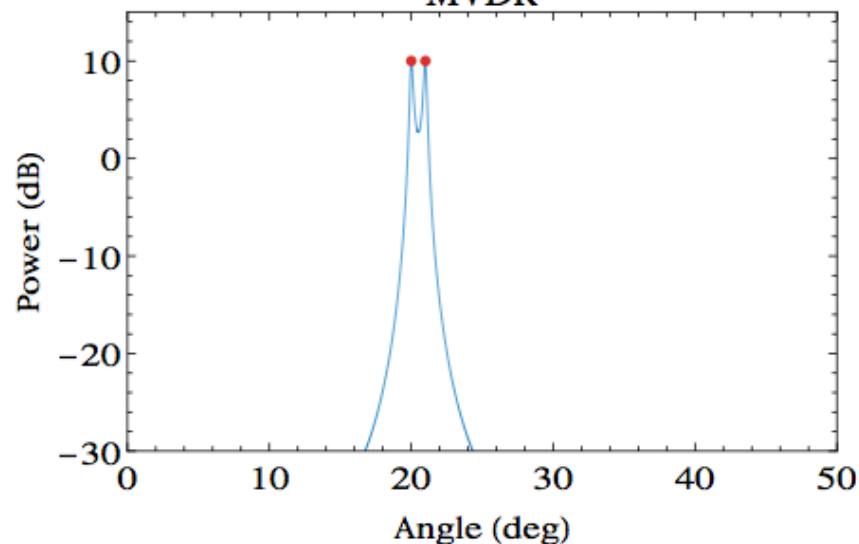
Columns of  $\mathbf{A}$  span  $-90^\circ$  to  $90^\circ$  in steps of  $1^\circ$  ( $M = 181$ ).

