# AN EXTENDED BLOCK RESTRICTED ISOMETRY PROPERTY FOR SPARSE RECOVERY WITH NON-GAUSSIAN NOISE\*

Klara Leffler<sup>1)</sup>

Department of Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics, Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden. Email: klara.leffler@umu.se

Zhiyong Zhou

Department of Statistics, Zhejiang University City College, Hangzhou, China.

 $Email:\ zhiyongzhou@zucc.edu.cn$ 

Jun Yu

Department of Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics, Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden. Email: jun.yu@umu.se

#### Abstract

We study the recovery conditions of weighted mixed  $\ell_2/\ell_p$  minimization for block sparse signal reconstruction from compressed measurements when partial block support information is available. We show theoretically that the extended block restricted isometry property can ensure robust recovery when the data fidelity constraint is expressed in terms of an  $\ell_q$  norm of the residual error, thus establishing a setting wherein we are not restricted to Gaussian measurement noise. We illustrate the results with a series of numerical experiments.

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## 1. Introduction

Recovering an unknown signal from significantly fewer measurements is a fundamental aspect in computational sciences today. The key ingredient here is the sparsity of the unknown signal – a realisation that has led to the theory of compressed sensing (CS) [1–3] through which successful recovery of high dimensional (approximately) sparse signals is now possible at a rate significantly lower than the Nyquist sampling rate. This allows an unknown signal  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$  to be successfully recovered via  $y = Ax + e \in \mathbb{R}^m, m \ll N$ , if x is (approximately) sparse in some transform domain, and the noise e satisfies  $||e||_2 \leq \epsilon$ , for  $\epsilon > 0$ . In short, recovery is possible if the measurement matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times N}$  satisfies the restricted isometry property (RIP):  $(1 - \delta_k) ||x||_2^2 \leq ||Ax||_2^2 \leq (1 + \delta_k) ||x||_2^2$  for any k-sparse x and some  $\delta_k \in [0, 1]$  [1]. Under such conditions, stable and robust recovery is guaranteed via the  $\ell_1$  minimization

$$\min_{z} \|z\|_1 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \|y - Az\|_2 \le \epsilon. \tag{1.1}$$

The question of how few measurements one might use was answered when it was shown that Gaussian random matrices satisfy the RIP with high probability, provided that  $m \ge Ck \log(eN/e^{-1})$ 

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1)</sup> Corresponding author

k), for some C > 0 [4]. Today, an interesting challenge lies in customizing the recovery process to take into account prior knowledge about e.g. signal structure and properties of noise present. However, so far no unified framework has been proposed for this purpose - something we aim to do in this paper.

In addition to pure sparsity, nonzero signal components may appear in clustered regions, either naturally or as a result of some sparsifying transformation. These 'blocks' occur in many real worlds scenarios such as genetics and image processing [5–7]. Incorporating the block structure into a CS recovery algorithm provides some immediate benefits in terms of reduction of the number of required measurements for stable recovery, and a more robust recovery via better differentiation of recovery artifacts [8].

Let x[i] define the *i*th block of a vector  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$  over the block index set  $\mathcal{I} = \{d_1, \ldots, d_n\}$ such that  $N = \sum_{i=1}^n d_i$ , and let the blocks be formed sequentially with length  $d_i$  of block *i* 

$$x = \underbrace{(\underbrace{x_1 \cdots x_d_1}_{x^T[1]}, \underbrace{x_{d_1+1} \cdots x_{d_1+d_2}}_{x^T[2]}, \cdots, \underbrace{x_{N-d_n+1} \cdots x_N}_{x^T[n]})^T.$$
(1.2)

We define a signal  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$  as block k-sparse over  $\mathcal{I}$  if x[i] is nonzero for at most k indices i, i.e., if  $||x||_{0,\mathcal{I}} \leq k$ , where  $||x||_{0,\mathcal{I}} = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{I}(||x[i]||_2 > 0)$ . The block structure of the unknown signal can be incorporated into the recovery process via a mixed minimization scheme using e.g. the  $\ell_2/\ell_1$  norm [9], or its nonconvex generalization, the  $\ell_2/\ell_p$  norm (0 [5,6], $where the mixed <math>\ell_2/\ell_p$  norm is defined as  $||x||_{2,p} = (\sum_{i=1}^n ||x[i]||_2^p)^{1/p}$ . The sufficient condition for the existence of an exact solution to (1.1) provided by the RIP has been generalized into the block sparse setting, thus guaranteeing exact and robust recovery of block sparse signals via both mixed  $\ell_2/\ell_1$  and  $\ell_2/\ell_p$  minimization [5,9].

