

For completeness, let us re-state the main iteration of hard thresholding gradient descent methods:

$$\bar{\mathbf{x}}_i = \mathbf{x}_i - \frac{\mu_i}{2} \nabla f(\mathbf{x}_i), \quad \mathbf{x}_{i+1} = \mathcal{P}_{\Sigma_k}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_i), \quad (1)$$

where we assume that $\mu_i > 0$ is an iteration dependent step size selection and $\mathcal{P}_{\Sigma_k}(\cdot)$ is the hard-thresholding operation. By the definition of the hard thresholding operation $\mathcal{P}_{\Sigma_k}(\cdot)$, at the i -th iteration, \mathbf{x}_{i+1} is a better k -sparse approximation to $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_i$ than \mathbf{x}^* . This translates into:

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbf{x}_{i+1} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i\|_2^2 &\leq \|\mathbf{x}^* - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i\|_2^2 \Rightarrow \\ \|\mathbf{x}_{i+1} - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2 + \|\mathbf{x}^* - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i\|_2^2 + 2\langle \mathbf{x}_{i+1} - \mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{x}^* - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i \rangle &\leq \|\mathbf{x}^* - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i\|_2^2 \Rightarrow \\ \|\mathbf{x}_{i+1} - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2 &\leq 2\langle \mathbf{x}_{i+1} - \mathbf{x}^*, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i - \mathbf{x}^* \rangle \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

However, we observe that:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\mathbf{x}}_i &:= \mathbf{x}_i - \frac{\mu_i}{2} \nabla f(\mathbf{x}_i) = \mathbf{x}_i + \mu_i \Phi^\top (\mathbf{y} - \Phi \mathbf{x}_i) && \text{(By definition of } \nabla f(\mathbf{x}_i)) \\ &= \mathbf{x}_i + \mu_i \Phi^\top (\Phi \mathbf{x}^* + \mathbf{w} - \Phi \mathbf{x}_i) && \text{(by } \mathbf{y} = \Phi \mathbf{x}^* + \mathbf{w}) \\ &= \mathbf{x}_i + \mu_i \Phi^\top \Phi (\mathbf{x}^* - \mathbf{x}_i) + \mu_i \Phi^\top \mathbf{w} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Combining (2) and (3), we obtain:

$$\|\mathbf{x}_{i+1} - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2 \leq 2\langle \mathbf{x}_{i+1} - \mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{x}_i + \mu_i \Phi^\top \Phi (\mathbf{x}^* - \mathbf{x}_i) + \mu_i \Phi^\top \mathbf{w} - \mathbf{x}^* \rangle \quad (4)$$

“Massaging” the right hand side of (4) further, observe that the following two applications of the linear map are present in the inequality above:

$$\langle \Phi (\mathbf{x}_{i+1} - \mathbf{x}^*), \mu_i \Phi (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}^*) \rangle + \mu_i \langle \Phi (\mathbf{x}_{i+1} - \mathbf{x}^*), \mathbf{w} \rangle \quad (5)$$

Let $\mathcal{S}^* := \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^*)$, $\mathcal{S}_{i+1} := \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}_{i+1})$ and $\mathcal{S}_i := \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}_i)$; in all cases, $|\mathcal{S}^*| \leq k$, $|\mathcal{S}_{i+1}| \leq k$ and $|\mathcal{S}_i| \leq k$. Thus, the above can be equivalently written as:

$$\langle \Phi_{\mathcal{S}_{i+1} \cup \mathcal{S}^*} (\mathbf{x}_{i+1} - \mathbf{x}^*), \mu_i \Phi_{\mathcal{S}_i \cup \mathcal{S}^*} (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}^*) \rangle + \mu_i \langle \Phi_{\mathcal{S}_{i+1} \cup \mathcal{S}^*} (\mathbf{x}_{i+1} - \mathbf{x}^*), \mathbf{w} \rangle$$

where $\Phi_{\mathcal{S}}$ is the submatrix in Φ , restricted in the columns indexed in \mathcal{S} . Let $\mathcal{A} := \mathcal{S}^* \cup \mathcal{S}_{i+1} \cup \mathcal{S}_i$ which satisfies $|\mathcal{A}| \leq 3k$. Then, one can easily observe that in the inequality above, we can restrict the “active” columns in Φ to those indexed by \mathcal{A} , such that (5) is equal to:

$$\langle \Phi_{\mathcal{A}} (\mathbf{x}_{i+1} - \mathbf{x}^*), \mu_i \Phi_{\mathcal{A}} (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}^*) \rangle + \mu_i \langle \Phi_{\mathcal{A}} (\mathbf{x}_{i+1} - \mathbf{x}^*), \mathbf{w} \rangle$$

Combining the above with (4) and applying the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality iteratively, we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbf{x}_{i+1} - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2 &\leq 2\langle \mathbf{x}_{i+1} - \mathbf{x}^*, (\mathbf{I} - \mu_i \Phi_{\mathcal{A}}^\top \Phi_{\mathcal{A}}) (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}^*) \rangle + 2\mu_i \langle \Phi_{\mathcal{A}} (\mathbf{x}_{i+1} - \mathbf{x}^*), \mathbf{w} \rangle \\ &\leq 2\|\mathbf{x}_{i+1} - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2 \cdot \|(\mathbf{I} - \mu_i \Phi_{\mathcal{A}}^\top \Phi_{\mathcal{A}}) (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}^*)\|_2 + 2\mu_i \|\Phi_{\mathcal{A}} (\mathbf{x}_{i+1} - \mathbf{x}^*)\|_2 \|\mathbf{w}\|_2 \\ &\leq 2\|\mathbf{x}_{i+1} - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2 \cdot \|\mathbf{I} - \mu_i \Phi_{\mathcal{A}}^\top \Phi_{\mathcal{A}}\|_2 \|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2 + 2\mu_i \|\Phi_{\mathcal{A}} (\mathbf{x}_{i+1} - \mathbf{x}^*)\|_2 \|\mathbf{w}\|_2 \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

and, thus,

$$\|\mathbf{x}_{i+1} - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2 \leq 2\|\mathbf{I} - \mu_i \Phi_{\mathcal{A}}^\top \Phi_{\mathcal{A}}\|_2 \|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2 + 2\mu_i \sqrt{\beta_{2k}} \|\mathbf{w}\|_2.$$

due to non-symmetric RIP. Observe that

$$\|\mathbf{I} - \mu_i \Phi_{\mathcal{A}}^\top \Phi_{\mathcal{A}}\|_2 \leq \max \{ \mu_i \lambda_{\max}(\Phi_{\mathcal{A}}^\top \Phi_{\mathcal{A}}) - 1, 1 - \mu_i \lambda_{\min}(\Phi_{\mathcal{A}}^\top \Phi_{\mathcal{A}}) \}. \quad (7)$$