

A note on compressed sensing of structured sparse wavelet coefficients from subsampled Fourier measurements

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March 26, 2014

Abstract

This note complements the paper *The quest for optimal sampling: Computationally efficient, structure-exploiting measurements for compressed sensing* [2]. Its purpose is to present a proof of a result stated therein concerning the recovery via compressed sensing of a signal that has structured sparsity in a Haar wavelet basis when sampled using a multilevel-subsampled discrete Fourier transform. In doing so, it provides a simple exposition of the proof in the case of Haar wavelets and discrete Fourier samples of more general result recently provided in *Breaking the coherence barrier: A new theory for compressed sensing* [1].

1 Introduction

In many applications of compressed sensing, the image or signal $x \in \mathbb{C}^n$ to be recovered is sparse or compressible in an orthonormal wavelet basis $\Phi \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$. However, it is well known that the coefficients $c = \Phi^*x$ in such a basis possess far more than mere sparsity. In fact, they are highly structured: if the vector c of wavelet coefficients is divided into dyadic scales, there is far more sparsity at the finer scales than at the coarser scales. In [2] it was argued that, in order to obtain a better reconstruction with compressed sensing, one should exploit such structure by taking appropriate measurements. This can be achieved by subsampling the discrete Fourier transform in an appropriate way. Not only does this lead to improved reconstructions over standard (sub)Gaussian random measurements, it also explains the success of compressed sensing in applications where the measurements naturally arise from the Fourier transform, e.g. MRI, X-ray CT, etc.

In this note we provide a short, expositional proof of the corresponding recovery result stated in [2] for the case of one-dimensional discrete Fourier measurements with Haar wavelets. We refer to [1] for the proof of the corresponding result for general wavelets in the infinite-dimensional setting. Throughout, we use the same notation as in [2].

2 Preliminaries

Let $x = \{x(t)\}_{t=0}^{n-1} \in \mathbb{C}^n$ be a signal. Denote the Fourier transform of x by

$$\mathcal{F}x(\omega) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{t=1}^n x(t) e^{2\pi i \omega t/n}, \quad \omega \in \mathbb{R},$$

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and write $F \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ for the corresponding matrix, so that

$$Fx = \{\mathcal{F}x(\omega)\}_{\omega=-n/2+1}^{n/2}.$$

The concern of this note is the recovery of x from a small subset $y \in \mathbb{C}^m$ of the measurements Fx . We do so using techniques of compressed sensing, by assuming that x is compressible in a Haar wavelet basis. Let $n = 2^r$ for some $r \in \mathbb{N}$. The Haar basis consists of the functions $\{\psi\} \cup \{\phi_{j,p} : j = 0, \dots, r-1, p = 0, \dots, 2^j - 1\}$ where

$$\psi(t) = 2^{-r/2}, \quad 0 \leq t < 2^r,$$

and

$$\phi_{j,p}(t) = \begin{cases} 2^{\frac{j-r}{2}} & p2^{r-j} \leq t < (p + \frac{1}{2})2^{r-j} \\ -2^{\frac{j-r}{2}} & (p + \frac{1}{2})2^{r-j} \leq t < (p + 1)2^{r-j} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

Write $\Phi \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ for the matrix corresponding to this basis, and let $c = \Phi^*x \in \mathbb{C}^n$ be the vector of coefficients of x . We divide c into r levels corresponding to wavelet scales:

$$c = (c^{(0)} | \dots | c^{(r-1)})^\top,$$

(note that we now index over $0, \dots, r-1$, as opposed to $1, \dots, r$ as was done in [2]) where

$$c^{(0)} = (\langle x, \psi \rangle, \langle x, \phi_{0,0} \rangle)^\top \in \mathbb{C}^2,$$

and

$$c^{(j)} = (\langle x, \phi_{j,0} \rangle, \dots, \langle x, \phi_{j,2^j-1} \rangle)^\top \in \mathbb{C}^{2^j}.$$

Let $M_0 = 0$ and

$$M_j = 2^j, \quad j = 1, \dots, r,$$

so that $c^{(j)}$ corresponds to the segment of the vector c with indices $\{M_j + 1, \dots, M_{j+1}\}$.