It may furthermore be possible to draw an estimate of the support of the largest block components of a signal, e.g., when working with recursive reconstruction of time sequences of sparse spatial signals where support estimates of previous instances can be used to estimate the present ones [10–12]. Given a support estimate  $\tilde{T} \subset \{1, \ldots, N\}$ , one can incorporate the prior support information via a weighted minimization approach with weights  $\omega_i = \omega \in [0, 1]$  when  $i \in \tilde{T}$  and  $\omega_i = 1$  otherwise [10].

From a Bayesian point of view, the  $\ell_2$  fidelity constraint in (1.1) corresponds to a conditional loglikelihood associated with Gaussian white noise. The measurement noise might however not be Gaussian. This motivates an extension of the existing CS theory to one with a data fidelity constraint expressed in the  $\ell_q$  norm of the residual error. The case with k-sparse signals has been studied in [4, 13, 14] for  $q \geq 2$  and in [15] for  $0 \leq q < 2$ . A sufficient condition for sparse recovery from noisy measurements with non-Gaussian noise is given by an extension of the RIP [13], wherein the measurement matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times N}$  is said to satisfy the extended restricted isometry property (RIP<sub>q,2</sub>) of order k if there exists a  $\delta_k \in (0, 1)$  such that  $\mu_{q,2}^2(1-\delta_k)||x||_2^2 \leq ||Ax||_q^2 \leq \mu_{q,2}^2(1+\delta_k)||x||_2^2$ , for any k-sparse vector x and some  $\mu_{q,2} > 0$ . A natural question is whether one can find an optimal  $\ell_q$  constraint for specific noise types. We expand the existing results to investigate possible q-optimality for block-sparse signals with partially known block support.

Consider an arbitrary signal  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ , defined as (1.2), with  $x^k$  as its best block k-sparse approximation. Let  $T_0$  be the block support of  $x^k$ , where  $T_0 \subset \{1, \ldots, n\}$  and  $|T_0| \leq k$ . Let  $\tilde{T} \subset \{1, \ldots, n\}$  be the block support estimate, where  $|\tilde{T}| = \rho k$  and  $0 \leq \rho \leq a$  for some a > 1and  $|\tilde{T} \cap T_0| = \alpha \rho k$  (for interpretation of  $\rho$  and  $\alpha$  see [10]). We define the weighted mixed  $\ell_2/\ell_p$  minimization with an  $\ell_q$  constraint of the fidelity term as

$$\min_{z} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \omega_{i} \|z[i]\|_{2}^{p}, \quad \text{s.t. } \|y - Az\|_{q} \le \epsilon,$$
(1.3)

where  $\omega_i = \omega \in [0, 1]$  if  $i \in \tilde{T}$  and  $\omega_i = 1$  otherwise,  $0 , and <math>0 \leq q < \infty$ . We present a sufficient condition for robust recovery of (approximately) block-sparse signals via a weighted mixed  $\ell_2/\ell_p$  minimization with an  $\ell_q$  data fidelity constraint in Section 2, thereby suggesting a unified framework for prior data knowledge in terms of structure and noise properties. Our recovery algorithm is based on convex optimization and an iteratively re-weighted least squares (IRLS) approach and is presented in Section 3, together with numerical experiments that verify our results.

## 2. An Extended Block Restricted Isometry Property

In this section, we introduce the extended block restricted isometry property as a sufficient condition for robust recovery via the weighted mixed  $\ell_2/\ell_p$  minimization with an  $\ell_q$  error constraint. Extending the RIP has an advantage in the sense of an increased probability to satisfy the property. This means that more sensing matrices can be used in compressed sensing and allows for recovery of signals with more non-zero entries, i.e., less sparse signals, given that the signal sparsity follows a block structure. By taking advantage of explicit block structure, reconstruction performance can be improved [13, 16, 17].

