

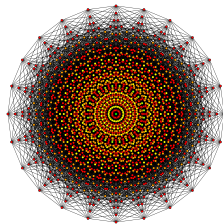
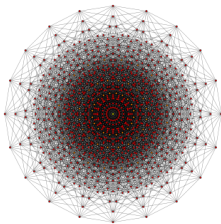
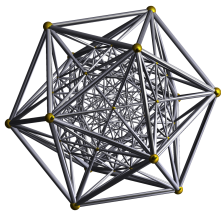
# Computational Principles for High-dim Data Analysis

## (Lecture Five)

**Yi Ma**

EECS Department, UC Berkeley

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# Convex Methods for Sparse Signal Recovery

## (Towards Stronger Correctness Results)

- 1 Restricted Isometry Property (RIP)
- 2 Restricted Strong Convexity (RSC)
- 3 Success of  $\ell^1$  Minimization under RIP

*“Algebra is but written geometry; geometry is but drawn algebra.”*  
– Sophie Germain

# From Incoherence to Isometry

Consider two columns  $\mathbf{A}_l = [\mathbf{a}_i \mid \mathbf{a}_j] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times 2}$  of  $\mathbf{A}$ ,

$$\mathbf{A}_l^* \mathbf{A}_l = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \mathbf{a}_i^* \mathbf{a}_j \\ \mathbf{a}_j^* \mathbf{a}_i & 1 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}. \quad (1)$$

If  $|\mathbf{a}_i^* \mathbf{a}_j| \leq \mu(\mathbf{A})$  is small, this matrix is well conditioned:

$$1 - \mu(\mathbf{A}) \leq \sigma_{\min}(\mathbf{A}_l^* \mathbf{A}_l) \leq \sigma_{\max}(\mathbf{A}_l^* \mathbf{A}_l) \leq 1 + \mu(\mathbf{A}). \quad (2)$$

$\forall l$  of size  $\leq k$ ,

$$1 - \underset{\delta}{k\mu(\mathbf{A})} \leq \sigma_{\min}(\mathbf{A}_l^* \mathbf{A}_l) \leq \sigma_{\max}(\mathbf{A}_l^* \mathbf{A}_l) \leq 1 + \underset{\delta}{k\mu(\mathbf{A})}. \quad (3)$$

**If  $\delta = k\mu(\mathbf{A})$  is small, all  $\sigma(\mathbf{A}_l^* \mathbf{A}_l)$  are close to 1.**

# Restricted Isometry Property

## Definition (Restricted Isometry Property)

The matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  satisfies the *restricted isometry property (RIP)* of order  $k$ , with constant  $\delta \in [0, 1)$ , if

$$\forall \mathbf{x} \text{ } k\text{-sparse}, \quad (1 - \delta) \|\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 \leq \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 \leq (1 + \delta) \|\mathbf{x}\|_2^2. \quad (4)$$

The *order- $k$  restricted isometry constant*  $\delta_k(\mathbf{A})$  is the smallest number  $\delta$  such that the above inequality holds.

**Example of Gaussian Matrices:** If  $\mathbf{A}_1$  is a large  $m \times k$  ( $k < m$ ) matrix with entries independent  $\mathcal{N}(0, 1/m)$ ,

$$\sigma_{\min}(\mathbf{A}_1^* \mathbf{A}_1) \approx (\sqrt{1} - \sqrt{k/m})^2 \geq 1 - 2\sqrt{k/m},$$

$$\sigma_{\max}(\mathbf{A}_1^* \mathbf{A}_1) \approx (\sqrt{1} + \sqrt{k/m})^2 \leq 1 + 3\sqrt{k/m}.$$

# Restricted Isometry Property

Upper and lower bounds<sup>1</sup> for RIP constants of random Gaussian matrix  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ . Consider proportional growth of the size of  $(k, m, n)$ :

$$\rho = \frac{k}{m}, \gamma = \frac{m}{n}.$$

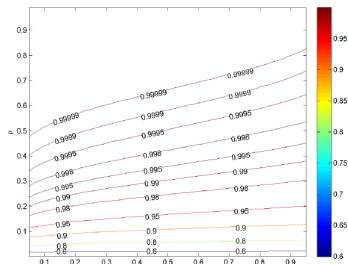
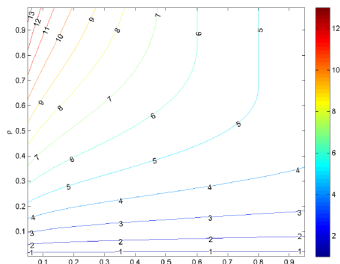


Figure: Left:  $\delta_u = \lambda_{\max}(\rho, \gamma) - 1$ ; Right:  $\delta_l = 1 - \lambda_{\min}(\rho, \gamma)$ .