We now wish to specify how to subsample the Fourier transform Fx . Recall that Fx is indexed over $\{-n/2 + 1, \dots, n/2\}$. Proceeding as in [2], we divide this set up into r frequency bands. Let

$$W_0 = \{0, 1\},$$

and

$$W_j = \{-2^j + 1, \dots, -2^{j-1}\} \cup \{2^{j-1} + 1, \dots, 2^j\}, \quad j = 1, \dots, r-1, \quad (2.1)$$

and note that W_0, \dots, W_{r-1} form a disjoint partition of $\{-n/2 + 1, \dots, n/2\}$. Observe that

$$|W_0| = 2, \quad |W_j| = 2^j, \quad j = 1, \dots, r-1.$$

For $j = 0, \dots, r-1$, we now choose the index set $\Omega_j \subseteq W_j$ uniformly at random of size $|\Omega_j| = m_j$. If

$$\Omega = \Omega_0 \cup \dots \cup \Omega_{r-1}, \quad |\Omega| = m = m_0 + \dots + m_{r-1}, \quad (2.2)$$

then the vector of measurements is given by $y = P_\Omega Fx$, where the matrix $P_\Omega \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times n}$ picks out the elements of Fx with entries in Ω . Equivalently, the measurement matrix $A = P_\Omega F$ (see [2]).

Remark 2.1 Throughout this note, we shall use the notations $a \lesssim b$ and $a \gtrsim b$ to mean that there exists a constant C independent of all relevant parameters such that $a \leq Cb$ or $a \geq Cb$ respectively.

3 Main theorem

Our concern is signals x for which the vector c is not just approximately sparse, but has a distinct sparsity structure within its wavelet scale. Given the parameters $\mathbf{M} = (M_0, \dots, M_{r-1})$, we recall from [2] that c is (\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{M}) -sparse in levels, where $\mathbf{k} = (k_0, \dots, k_{r-1}) \in \mathbb{N}^r$ if

$$\|c^{(j)}\|_0 \leq k_j, \quad j = 0, \dots, r-1.$$

If $\Sigma_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{M}}$ denotes the set of such vectors, then we define the best (\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{M}) -term approximation of an arbitrary $c \in \mathbb{C}^n$ by

$$\sigma_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{M}}(c)_1 = \min_{z \in \Sigma_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{M}}} \|c - z\|_1. \quad (3.1)$$

In order to recover such an x from noisy measurements $y = Ax + e$ with $\|e\|_2 \leq \eta$, we consider the convex optimization problem

$$\min_{z \in \mathbb{C}^n} \|\Phi z\|_1 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \|y - Az\|_2 \leq \eta. \quad (3.2)$$

The result we shall prove is the following:

Theorem 3.1. *Let $x \in \mathbb{C}^n$ and Ω be as in (2.2). Let $\epsilon \in (0, e^{-1}]$ and suppose that*

$$m_j \gtrsim \left(k_j + \sum_{\substack{l=0 \\ l \neq j}}^{r-1} 2^{-\frac{|j-l|}{2}} k_l \right) \log(\epsilon^{-1}) \log^2(n), \quad j = 0, \dots, r-1. \quad (3.3)$$

Then, with probability exceeding $1 - k\epsilon$, where $k = k_0 + \dots + k_{r-1}$, any minimizer \hat{x} of (3.2) satisfies

$$\|x - \hat{x}\|_2 \leq C \left(\eta \sqrt{D} (1 + E \sqrt{k}) + \sigma_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{M}}(\Phi^* x)_1 \right),$$

for some constant C , where $\sigma_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{M}}(f)$ is as in (3.1), $D = 1 + \frac{\sqrt{\log_2(6\epsilon^{-1})}}{\log_2(4En\sqrt{k})}$ and $E = \max_{j=0, \dots, r-1} \{(N_j - N_{j-1})/m_j\}$. If $m_j = |W_j|$, $j = 0, \dots, r-1$, then this holds with probability 1.