**Definition 2.1.** A measurement matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times N}$  satisfies the extended block restricted isometry property (BRIP<sub>q,2</sub>),  $q \geq 2$ , over  $\mathcal{I} = \{d_1, \dots, d_n\}$  of order k if

$$\mu_{q,2}^2(1-\delta_{k|\mathcal{I}})\|x\|_2^2 \le \|Ax\|_q^2 \le \mu_{q,2}^2(1+\delta_{k|\mathcal{I}})\|x\|_2^2$$

for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$  that are block k-sparse over  $\mathcal{I}$ , some  $\mu_{q,2} > 0$  and a  $BRIP_{q,2}$  constant  $\delta_{k|\mathcal{I}} \in [0,1]$ .

Note that for q = 2 we have  $\mu_{q,2} = 1$ , and the definition corresponds to that of the block RIP in [9]. For convenience, we will use the notation  $\delta_k$  for the BRIP<sub>q,2</sub> constant  $\delta_{k|\mathcal{I}}$  when there is no confusion. The following theorem provides a guarantee of robust recovery as a consequence of the BRIP<sub>q,2</sub>.

**Theorem 2.1.** Let the best block k-sparse approximation of  $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $x^k$ , be supported on the block index set  $T_0$ . Define  $y = Ax + e \in \mathbb{R}^m$  with  $||e||_q \leq \epsilon$ . Let  $\tilde{T} \subset \{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$  be an arbitrary set, and define  $\rho$  and  $\alpha$  as before such that  $|\tilde{T}| = \rho k$  and  $|T_0 \cap \tilde{T}| = \alpha \rho k$ . Suppose that there exists an  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ , with  $a \geq (1 - \alpha)\rho$ , a > 1.

(i) For  $2 \leq q < \infty$ , the measurement matrix A satisfies the  $BRIP_{q,2}$  with

$$(1 - \delta_{(a+1)k})^p - a^{p/2 - 1} \gamma c_q^p > 0,$$

then the solution  $x^{\sharp}$  of problem (1.3) satisfies

$$\|x^{\sharp} - x\|_{2}^{p} \le C_{1} \frac{\epsilon^{p}}{\mu_{q,2}^{p}} + C_{2} k^{p/2 - 1} \tilde{\omega}$$
(2.1)

for some positive constants  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ .

(ii) For  $0 \le q < 2$  and exactly block k-sparse x, the measurement matrix A satisfies the  $BRIP_{2,2}$  with

$$(1 - \delta_{(a+1)k})^p - \delta_{(2a+1)k}^p a^{p/2-1} \gamma > 0,$$

then the solution  $x^{\sharp}$  of problem (1.3) satisfies

$$\|x^{\sharp} - x\|_2^p \le C_3 \epsilon^p \tag{2.2}$$

for some positive constant  $C_3$ .

**Remark 2.1.** We have  $\gamma = \omega + (1 - \omega)(1 + \rho - 2\alpha\rho)^{1-p/2}$  and  $\tilde{\omega} = \omega ||x_{T_0^c}||_{2,p}^p + (1 - \omega)||$  $x_{\tilde{T}^c \cap T_0^c}||_{2,p}^p$  for some given  $0 \le \omega \le 1$ , and  $c_q = C_q(A, (a+1)k, ak)$  with

$$C_{q}(A,k,k') = \min\left\{ \left[ (\delta_{k} + \delta_{k+k'}) \left( \delta_{k'} + \delta_{k+k'} + \tilde{q}(1+\delta_{k}) \right) \right]^{1/2}, \\ \left[ \left( \delta_{k+k'} + \tilde{q} \frac{1+\delta_{k+k'}}{2} \right) \left( \delta_{k+k'} + \tilde{q} \frac{2+\delta_{k'}+\delta_{k+k'}}{2} \right) \right]^{1/2} \right\}.$$
 (2.3)

where  $\tilde{q} = q - 2$ .

**Remark 2.2.** The constants  $C_1$ ,  $C_2$  and  $C_3$  are explicitly given by the following expressions:

$$C_{1} = \frac{2^{p}(1+a^{p/2-1}\gamma)(1+\delta_{(a+1)k})^{p/2}}{(1-\delta_{(a+1)k})^{p}-a^{p/2-1}\gamma c_{q}^{p}},$$

$$C_{2} = 2a^{p/2-1} \left[ \frac{c_{q}^{p}(1+a^{p/2-1}\gamma)}{(1-\delta_{(a+1)k})^{p}-a^{p/2-1}\gamma c_{q}^{p}} + 1 \right],$$

$$C_{3} = \frac{2^{p}(1+a^{p/2-1}\gamma)(1+\delta_{(a+1)k})^{p/2}}{(1-\delta_{(a+1)k})^{p}-\delta_{(2a+1)k}^{p}a^{p/2-1}\gamma}.$$

