

Non-convex inverse problems: project Super-resolution

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General instructions

- You can use any programming language.
- You can use optimization toolboxes.
- If you reuse code written by someone else, you must cite your source.
- You must provide your code (and it must run without errors!). You should notably include the instructions you used to generate the pictures, so that I can reproduce them.
- The most important thing to me is that you describe, analyze and interpret correctly your numerical results, and relate them to the theory seen in class when relevant.
- If you are stuck, do not hesitate to send me an email describing your problem; I will try to help.
- You can write in either French or English.

We consider the problem discussed in class of recovering a signed measure on $[0; 1[$, which is a sum of a few Diracs, from its low-frequency Fourier coefficients:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{find } \mu \in \mathcal{M}_S \\ & \text{such that } \hat{\mu}[k] = y_k, \forall k = -f_c, \dots, f_c. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{SR})$$

Here, f_c is the *cutoff frequency*, S is the (known) number of Diracs, and y_{-f_c}, \dots, y_{f_c} are the available measurements. The set \mathcal{M}_S contains all measures which are sums of S Diracs:

$$\mathcal{M}_S = \left\{ \sum_{s=1}^S a_s \delta_{\tau_s}, a_1, \dots, a_S \in \mathbb{R}, \tau_1, \dots, \tau_S \in [0; 1[\right\}.$$

1. Implement a function which, given S , returns a random measure in \mathcal{M}_S . The positions of diracs must be uniformly and independently sampled in $[0; 1[$, and the weights independently chosen according to identical normal distributions.
(The measure may simply be represented as a pair containing the list of positions and the list of weights.)
2. Implement a function which, given S, f_c , returns a random measure μ_{sol} , as described in the previous question, and its low-frequency Fourier coefficients $(\hat{\mu}_{sol}[k])_{k=-f_c}^{f_c}$.

We propose to solve Problem (SR) through the total variation minimization approach described in class:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize } \|\mu\|_{TV}, \\ & \text{over all } \mu \in \mathcal{M}([0; 1]), \\ & \text{such that } \hat{\mu}[k] = y_k, \forall k = -f_c, \dots, f_c. \end{aligned}$$

To overcome the infinite-dimensionality of the search space, we approximate the unknown measure μ over $[0; 1[$ by a measure over $\left\{ \frac{0}{M}, \frac{1}{M}, \dots, \frac{M-1}{M} \right\}$, for some integer $M \in \mathbb{N}^*$ which must be adequately chosen. We denote the corresponding search space by

$$\mathcal{M}_{grid, M} = \left\{ \sum_{m=0}^{M-1} a_m \delta_{\frac{m}{M}}, a_0, \dots, a_{M-1} \in \mathbb{R} \right\}.$$

Concretely, we have to solve the following optimization problem.

$$\begin{aligned}
& \text{minimize} && \sum_{m=0}^{M-1} \left| \mu \left(\left\{ \frac{m}{M} \right\} \right) \right|, \\
& \text{over all} && \mu(0), \mu \left(\frac{1}{M} \right), \dots, \mu \left(\frac{M-1}{M} \right) \in \mathbb{R}, \quad (\text{SR-TV-grid}) \\
& \text{such that} && \sum_{m=0}^{M-1} \mu \left(\left\{ \frac{m}{M} \right\} \right) e^{-2\pi i k \frac{m}{M}} = y_k, \forall k = -f_c, \dots, f_c.
\end{aligned}$$

3. Implement a solver for this problem, which takes M as an input parameter.
4. For $S = 1, f_c = 2$, select a random instance of Problem (SR) using the function from Question 2.
 - a) Test your solver with several values of M going from 1 to 20. For a selection of values of M plot on the same figure the true measure, and the reconstruction returned by your solver.
 - b) Describe and comment your results.

From now on, we set $M = 100$.

5. a) Propose a notion of distance between elements of \mathcal{M}_S and $\mathcal{M}_{disc,M}$, which will allow to quantify the performance of (SR-TV-grid) for solving Problem (SR). Describe it and implement it.
 - b) Check your implementation: choose a few simple elements of \mathcal{M}_S and $\mathcal{M}_{disc,M}$. Compute the distance between them analytically. Check that your code returns the same result.
6. For $S = 1, \dots, 5$ and $f_c \in \{1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 13, 16, 20\}$, approximately compute the probability that, given a random instance of Problem (SR), with ground true measure μ_{sol} , its reconstruction μ_{rec} by your solver satisfies

$$\frac{\text{dist}(\mu_{sol}, \mu_{rec})}{\text{dist}(\mu_{sol}, 0)} < 0.05.$$

Here, dist is the distance that you have defined in the previous question, and “0” is the zero measure on $[0; 1[$.

(You can replace the threshold 0.05, which is somewhat arbitrary, by a different value if it seems more interesting.)

For each S , plot the probability as a function of f_c . Comment the results.

7. For $S = 4$ and $f_c = 8$, run the solver on several random instances. Try to formulate conjecture(s) about the properties of μ_{sol} which make the solver more likely to succeed or more likely to fail. Support your conjectures with well-chosen plots.
8. Problem (SR-TV-grid) can be seen as an instance of the ℓ_1 norm minimization problem used as a convex relaxation in compressed sensing. Do the results seen in class about the tightness of this convex relaxation say anything meaningful on (SR-TV-grid)?