# Resolving closely spaced signals

Conventional



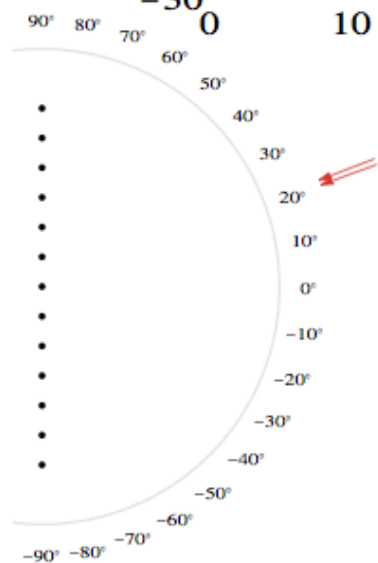
MVDR



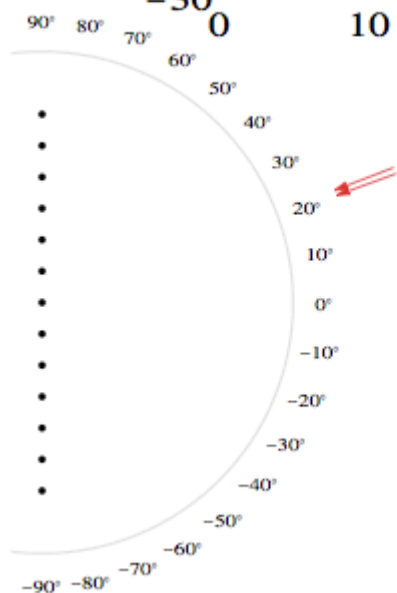
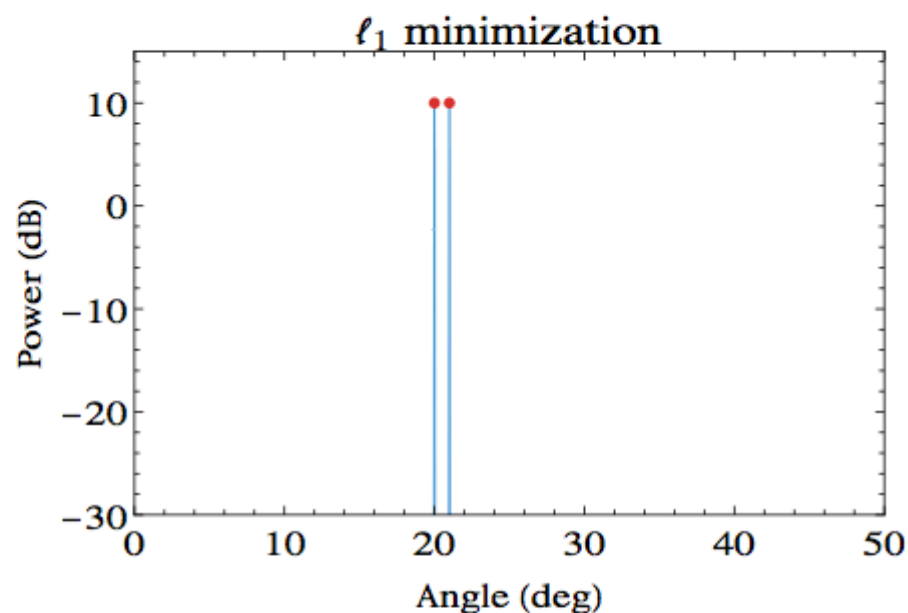
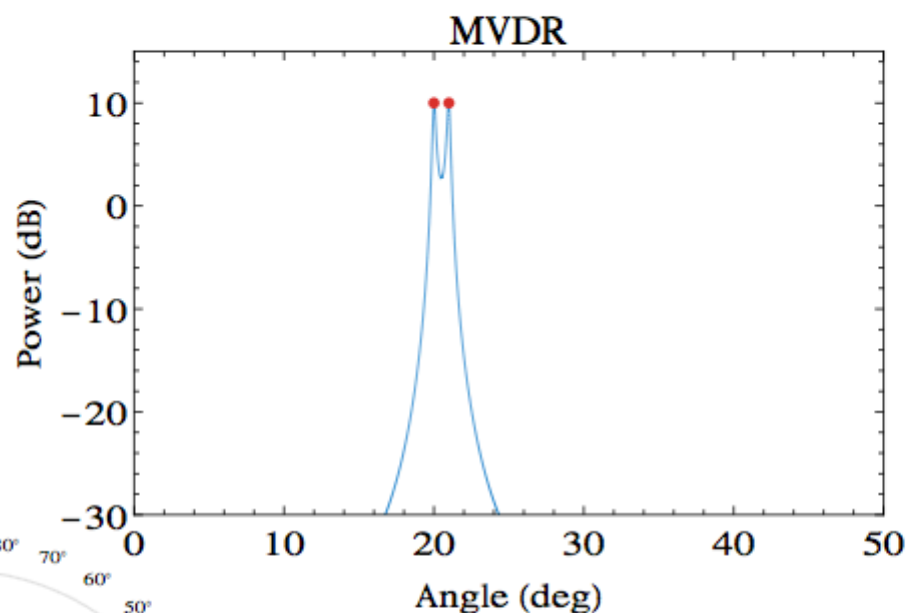
$\theta_1 = 20^\circ$ ,  $\theta_2 = 21^\circ$  (note the change in x-axis)

Power overestimated by 6 dB

Resolution of  $\sim 5.7^\circ$



# Resolving closely spaced signals

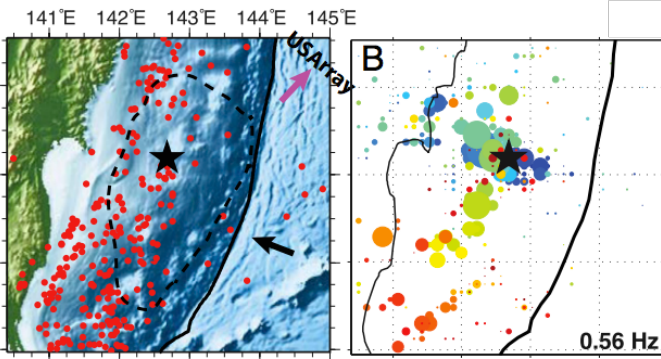


$\theta_1 = 20^\circ$ ,  $\theta_2 = 21^\circ$  (note the change in x-axis)



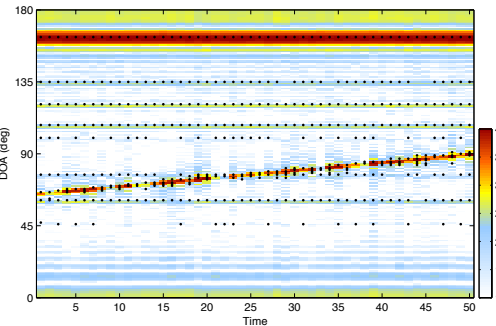
# CS approach to geophysical data analysis