Remark 2.3. For Theorem 2.1 to hold, it is sufficient that

(i) For  $2 \leq q < \infty$ , the measurements matrix A satisfies

$$\delta_{(a+1)k} < 1 - \left(a^{p/2-1} \left(\omega + (1-\omega)(1+\rho - 2\alpha\rho)^{1-p/2}\right)\right)^{1/p} c_q^2.$$

(ii) For  $0 \le q < 2$ , the measurements matrix A satisfies

$$\delta_{(2a+1)k} < \frac{1}{1 + \left(a^{p/2 - 1}\left(\omega + (1 - \omega)(1 + \rho - 2\alpha\rho)^{1 - p/2}\right)\right)^{1/p}}$$

An illustration of how the slightly stronger sufficient condition given in Remark 2.3 varies with choices of  $\omega$ ,  $\alpha$  and p for non-Gaussian noise is shown in Fig. 2.1. We observe that the condition on the extended block restricted isometry constant (BRIC<sub>q,2</sub>) weakens as the support estimate accuracy  $\alpha$  increases, thus allowing for a wider class of measurement matrices A. Furthermore,



Fig. 2.1. Comparison of the sufficient conditions for recovery for the weighted mixed  $\ell_2/\ell_p$  minimization with an  $\ell_q$  error constraint for various choices of weights, accuracy levels and p. I all figures, we fix a = 3,  $\rho = 1$  and q = 1.

for each choice of p and  $\alpha > 0.5$ , the condition weakens with increased weights  $\omega$ . The opposite occurs for  $\alpha < 0.5$ , and for  $\alpha = 0.5$  the condition remains the same. This is to be expected since the weights are constructed such that zero-expected blocks are penalized more. From another point of view, the sufficient condition on the BRIC<sub>q,2</sub> weakens as p decreases, which reflects the benefits of non-convex minimisation.

Note that the result for exactly block-sparse signals follows from letting  $\epsilon = 0$ , and that letting q = 2 reduces the result to Theorem 1 in [7]. A crucial step in the proof of Theorem 2.1 (see Appendix A) is specified in Lemma 2.1, which is based on the geometrical description of the  $\ell_q$  norm.

**Lemma 2.1.** Let  $u, v \in \mathbb{R}^N$  be block k-sparse and block k'-sparse, respectively, with disjoint supports. If  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times N}$  satisfies the  $BRIP_{q,2}$   $(2 \le q < \infty)$  of order k + k' with constant  $\delta_{k+k'}$ , and of orders k and k' with constants  $\delta_k$  and  $\delta_{k'}$ , respectively, then

$$|\langle J(Au), Av \rangle| \le \mu_{q,2}^2 C_q(A, k, k') ||u||_2 ||v||_2, \tag{2.4}$$

where  $J(u)_i = ||u||_q^{2-q} |u_i|^{q-1} \operatorname{sign}(u_i)$  and  $C_q(A, k, k')$  is as defined in (2.3).

The proof of Lemma 2.1 follows from the proof of Lemma 2 in [13] and is hence omitted here.

#### 3. Simulations

In this section, we present a simulation study to illustrate the benefits of a weighted mixed  $\ell_2/\ell_p$  minimisation with an  $\ell_q$  constraint for recovery of (approximately) block k-sparse signals with partially known block support. For the case of p = 1 and  $q \ge 1$ , the problem is convex and can be solved directly with the CVX toolbox for Matlab [18]. However, for 0 or <math>q < 1 the problem is no longer convex. We therefore adopt an IRLS-inspired approach, a methodology widely used for nonconvex recovery of sparse signals [5, 19, 20]. Our approach

consists in approximating both norms in (1.3) by weighted  $\ell_2$  norms and hence solves

$$\min_{x} \|Wx\|_{2}, \quad \text{s.t.} \begin{cases} \|V(y - Ax)\|_{2} \le \epsilon, & 0 \le q < 1\\ \|y - Ax\|_{q} \le \epsilon, & 1 \le q < \infty \end{cases} \tag{3.1}$$

where V and W are diagonal weight matrices with entries

$$\left(\frac{2}{q}\left(\|y - Ax\|_{2}^{2} + \xi\right)^{q/2-1}\right)^{1/2} \text{ and } \left(p\omega_{i}^{2/p}\left(\|\omega_{i}^{1/p}x[i]\|_{2}^{2} + \xi\right)^{p/2-1}\right)^{1/2},$$

respectively, updated prior to each iteration. These forms of weight matrices lead to perfect approximations of the desired norms when the solution converges [5,21–24]. The value of the perturbation parameter  $\xi$  is iteratively decreased so that it is negligible when the solution converges. With (3.1) as our objective function, the problem is convex and can be solved using CVX [18] via the following algorithm