We refer to [2] for a detailed discussion on the implications of this result. However, note that (3.3) asserts that we require near-optimal number of measurements m_j in the j^{th} frequency band to recover the k_j significant wavelet coefficients in the corresponding j^{th} wavelet band.

4 Proof of Theorem 3.1

4.1 Setup

Let $U = \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ be given by $U = F\Phi^*$. There is a natural division of U into blocks defined by the sampling and sparsity bands. Let U_{jl} be restriction of U to rows with indices in W_j and columns with indices $\{M_l + 1, \dots, M_{l+1}\}$. Note that the entries of $U_{j,l}$ are

$$(U_{jl})_{\omega,p} = \mathcal{F}\phi_{l,p}(\omega), \quad \omega \in W_j, \quad p = 0, \dots, 2^j - 1, \quad j = 0, \dots, r-1, \quad l = 1, \dots, r-1,$$

and

$$(U_{j0})_{\omega,0} = \mathcal{F}\psi(\omega), \quad (U_{j0})_{\omega,1} = \mathcal{F}\phi_{0,0}(\omega), \quad \omega \in W_j, \quad j = 0, \dots, r-1.$$

Recall the coherence $\mu(V)$ of matrix $V \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ is defined by $\mu(V) = \max_{j,l=1,\dots,n} |V_{j,l}|^2$. As in [2, Def. 4], define the $(j, l)^{\text{th}}$ local coherence of the matrix U by

$$\mu(j, l) = \sqrt{\mu(U_{jl})} \max_{l'=0,\dots,r-1} \sqrt{\mu(U_{jl'})} \quad (4.1)$$

Note that the second term is the coherence of the $2^j \times 2^r$ submatrix of U formed by concatenating only those rows in W_j . Given a vector $\mathbf{k} = (k_0, \dots, k_{r-1})$, we also define the relative sparsities (see [2, Def. 5]) by

$$K_j = \max_{\substack{z \in \Sigma_{\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{M}} \\ \|z\|_\infty \leq 1}} \left\| \sum_{l=0}^{r-1} U_{jl} z^{(l)} \right\|_2^2. \quad (4.2)$$

With these definitions in hand, [2, Thm. 1] gives that the conclusions of Theorem 3.1 hold, provided m_0, \dots, m_{r-1} satisfy the following two conditions:

(i) We have

$$m_j \gtrsim |W_j| \left(\sum_{l=0}^{r-1} \mu(j, l) k_l \right) \log(\epsilon^{-1}) \log(n), \quad j = 0, \dots, r-1. \quad (4.3)$$

(ii) For all $\tilde{k}_0, \dots, \tilde{k}_{r-1} \in (0, \infty)$ satisfying

$$\tilde{k}_0 + \dots + \tilde{k}_{r-1} \leq k_0 + \dots + k_{r-1}, \quad \tilde{k}_j \leq K_j,$$

we have $m_j \gtrsim \tilde{m}_j \log(\epsilon^{-1}) \log(n)$, where \tilde{m}_j satisfies

$$1 \gtrsim \sum_{l=0}^{r-1} \left(\frac{|W_j|}{\tilde{m}_j} - 1 \right) \mu(j, l) \tilde{k}_j, \quad l = 0, \dots, r-1.$$

Using a simple estimate for the second inequality, we see that (ii) is implied by the following condition:

(ii') We have

$$m_j \gtrsim |W_j| \left(\max_{l=0,\dots,r-1} \mu(j, l) \right) K_j \log(\epsilon^{-1}) \log^2(n). \quad (4.4)$$

Thus, to prove Theorem 3.1, we need only show that (3.3) implies (4.3) and (4.4). To do this, we need to estimate the local coherences $\mu(j, l)$ and the relative sparsities K_j . These are subjects of the next two subsections.