<sup>1</sup>*Improved Bounds on Restricted Isometry Constants for Gaussian Matrices*, B. Bah, J. Tanner, SIAM Journal on Matrix Analysis and Applications, 2010.

# Restricted Isometry Property: Uniqueness

## Theorem ( $\ell^0$ Recovery under RIP)

Suppose that  $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_o$ , with  $k = \|\mathbf{x}_o\|_0$ . If  $\delta_{2k}(\mathbf{A}) < 1$ , then  $\mathbf{x}_o$  is the unique optimal solution to

$$\min \|\mathbf{x}\|_0 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}. \quad (5)$$

## Proof.

Suppose on the contrary that there exists  $\mathbf{x}' \neq \mathbf{x}_o$  with  $\|\mathbf{x}'\|_0 \leq k$ . Then  $\mathbf{x}_o - \mathbf{x}' \in \text{null}(\mathbf{A})$ , and  $\|\mathbf{x}_o - \mathbf{x}'\|_0 \leq 2k$ . This implies that  $\delta_{2k}(\mathbf{A}) \geq 1$ , contradicting our assumption.  $\square$

# Restricted Isometry Property: Correctness

## Theorem ( $\ell^1$ Recovery under RIP)

Suppose that  $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_o$ , with  $k = \|\mathbf{x}_o\|_0$ . If  $\delta_{2k}(\mathbf{A}) < \sqrt{2} - 1$ , then  $\mathbf{x}_o$  is the unique optimal solution to

$$\min \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}. \quad (6)$$

Some later developments:

- $\delta_{2k} < \sqrt{2} - 1 \approx 0.414$ , Candes and Tao, 2006.
- $\delta_{2k} < 0.4531$ , Foucart and Lai, 2009.
- $\delta_{2k} < 0.472$ , Cai, Wang, and Xu, 2009.
- $\delta_k < 0.307$ , Cai, Wang, and Xu, 2010.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>*New Bounds for Restricted Isometry Constants*, T. Cai, L. Wang, and G. Xu, IEEE Transactions on Information Theory, 56, 2010.

## Restricted Isometry Property: Universality

Computing RIP constant  $\delta_k(\mathbf{A})$  is in general  $NP$ -hard; and in fact, certifying a matrix is  $(k, \delta)$ -RIP is also hard when  $k \gg \sqrt{m}$ .<sup>3</sup> **However:**

### Theorem (RIP of Gaussian Matrices)

*There exists a numerical constant  $C > 0$  such that if  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  is a random matrix with entries independent  $\mathcal{N}(0, \frac{1}{m})$  random variables, with high probability,  $\delta_k(\mathbf{A}) < \delta$ , provided*

$$m \geq Ck \log(n/k)/\delta^2. \quad (7)$$

**Compare with Incoherence:** With incoherence, we need  $m \geq \Omega(k^2)$ . Here this result allows  $(k, m, n)$  to scale proportionally:

$$m \geq \Omega(k).$$

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<sup>3</sup>The Average-Case Time Complexity of Certifying the Restricted Isometry Property, Y. Ding, D. Kunisky, A. Wein, and A. Bandeira, <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2005.11270.pdf>.



# $\ell^1$ Recovery under RIP

**How to prove  $\ell^1$  minimization succeeds under RIP?**

# Null Space Property

Given  $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_o$ , try to recover  $\mathbf{x}_o$  from

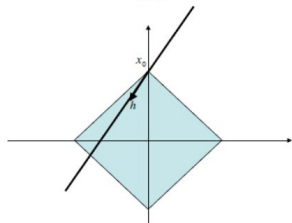
$$\min \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}. \quad (8)$$