## Algorithm 3.1.

- 1. Set t = 0,  $\xi = 1$ , and initialize by solving  $x^{(0)} = \arg \min ||y Ax||_2^2$ .
- 2. Set t = t + 1 and solve for  $x^{(t)}$  using (3.1).
- 3. Decrease  $\xi$  as  $\xi = 0.9\xi$ .
- 4. Evaluate convergence according to  $\frac{\|x^{(t)}-x^{(t-1)}\|_2}{\|x^{(t)}\|_2}$  and stop if it is less than  $10^{-4}$ . Otherwise, go to 2.

In our experiments, the measurement matrix A was generated by creating a  $m \times N$  matrix with i.i.d. draws from a standard Gaussian distribution. The measurements y were observed from a noisy model  $y = Ax + \sigma u$ , where u represents noise drawn from a chosen distribution. The purpose of the experiments was to compare the recovery performance of the mixed  $\ell_2/\ell_p$  method for block-sparse signals in the presence of different types of noise, with respect to the  $\ell_q$  constraint. In this work, we consider noise from the Gaussian, uniform, beta, Laplace and Poisson distributions, as well as highly impulsive noise.

We simulated block k-sparse signals of length N = 200, generated by uniformly choosing k blocks of length d = 5 at random and then for these k blocks choosing non-zero values from the standard Gaussian distribution. All signals were corrupted by noise at a level of  $\sigma = 0.1$ . The performance was measured in terms of the signal to noise ratio

$$SNR = 20 \log_{10} \left( \frac{\|x\|_2}{\|x - x^{\sharp}\|_2} \right)$$

where x represents the true signal and  $x^{\sharp}$  the reconstruction. In this work, the signal to noise ratio is consistently presented as an average from 20 simulation runs.



Fig. 3.1. Comparison of reconstruction performance via adaptive and non-adaptive recovery. Signals were corrupted with uniform noise on [-0.5, 0.5] and recovery was performed with  $k = 5, \omega = 0.3$  and  $\alpha = 0.8$ .



Fig. 3.2. Reconstruction performance versus support estimate size for various choices of weights, accuracy levels and sparsity levels. Signals were corrupted with uniform noise on [-0.5, 0.5] and recovery was performed with p = 0.6, q = 3, k = 6 and m = 80.

The results indicate an overall higher reconstruction performance for values of p < 1, active block treatment and adaptive choices of q, especially for lower proportions of available measurements, see Fig. 3.1. We observe that the pairings of  $\alpha$  and  $\omega$  seen in Fig. 2.1 do not entirely match with experimental results, which indicate an overall lower performance for very low values of  $\omega$ , see Figs. 3.2-3.3. This behaviour can partly be explained by situations where we cannot recover the full support of the unknown signal. Lower weight choices will then be more harshly penalised. In these situations, we expect intermediate weight choices to result in the best performance [10]. The results furthermore indicate that less sparse signals are more sensitive to choices of weights, in particular as the estimated support size increases. Moreover, we observe a small increase in performance from lower to higher accuracy levels for lower proportions of available measurements. As an example, for signals with block-sparsity k = 6, the



Fig. 3.3. Reconstruction performance versus number of measurements for various choices of weights, accuracy levels and sparsity levels. Signals were corrupted with uniform noise on [-0.5, 0.5] and recovery was performed with p = 0.6, q = 3, k = 6 and  $\rho = 1$ .

relative improvement in SNR from  $\alpha = 0.2$  to  $\alpha = 0.8$  when  $\omega = 0.7$  and m = 40 is 13.4%, see Fig. 3.3.

Fig. 3.4 illustrates the effect of the  $\ell_q$  constraint for different noise models. As expected, optimal reconstruction performance was achieved at q = 2 for standard Gaussian noise and at q = 1 for Laplacian noise (see, e.g., [4]). In addition, optimal q-values for several other types of noise distributions were found, thereby clearly illustrating the benefits of the adaptive  $\ell_q$  norm.