4.2 The local coherences $\mu(j, l)$

We commence with the following lemma:

Lemma 4.1. *For $\omega \in \{-2^{r-1} + 1, \dots, 2^{r-1}\}$, we have*

$$\mathcal{F}\psi(\omega) = \begin{cases} 1 & \omega = 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases},$$

and

$$\mathcal{F}\phi_{j,p}(\omega) = \begin{cases} 0 & \omega = 0 \\ 2^{j/2-r} e^{2\pi i \omega p / 2^j} \frac{(1 - e^{2\pi i \omega / 2^{j+1}})^2}{1 - e^{2\pi i \omega / 2^r}} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

Proof. The first statement is trivial. For the second, we proceed by direct computation:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{F}\phi_{j,p}(\omega) &= \frac{2^{\frac{j-r}{2}}}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{p2^{r-j} \leq t < (p+1/2)2^{r-j}} e^{2\pi i \omega t/n} - \frac{2^{\frac{j-r}{2}}}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{(p+1/2)2^{r-j} \leq t < (p+1)2^{r-j}} e^{2\pi i \omega t/n} \\
&= \frac{2^{\frac{j-r}{2}}}{\sqrt{n}} e^{2\pi i \omega p 2^{r-j}/n} \sum_{s=0}^{2^{r-j-1}-1} e^{2\pi i \omega s/n} - \frac{2^{\frac{j-r}{2}}}{\sqrt{n}} e^{2\pi i \omega (p+1/2) 2^{r-j}/n} \sum_{s=0}^{2^{r-j-1}-1} e^{2\pi i \omega s/n} \\
&= 2^{j/2-r} \left(e^{2\pi i \omega p/2^j} - e^{2\pi i \omega (p+1/2)/2^j} \right) \sum_{s=0}^{2^{r-j-1}-1} e^{2\pi i \omega s/n} \\
&= 2^{j/2-r} \left(e^{2\pi i \omega p/2^j} - e^{2\pi i \omega (p+1/2)/2^j} \right) \left(\frac{e^{2\pi i \omega 2^{r-j-1}/n} - 1}{e^{2\pi i \omega/n} - 1} \right) \\
&= 2^{j/2-r} e^{2\pi i \omega p/2^j} \left(1 - e^{2\pi i \omega/2^{j+1}} \right) \left(\frac{e^{2\pi i \omega/2^{j+1}} - 1}{e^{2\pi i \omega/2^r} - 1} \right),
\end{aligned}$$

as required. \square

We now have the following:

Lemma 4.2. *The local coherences $\mu(j, l)$ satisfy*

$$\mu(j, l) \lesssim 2^{-j} 2^{-|j-l|/2}, \quad j, l = 0, \dots, r-1.$$

Proof. Recalling the definition (4.1), we see that it suffices to show that

$$\mu(U_{jl}) \lesssim 2^{-j} 2^{-|j-l|}, \quad j, l = 0, \dots, r-1.$$

Let $\omega \in W_j$. Then

$$2^{j-1} \leq |\omega| \leq 2^j. \quad (4.5)$$

Recall also that

$$|\sin \pi t| \leq \pi |t|, \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}, \quad |\sin \pi t| \geq 2t, \quad |t| \leq 1/2.$$

Thus

$$2^{j-r} \leq |\sin(\pi \omega/2^r)| \leq \pi 2^{j-r}, \quad \omega \in W_j.$$

Applying this and Lemma 4.1 now gives

$$|\mathcal{F}\phi_{l,p}(\omega)| = 2^{l/2-r+1} \frac{|\sin(\pi \omega/2^{l+1})|^2}{|\sin(\pi \omega/2^r)|} \lesssim 2^{l/2-j} \left| \sin(\pi \omega/2^{l+1}) \right|^2, \quad \omega \neq 0. \quad (4.6)$$

Recall also that $\mathcal{F}\phi_{l,p}(0) = 0$. Suppose now that $l \geq j$. Then $|\omega|/2^l \leq 2^{j-l}$ and therefore we get

$$|\mathcal{F}\phi_{l,p}(\omega)| \lesssim 2^{-l/2} 2^{j-l} = 2^{-j/2} 2^{-3|j-l|/2}, \quad \forall \omega, l \geq j.$$

Conversely, if $l < j$, then we use the fact that $|\sin(\pi \omega/2^{l+1})| \leq 1$ to get

$$|\mathcal{F}\phi_{l,p}(\omega)| \lesssim 2^{l/2-j} = 2^{-j/2} 2^{-|j-l|/2}, \quad \forall \omega, l < j.$$