Let  $\mathbf{x}_{\ell^1}$  is the optimal solution. If  $\mathbf{h} = \mathbf{x}_{\ell^1} - \mathbf{x}_o \neq \mathbf{0}$ . Since  $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_o = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_{\ell^1}$ , we also have  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h} = \mathbf{0}$ . We must have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\geq \|\mathbf{x}_{\ell^1}\|_1 - \|\mathbf{x}_o\|_1 = \|\mathbf{x}_o + \mathbf{h}\|_1 - \|\mathbf{x}_o\|_1 \\ &\geq \|\mathbf{x}_o\|_1 - \|\mathbf{h}_l\|_1 + \|\mathbf{h}_{lc}\|_1 - \|\mathbf{x}_o\|_1 \\ &= -\|\mathbf{h}_l\|_1 + \|\mathbf{h}_{lc}\|_1. \end{aligned}$$

That is, we have

$$\|\mathbf{h}_{lc}\|_1 \leq \|\mathbf{h}_l\|_1.$$



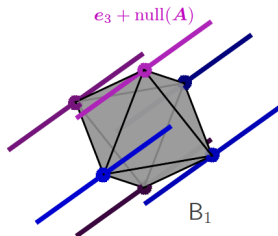
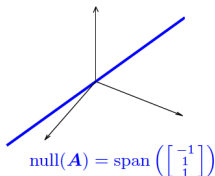
# Null Space Property

## Definition (Null Space Property)

The matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  satisfies the *null space property* of order  $k$  if for every  $\mathbf{h} \in \text{null}(\mathbf{A}) \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$  and every  $\mathbf{l}$  of size at most  $k$ ,

$$\|\mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{l}}\|_1 < \|\mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{l}^c}\|_1. \quad (9)$$

**Example:**  $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 3}$  :



# Null Space Property

## Lemma (Success from Null Space Property)

Suppose that  $\mathbf{A}$  satisfies the null space property of order  $k$ . Then for any  $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_o$ , with  $\|\mathbf{x}_o\|_0 \leq k$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_o$  is the unique optimal solution to the  $\ell^1$  problem

$$\min \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}. \quad (10)$$

## Proof.

Let  $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_o$ , with  $\|\mathbf{x}_o\|_0 \leq k$ , and let  $I = \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}_o)$ . Let  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\ell^1}$  be the optimal solution, so  $\mathbf{h} = \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\ell^1} - \mathbf{x}_o \in \text{null}(\mathbf{A})$ . If  $\mathbf{h} \neq \mathbf{0}$ , then

$$\|\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\ell^1}\|_1 = \|\mathbf{x}_o + \mathbf{h}\|_1 \geq \|\mathbf{x}_o\|_1 - \|\mathbf{h}_I\|_1 + \|\mathbf{h}_{I^c}\|_1 > \|\mathbf{x}_o\|_1,$$

contradicting the optimality of  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\ell^1}$ . □

**No direction  $\mathbf{h}$  in  $\text{null}(\mathbf{A})$  could further reduce  $\|\mathbf{x}_o\|_1$ .**

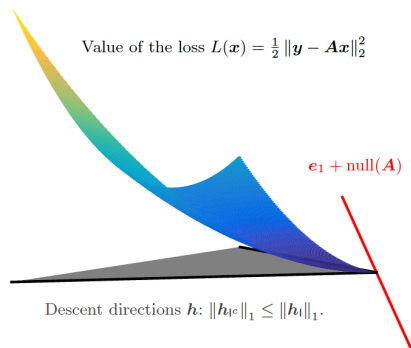
# Restricted Strong Convexity Condition

The null space property is equivalent to:

$$\|A\mathbf{h}\|_2^2 > 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{h} \quad \|\mathbf{h}_{lc}\|_1 \leq \|\mathbf{h}_l\|_1. \quad (11)$$

$\|A\mathbf{h}\|_2^2$  must attain its minimum  $\mu > 0$  on a compact set. The above is equivalent to:

$$\|A\mathbf{h}\|_2^2 \geq \mu \|\mathbf{h}\|_2^2, \quad \forall \mathbf{h} \quad \|\mathbf{h}_{lc}\|_1 \leq \|\mathbf{h}_l\|_1. \quad (12)$$



# Restricted Strong Convexity Condition

## Definition (Restricted Strong Convexity)

The matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  satisfies the *restricted strong convexity* (RSC) condition of order  $k$ , with parameters  $\mu > 0$ ,  $\alpha \geq 1$ , if for every  $\mathbf{l}$  of size at most  $k$  and for all nonzero  $\mathbf{h}$  satisfying  $\|\mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{l}^c}\|_1 \leq \alpha \|\mathbf{h}\|_1$ ,

$$\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}\|_2^2 \geq \mu \|\mathbf{h}\|_2^2. \quad (13)$$