Fig. 3.4. Reconstruction performance for different noise types: standard Gaussian, uniform on [-0.5, 0.5], beta with (0.5, 0.5), Laplace with (0, 1), Poisson with rate  $\exp{\{\bar{x}\}}$ , and highly impulsive noise. Recovery was performed with p = 0.6, m = 80, k = 5, d = 5,  $\omega = 0.3$ , and 80% support knowledge accuracy. Top right: Zoom of performance for standard Gaussian and Laplace noise.

### 4. Conclusion

The objective of this work was to introduce a noise-aware model-based approach to compressed sensing for block-sparse signals. We have shown theoretically that the reconstruction error of the presented optimization is bounded by the noise level if the measurement matrix satisfies an extended block restricted isometry property, and experimentally that our method exhibits a substantial increase in reconstruction quality for highly under-sampled signals compared to existing methods that do not incorporate signal structure. Furthermore, our method provides guidance concerning optimal norm constraints for different noise models.

## A. Proof of Theorem 2.1

*Proof.* [The case when  $2 \le q < \infty$ ] Let  $x^{\sharp} = x + h$  be a solution of the optimization problem (1.3), with x as the unknown true signal. Let  $x_T$  denote a vector equal to x on the block index set T and zero elsewhere. Then

$$\omega \|x_{\tilde{T}} + h_{\tilde{T}}\|_{2,p}^{p} + \|x_{\tilde{T}^{c}} + h_{\tilde{T}^{c}}\|_{2,p}^{p} \le \omega \|x_{\tilde{T}}\|_{2,p}^{p} + \|x_{\tilde{T}^{c}}\|_{2,p}^{p}.$$

Let  $\tilde{T}_{\alpha} = T_0 \cap \tilde{T}$ . Applying the forward and reverse triangle inequalities together with some manipulations yields

$$\|h_{T_0^c}\|_{2,p}^p \leq \omega \|h_{T_0}\|_{2,p}^p + (1-\omega)\|h_{(T_0\cup\tilde{T})\setminus\tilde{T}_\alpha}\|_{2,p}^p + 2\Big(\omega \|x_{T_0^c}\|_{2,p}^p + (1-\omega)\|x_{\tilde{T}^c\cap T_0^c}\|_{2,p}^p\Big).$$
(A.1)

Next, decompose  $h_{T_0^c}$  by partitioning  $T_0^c$  into disjoint block index sets  $T_j$   $(j \ge 1)$  such that each  $T_j$  consists of ak blocks (a > 1), i.e.  $T_1$  indexes the ak blocks with the largest  $\ell_2$  norm of  $h_{T_0^c}$ ,  $T_2$  indexes the ak blocks with the second largest  $\ell_2$  norm of  $h_{T_0^c}$ , and so on. As a result  $h_{T_0^c} = \sum_{j\ge 1} h_{T_j}$ , with  $\|h_{T_j}\|_2^p \le (ak)^{p/2-1} \|h_{T_{j-1}}\|_{2,p}^p$  so that

$$\sum_{j\geq 2} \|h_{T_j}\|_2^p \leq (ak)^{p/2-1} \|h_{T_0^c}\|_{2,p}^p$$

and since  $||h_{(T_0 \cup T_1)^c}||_2 \le (ak)^{1/2 - 1/p} \sum_{j \ge 1} ||h_{T_j}||_{2,p}$  we get

$$\|h_{(T_0\cup T_1)^c}\|_2^p \le (ak)^{p/2-1} \|h_{T_0^c}\|_{2,p}^p.$$
(A.2)

Let  $T_{01} = T_0 \cup T_1$ , and combine expressions (A.1) and (A.2) into

$$\|h_{T_{01}^{c}}\|_{2}^{p} \leq (ak)^{p/2-1} \left[ \omega \|h_{T_{0}}\|_{2,p}^{p} + (1-\omega) \|h_{(T_{0}\cup\tilde{T})\setminus\tilde{T}_{\alpha}}\|_{2,p}^{p} + 2 \left( \omega \|x_{T_{0}^{c}}\|_{2,p}^{p} + (1-\omega) \|x_{\tilde{T}^{c}\cap T_{0}^{c}}\|_{2,p}^{p} \right) \right].$$
(A.3)