## CS of Earthquakes



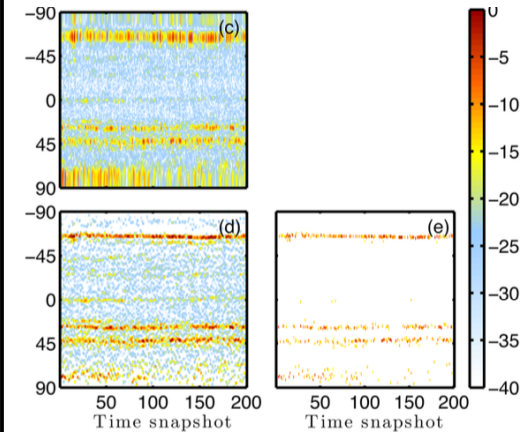
Yao, GRL 2011, PNAS 2013

## Sequential CS



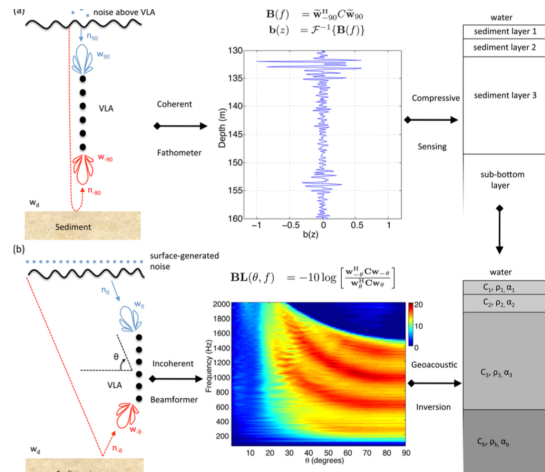
Mecklenbrauker, TSP 2013

## CS beamforming



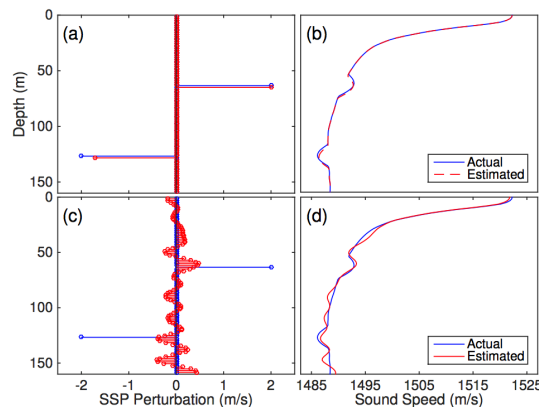
Xenaki, JASA 2014, 2015  
Gerstoft JASA 2015