## Lemma (Success from RSC Condition)

Suppose that  $\mathbf{A}$  satisfies the restricted strong convexity condition of order  $k$  with constant  $\alpha \geq 1$ , for some  $\mu > 0$ . Then for any  $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_o$ , with  $\|\mathbf{x}_o\|_0 \leq k$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_o$  is the unique optimal solution to the  $\ell^1$  problem

$$\min \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}. \quad (14)$$

# RIP Ensures Incoherence

## Lemma (RIP Ensures Incoherence of Images of Sparse Vectors)

If  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}$  are vectors with disjoint support, and  $|\text{supp}(\mathbf{x})| + |\text{supp}(\mathbf{z})| \leq k$ , then

$$|\langle \mathbf{Ax}, \mathbf{Az} \rangle| \leq \delta_k(\mathbf{A}) \|\mathbf{x}\|_2 \|\mathbf{z}\|_2. \quad (15)$$

## Proof.

WLOG,  $\|\mathbf{x}\|_2 = \|\mathbf{z}\|_2 = 1$ . Notice that  $\|\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}\|_2^2 - \|\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}\|_2^2 = 4\langle \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q} \rangle$ . Hence,

$$|\langle \mathbf{Ax}, \mathbf{Az} \rangle| \leq \frac{1}{4} \left| \|\mathbf{Ax} + \mathbf{Az}\|_2^2 - \|\mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{Az}\|_2^2 \right| \quad (16)$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{4} \left| (1 + \delta_k) \|\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{z}\|_2^2 - (1 - \delta_k) \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}\|_2^2 \right|. \quad (17)$$

Since  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{z}$  have disjoint support,  $\|\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{z}\|_2^2 = \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}\|_2^2 = 2$ . □

# Bounds between Norms

## Lemma (Bounds between Norms of Sparse Vectors)

For any vector  $z$  with  $\|z\|_0 \leq k$ ,  $\|z\|_1 \leq \sqrt{k} \|z\|_2$  and  $\|z\|_2 \leq \sqrt{k} \|z\|_\infty$ .

Proof.

First inequality: since  $x^2$  is a convex function, we have:

$$\left( \frac{a_1 + a_2 + \cdots + a_k}{k} \right)^2 \leq \frac{a_1^2 + a_2^2 + \cdots + a_k^2}{k}. \quad (18)$$

Second inequality:

$$\frac{a_1^2 + a_2^2 + \cdots + a_k^2}{k} \leq \max_j \{a_j^2\}. \quad (19)$$





# RIP Implies RSC

## Theorem (RIP Implies RSC)

*If a matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  satisfies RIP with  $\delta_{2k}(\mathbf{A}) < \frac{1}{1+\alpha\sqrt{2}}$ , then  $\mathbf{A}$  satisfies the RSC condition of order  $k$  with constant  $\alpha$ .*

**Proof (A Sketch):** We want to show:

$$\forall \mathbf{h} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|\mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{l}^c}\|_1 \leq \alpha \cdot \|\mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{l}}\|_1, |\mathbf{l}| = k \implies \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}\|_2 \geq \mu \|\mathbf{h}\|_2. \quad (20)$$

Partition the indices of the entries in  $\mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{l}^c}$  based on their magnitudes:

$J_1$  indexes the  $k$  largest (in magnitude) elements of  $\mathbf{h}_{\mathbf{l}^c}$ ,

$J_2$  indexes the  $k$  largest (in magnitude) elements of  $\mathbf{h}_{(\mathbf{l} \cup J_1)^c}$ ,

$J_3$  indexes the  $k$  largest (in magnitude) elements of  $\mathbf{h}_{(\mathbf{l} \cup J_1 \cup J_2)^c}$ ,

$\vdots$

Then  $\forall i \geq 1, \|\mathbf{h}_{J_i}\|_1 \geq k \cdot \|\mathbf{h}_{J_{i+1}}\|_\infty$ .