From the definition of J we have

$$||Ah_{T_{01}}||_q^2 \le \langle J(Ah_{T_{01}}), Ah \rangle + \sum_{j \ge 2} |\langle J(Ah_{T_{01}}), Ah_{T_j} \rangle|.$$

Taking the *p*th power and using the fact that  $(b+c)^p \le b^p + c^p$ , for any b, c > 0 and 0 , we get

$$\|Ah_{T_{01}}\|_{q}^{2p} \leq \left(\langle J(Ah_{T_{01}}), Ah\rangle\right)^{p} + \sum_{j\geq 2} \left(|\langle J(Ah_{T_{01}}), Ah_{T_{j}}\rangle|\right)^{p}.$$
 (A.4)

As x and  $x^{\sharp}$  are both feasible solutions of (1.3), we have

$$||Ah||_q \le ||Ax - y||_q + ||Ax^{\sharp} - y||_q \le 2\epsilon,$$

and since A satisfies  $\mathrm{BRIP}_{q,2},$  applying Holder's inequality with parameters  $r=\frac{q}{1-q}$  and s=q yields

$$\langle J(Ah_{T_{01}}), Ah \rangle \le 2\epsilon \mu_{q,2} (1 + \delta_{(a+1)k})^{1/2} ||h_{T_{01}}||_2.$$
 (A.5)

Lemma 2.1 furthermore gives

$$|\langle J(Ah_{T_{01}}), Ah_{T_j} \rangle| \le \mu_{q,2}^2 c_q ||h_{T_{01}}||_2 ||h_{T_j}||_2$$
(A.6)

with  $c_q = C_q(A, (a+1)k, ak)$ . Combining (A.4)–(A.6), and applying the BRIP<sub>q,2</sub>, we get

$$\mu_{q,2}^{p}(1-\delta_{(a+1)k})^{p}\|h_{T_{01}}\|_{2}^{p} \leq (2\epsilon)^{p}(1+\delta_{(a+1)k})^{p/2} + \mu_{q,2}^{p}c_{q}^{p}\|h_{T_{01}^{c}}\|_{2}^{p}.$$
(A.7)

The  $ak \ (a > 1)$  largest coefficients of  $h_{T_0^c}$  are contained in the set  $T_1$ , and we have  $|(T_0 \cup \tilde{T}) \setminus \tilde{T}_{\alpha}| = (1 + \rho - 2\alpha\rho)k$  as well as  $|\tilde{T} \setminus \tilde{T}_{\alpha}| = (1 - \alpha)\rho k \le ak$ , so

$$\begin{aligned} \|h_{(T_0\cup\tilde{T})\setminus\tilde{T}_{\alpha}}\|_{2,p}^p &\leq \left[(1+\rho-2\alpha\rho)k\right]^{1-p/2} \|h_{T_{01}}\|_2^p, \\ \|h_{T_0}\|_{2,p}^p &\leq k^{1-p/2} \|h_{T_0}\|_2^p \leq k^{1-p/2} \|h_{T_{01}}\|_2^p. \end{aligned}$$

Together with (A.3) and (A.7) we thus get

$$\mu_{q,2}^{p}(1-\delta_{(a+1)k})^{p}\|h_{T_{01}}\|_{2}^{p} \leq (2\epsilon)^{p}(1+\delta_{(a+1)k})^{p/2} + \mu^{2}c_{q}^{p}a^{p/2-1}\Big(\gamma\|h_{T_{01}}\|_{2}^{p} + 2k^{p/2-1}\tilde{\omega}\Big),$$

where  $\tilde{\omega} = \omega \|x_{T_0^c}\|_{2,p}^p + (1-\omega) \|x_{\tilde{T}^c \cap T_0^c}\|_{2,p}^p$  and  $\gamma = \omega + (1-\omega) [(1+\rho-2\alpha\rho)]^{1-p/2}$ . Rearranging the terms yields

$$\mu_{q,2}^{p} \Big[ (1 - \delta_{(a+1)k})^{p} - a^{p/2 - 1} \gamma c_{q}^{p} \Big] \|h_{T_{01}}\|_{2}^{p} \\ \leq (2\epsilon)^{p} (1 + \delta_{(a+1)k})^{p/2} + 2\mu_{q,2}^{p} c_{q}^{p} (ak)^{p/2 - 1} \tilde{\omega}$$