Hence, we find that

$$|\mathcal{F}\phi_{l,p}(\omega)| \lesssim 2^{-j/2} 2^{-|j-l|/2}, \quad \forall \omega, j, l.$$

Since U_{jl} has entries $\mathcal{F}\phi_{l,p}(\omega)$ for $l \neq 0$, it now follows immediately that

$$\mu(U_{jl}) \lesssim 2^{-j}2^{-|j-l|}, \quad j = 0, \dots, r-1, l = 1, \dots, r-1.$$

To complete the proof, we need only consider the case $l = 0$. Recall that when $l = 0$, the first column of the matrix $U_{j,l}$ has entries $\mathcal{F}\psi(\omega)$. However, by Lemma 4.1, $\mathcal{F}\psi(\omega) = 1$ for $\omega = 0 \in W_0$ and $\mathcal{F}\psi(\omega) = 0$ for $\omega \neq 0$. Thus $|\mathcal{F}\psi(\omega)| \lesssim 2^{-j/2}2^{-|j-0|/2}$. The second column has entries $\mathcal{F}\phi_{0,0}(\omega)$, and thus also satisfies the same bound. Hence we get the case $l = 0$ as well. \square

4.3 The relative sparsities K_j

From the definition (4.2), we have

$$\sqrt{K_j} \leq \max_{\substack{z \in \Sigma_{k,M} \\ \|z\|_\infty \leq 1}} \sum_{l=0}^{r-1} \|U_{jl}\|_2 \|z^{(l)}\|_2.$$

Note that $\|z^{(l)}\|_2 \leq \sqrt{\|z^{(l)}\|_0} = \sqrt{k_l}$. Hence

$$\sqrt{K_j} \leq \sum_{l=0}^{r-1} \|U_{jl}\|_2 \sqrt{k_l}, \quad (4.7)$$

and therefore it suffices to estimate $\|U_{jl}\|_2$.

Lemma 4.3. *The matrices U_{jl} satisfy*

$$\|U_{jl}\|_2 \lesssim 2^{-|j-l|/2}, \quad j, l = 0, \dots, r-1.$$

Proof. Suppose that $l = 0$ and let $z \in \mathbb{C}^2$, $\|z\|_2 = 1$. Then

$$\|U_{j0}z\|_2^2 = \sum_{\omega \in W_j} |\mathcal{F}\psi(\omega)z_0 + \mathcal{F}\phi_{0,0}(\omega)z_1|^2 \leq \sum_{\omega \in W_j} \left(|\mathcal{F}\psi(\omega)|^2 + |\mathcal{F}\phi_{0,0}(\omega)|^2 \right).$$

Recall that $\mathcal{F}\psi(\omega) = 0$ for $\omega \neq 0$ and $\mathcal{F}\psi(0) = 1$. Also $\mathcal{F}\phi_{0,0}(0) = 0$ and by (4.6) we have $|\mathcal{F}\phi_{0,0}(\omega)| \leq 2^{-j}$. Since $|W_0| = 2$ and $|W_j| = 2^j$ otherwise, we get $\|U_{j0}z\|_2^2 \lesssim 2^{-j}$. The result for $l = 0$ now follows immediately.

Suppose now that $l = 1, \dots, r-1$. Let $z \in \mathbb{C}^{2^l}$, $\|z\|_2 = 1$, and write $g = \sum_{p=0}^{2^l-1} z_p \phi_{l,p}$. Then

$$\|U_{jl}\|_2^2 = \sup_{\substack{z \in \mathbb{C}^{2^l} \\ \|z\|_2 = 1}} \sum_{\omega \in W_j} |\mathcal{F}g(\omega)|^2. \quad (4.8)$$