## CS fathometer



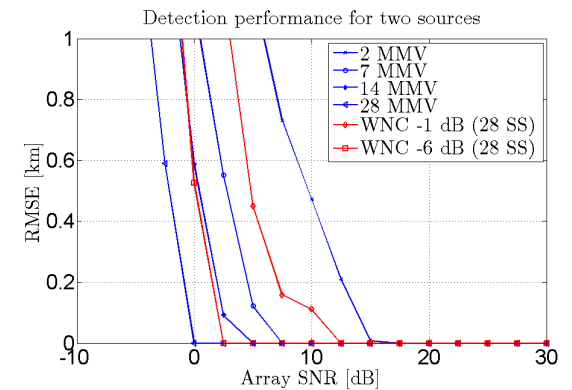
Yardim, JASA 2014

## CS Sound speed estimation



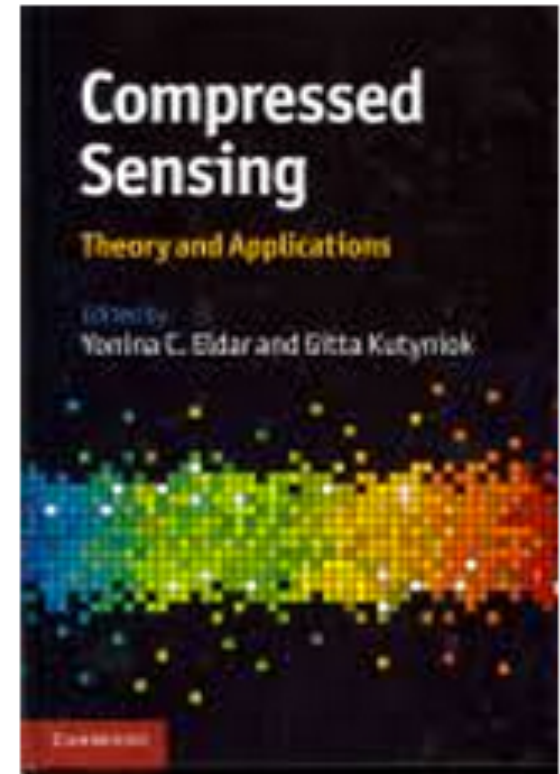
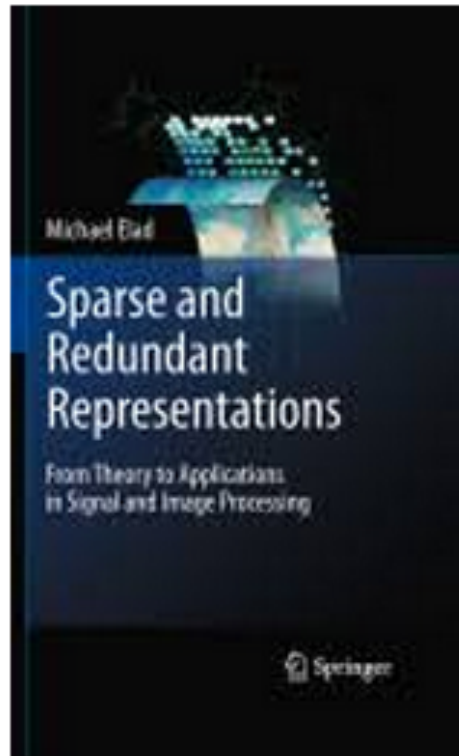
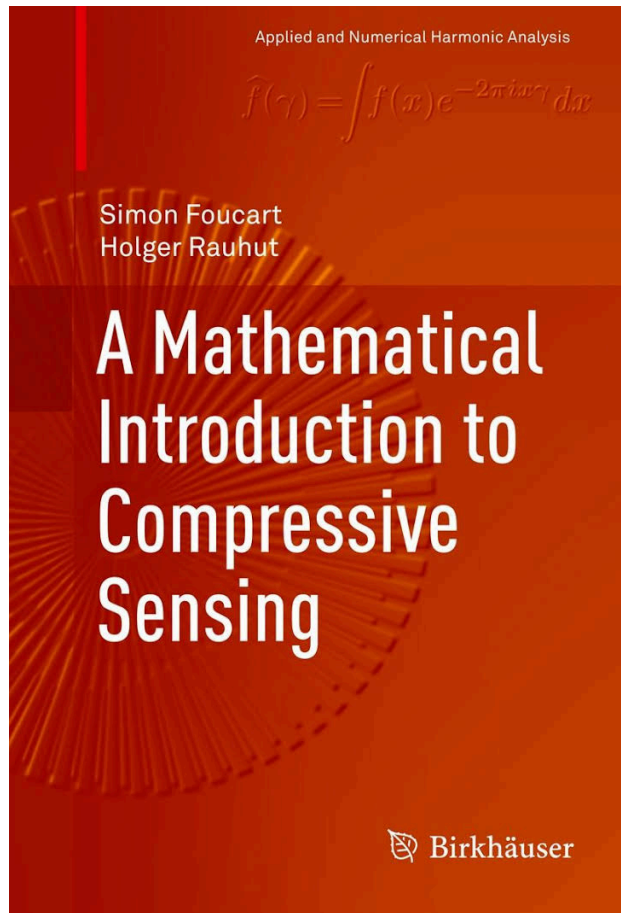
Bianco, JASA 2016

## CS matched field



Gemba, JASA 2016

# Resources



# Bayesian interpretation of LASSO

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MAP estimate via the unconstrained -LASSO- formulation

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\text{LASSO}}(\mu) = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^N} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 + \mu \|\mathbf{x}\|_1$$

Bayes rule:

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}) = \frac{p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x})p(\mathbf{x})}{p(\mathbf{y})}$$

MAP estimate:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\text{MAP}} &= \arg \max_{\mathbf{x}} \ln p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}) \\ &= \arg \max_{\mathbf{x}} [\ln p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}) + \ln p(\mathbf{x})] \\ &= \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} [-\ln p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}) - \ln p(\mathbf{x})]\end{aligned}$$

# MAP estimate via the unconstrained -LASSO- formulation

Bayes rule:

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}) = \frac{p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x})p(\mathbf{x})}{p(\mathbf{y})}$$

MAP estimate:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\text{MAP}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} [-\ln p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}) - \ln p(\mathbf{x})]$$

Gaussian likelihood:

$$p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}) \propto e^{-\frac{\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{Ax}\|_2^2}{\sigma^2}}$$

Laplace-like prior:

$$p(\mathbf{x}) \propto \prod_{i=1}^N e^{-\frac{\sqrt{(\Re x_i)^2 + (\Im x_i)^2}}{\nu}} = e^{-\frac{\|\mathbf{x}\|_1}{\nu}}$$

MAP estimate (LASSO):

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\text{MAP}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} [\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{Ax}\|_2^2 + \mu \|\mathbf{x}\|_1] = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\text{LASSO}}(\mu), \quad \mu = \frac{\sigma^2}{\nu}$$

# MAP– LASSO path

Likelihood (noise complex Gaussian)  $p(y|x) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{\|Ax - y\|_2^2}{\sigma^2}\right)$

Prior (Laplacian)  $p(x) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{\|x\|_1}{\nu}\right)$

**Bayes rule**  $p(x|y) \propto p(y|x)p(x) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{\|Ax - y\|_2^2}{\sigma^2} - \frac{\|x\|_1}{\nu}\right)$

Maximum A Posteriori (MAP)

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\text{MAP}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} [\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 + \mu \|\mathbf{x}\|_1] = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\text{LASSO}}(\mu),$$

LASSO=Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator

$$\mu = \frac{\sigma^2}{\nu}$$

$\mu$  large:  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$

$\mu$  small:  $\mathbf{x}$  minimum norm