Therefore, if  $(1 - \delta_{(a+1)k})^p - a^{p/2-1}\gamma c_q^p > 0$ , we get

$$\|h_{T_{01}}\|_{2}^{p} \leq \frac{(2\epsilon)^{p}(1+\delta_{(a+1)k})^{p/2}+2\mu_{q,2}^{p}c_{q}^{p}(ak)^{p/2-1}\tilde{\omega}}{\mu_{q,2}^{p}\left[(1-\delta_{(a+1)k})^{p}-a^{p/2-1}\gamma c_{q}^{p}\right]}.$$
(A.8)

So in the end

$$\begin{aligned} \|x - x^{\sharp}\|_{2}^{p} &\leq \frac{2^{p}(1 + a^{p/2-1}\gamma)(1 + \delta_{(a+1)k})^{p/2}}{(1 - \delta_{(a+1)k})^{p} - a^{p/2-1}\gamma c_{q}^{p}} \frac{\epsilon^{p}}{\mu_{q,2}^{p}} \\ &+ 2(ak)^{p/2-1}\tilde{\omega} \left[\frac{c_{q}^{p}(1 + a^{p/2-1}\gamma)}{(1 - \delta_{(a+1)k})^{p} - a^{p/2-1}\gamma c_{q}^{p}} + 1\right], \end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof for  $q \geq 2$ .

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[The case when  $0 \le q < 2$ ] According to the arguments in the first part of the proof, with the changed assumption that the measurement matrix A satisfies the BRIP<sub>2,2</sub>, we have

$$||Ah_{T_{01}}||_2^2 \le \langle Ah_{T_{01}}, Ah \rangle + \sum_{j \ge 2} |\langle Ah_{T_{01}}, Ah_{T_j} \rangle|.$$

Taking the *p*th power and using the fact that  $(b+c)^p \le b^p + c^p$ , for any  $b, c \ge 0$  and 0 , we have

$$\|Ah_{T_{01}}\|_{2}^{2p} \leq \left(\langle Ah_{T_{01}}, Ah\rangle\right)^{p} + \sum_{j\geq 2} \left(|\langle Ah_{T_{01}}, Ah_{T_{j}}\rangle|\right)^{p}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \langle Ah_{T_{01}}, Ah \rangle &\leq (1 + \delta_{(a+1)k})^{1/2} \|h_{T_{01}}\|_2 \|Ah\|_2, \\ |\langle Ah_{T_{01}}, Ah_{T_j} \rangle| &\leq \delta_{(2a+1)k} \|h_{T_{01}}\|_2 \|h_{T_j}\|_2. \end{aligned}$$

Combining these results, we get

$$(1 - \delta_{(a+1)k})^p \|h_{T_{01}}\|_2^p \le (1 + \delta_{(a+1)k})^{p/2} \|Ah\|_2^p + \delta_{(2a+1)k}^p \|h_{T_{01}^c}\|_2^p.$$
(A.9)

If we consider x as exactly block k-sparse and supported on  $T_0$ , then by adopting (A.3) we have

$$\|h_{T_{01}^c}\|_2^p \le a^{p/2-1}\gamma \|h_{T_{01}}\|_2^p \tag{A.10}$$

with  $\gamma = \omega + (1 - \omega)(1 + \rho - 2\alpha\rho)^{1-p/2}$ . Together, (A.9) and (A.10) yield

$$\|h_{T_{01}}\|_{2}^{p} \leq \frac{(1+\delta_{(a+1)k})^{p/2}}{(1-\delta_{(a+1)k})^{p}-\delta_{(2a+1)k}a^{p/2-1}\gamma} \|Ah\|_{2}^{p},$$

where  $||Ah||_2 \le ||Ax^{\sharp} - y||_2 + ||Ax - y||_2 \le ||Ax^{\sharp} - y||_q + ||Ax - y||_q \le 2\epsilon$  for  $0 \le q < 2$ . So, finally, we get

$$\|x - x^{\sharp}\|_{2}^{p} \le (1 + a^{p/2 - 1}\gamma) \frac{(1 + \delta_{(a+1)k})^{p/2}}{(1 - \delta_{(a+1)k})^{p} - \delta_{(2a+1)k}^{p} a^{p/2 - 1}\gamma} (2\epsilon)^{p}$$

which completes the proof.

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