By Lemma 4.1, we have $\mathcal{F}\phi_{l,p}(\omega) = e^{2\pi i \omega p / 2^l} \mathcal{F}\phi_{l,0}(\omega)$. Hence

$$\mathcal{F}g(\omega) = \mathcal{F}\phi_{l,0}(\omega) \sum_{p=0}^{2^l-1} z_p e^{2\pi i \omega p / 2^l} = \mathcal{F}\phi_{l,0}(\omega) G(\omega/2^l), \quad G(z) = \sum_{p=0}^{2^l-1} z_p e^{2\pi i p z}.$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{\omega \in W_j} |\mathcal{F}g(\omega)|^2 &\leq \max_{\omega \in W_j} |\mathcal{F}\phi_{l,0}(\omega)|^2 \sum_{\omega \in W_j} \left|G(\omega/2^l)\right|^2 \\
&\lesssim 2^{l-2j} |\sin(\pi\omega/2^{l+1})|^4 \sum_{\omega \in W_j} \left|G(\omega/2^l)\right|^2 \\
&\lesssim \sum_{\omega \in W_j} \left|G(\omega/2^l)\right|^2 \begin{cases} 2^{l-2j} & j \geq l \\ 2^{2j-3l} & j < l \end{cases}, \tag{4.9}
\end{aligned}$$

where the second inequality is due to (4.6). Since $G(z)$ is periodic with period 1, we find that

$$\sum_{\omega \in W_j} \left|G(\omega/2^l)\right|^2 = \sum_{\omega=0}^{2^j-1} \left|G(\omega/2^l)\right|^2. \tag{4.10}$$

Moreover, since G is a trigonometric polynomial of degree 2^l , we have

$$\sum_{\omega=0}^{2^l-1} \left|G(\omega/2^l)\right|^2 = 2^l \int_0^1 |G(z)|^2 dz = 2^l \|z\|_2^2 = 2^l.$$

Suppose that $j < l$. Then by this and (4.10), we have

$$\sum_{\omega \in W_j} \left|G(\omega/2^l)\right|^2 \leq \sum_{\omega=0}^{2^l-1} \left|G(\omega/2^l)\right|^2 = 2^l.$$

Conversely, suppose that $j \geq l$. By (4.10) and periodicity of G ,

$$\sum_{\omega \in W_j} \left|G(\omega/2^l)\right|^2 = 2^{j-l} \sum_{\omega=0}^{2^l-1} \left|G(\omega/2^l)\right|^2 = 2^j.$$

Substituting this into (4.9) and using (4.8) gives

$$\|U_{jl}\|_2^2 \lesssim \begin{cases} 2^j 2^{l-2j} & j \geq l \\ 2^l 2^{2j-3l} & j < l \end{cases},$$

and therefore $\|U_{jl}\|_2^2 \lesssim 2^{-|j-l|}$, as required. \square

Using this lemma and (4.7), we now deduce that

$$K_j \lesssim \left(\sum_{l=0}^{r-1} 2^{-|j-l|/2} \sqrt{k_l} \right)^2 \lesssim \sum_{l=0}^{r-1} 2^{-|j-l|/2} \sum_{l=0}^{r-1} 2^{-|j-l|/2} k_l \lesssim \sum_{l=0}^{r-1} 2^{-|j-l|/2} k_l. \tag{4.11}$$

4.4 Final arguments

We are now able to complete the proof of the main result, Theorem 3.1. Recall that it suffices to show that (3.3) implies (4.3) and (4.4). Consider the right-hand side of (4.3). By Lemma 4.2,

$$|W_j| \left(\sum_{l=0}^{r-1} \mu(j, l) k_l \right) \log(\epsilon^{-1}) \log(n) \lesssim \left(\sum_{l=0}^{r-1} 2^{-|j-l|/2} k_l \right) \log(\epsilon^{-1}) \log(n).$$

Hence (3.3) implies (4.3). Similarly, applying Lemma 4.2 and (4.11) to the right-hand side of (4.4) gives

$$|W_j| \left(\max_{l=0, \dots, r-1} \mu(j, l) \right) K_j \log^2(n) \lesssim \left(\sum_{l=0}^{r-1} 2^{-|j-l|/2} k_l \right) \log^2(n).$$

Thus (3.3) implies (4.4) as well, and the proof of Theorem 3.1 is complete.

References

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