# RIP Implies RSC

## Proof (Continued):

**Step 1:** Since  $\mathbf{h}_I$  and  $\mathbf{h}_{J_1}$  likely have the largest entries, first try to show:

$$\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}\|_2 \geq C \|\mathbf{h}_{I \cup J_1}\|_2, \quad \text{for some } C > 0. \quad (21)$$

From  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_I + \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_{J_1} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_{J_2} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_{J_3} - \dots$ , we have:

$$\begin{aligned} (1 - \delta_{2k}) \|\mathbf{h}_{I \cup J_1}\|_2^2 &\leq \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_{I \cup J_1}\|_2^2 \\ &= \langle \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_I + \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_{J_1}, -\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_{J_2} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_{J_3} - \dots \rangle + \langle \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_I + \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_{J_1}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h} \rangle \\ &\leq \sum_{j=2}^{\infty} (|\langle \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_I, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_{J_j} \rangle| + |\langle \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_{J_1}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_{J_j} \rangle|) + \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}_{I \cup J_1}\|_2 \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}\|_2 \\ &\leq \delta_{2k} (\|\mathbf{h}_I\|_2 + \|\mathbf{h}_{J_1}\|_2) \sum_{j=2}^{\infty} \|\mathbf{h}_{J_j}\|_2 + (1 + \delta_{2k})^{1/2} \|\mathbf{h}_{I \cup J_1}\|_2 \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}\|_2 \\ &\leq \delta_{2k} \sqrt{2} \|\mathbf{h}_{I \cup J_1}\|_2 \|\mathbf{h}_{I^c}\|_1 / \sqrt{k} + (1 + \delta_{2k})^{1/2} \|\mathbf{h}_{I \cup J_1}\|_2 \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}\|_2. \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

# RIP Implies RSC

## Proof (Continued):

From the restricted cone condition, we have

$$\|\mathbf{h}_{I^c}\|_1 \leq \alpha \|\mathbf{h}_I\|_1 \leq \alpha \sqrt{k} \|\mathbf{h}_I\|_2 \leq \alpha \sqrt{k} \|\mathbf{h}_{I \cup J_1}\|_2. \quad (23)$$

This gives:

$$\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}\|_2 \geq \frac{1 - \delta_{2k}(1 + \alpha\sqrt{2})}{(1 + \delta_{2k})^{1/2}} \|\mathbf{h}_{I \cup J_1}\|_2. \quad (24)$$

**Step 2:** Try to show:

$$\|\mathbf{h}_{I \cup J_1}\|_2^2 \geq C' \|\mathbf{h}\|_2^2, \quad \text{for some } C' > 0. \quad (25)$$

Since the  $i$ -th element of  $\mathbf{h}_{(I \cup J_1)^c}$  is no larger than the mean of the first  $i$  elements of  $\mathbf{h}_{I^c}$ , we have

$$|\mathbf{h}_{(I \cup J_1)^c}|_{(i)} \leq \|\mathbf{h}_{I^c}\|_1 / i. \quad (26)$$

# RIP Implies RSC

## Proof (Continued):

Combining with the restriction (20), we have

$$\begin{aligned}\|\mathbf{h}_{(I \cup J_1)^c}\|_2^2 &\leq \|\mathbf{h}_{I^c}\|_1^2 \sum_{i=k+1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i^2} \leq \frac{\|\mathbf{h}_{I^c}\|_1^2}{k} \\ &\leq \frac{\alpha^2 \|\mathbf{h}_I\|_1^2}{k} \leq \alpha^2 \|\mathbf{h}_I\|_2^2 \leq \alpha^2 \|\mathbf{h}_{I \cup J_1}\|_2^2.\end{aligned}$$

So we have

$$\|\mathbf{h}\|_2^2 \leq (1 + \alpha^2) \|\mathbf{h}_{I \cup J_1}\|_2^2. \quad (27)$$

**Finally:** Combine the results:

$$\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{h}\|_2 \geq \frac{1 - \delta_{2k}(1 + \alpha\sqrt{2})}{(1 + \delta_{2k})^{1/2}\sqrt{1 + \alpha^2}} \|\mathbf{h}\|_2. \quad (28)$$

## RIP for $\ell^1$ Minimization

**Conclusion:** We need  $\delta_{2k} < \frac{1}{1+\alpha\sqrt{2}}$  to ensure RSC hence the NSP.  
For  $\ell^1$  minimization

$$\min \|x\|_1 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad y = Ax. \quad (29)$$

to succeed, we need

$$\forall h \in \text{null}(A) : \|h_{I^c}\|_1 \leq \|h_I\|_1,$$

hence  $\alpha = 1$  and the associated RIP constant should be:

$$\delta_{2k} < \frac{1}{1 + \sqrt{2}} = \sqrt{2} - 1.$$

**Next: what  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$  has a small RIP constant  $\delta_k$ ?**

# Assignments

- Reading: Section 3.3 Chapter 3.
- Programming Homework #1.