Compressed Sensing with Prior Information: Optimal Strategies, Geometry, and Bounds
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Abstract—We address the problem of compressed sensing (CS) with prior information: reconstruct a target CS signal with the aid of a similar signal that is known beforehand, our prior information. We integrate the additional knowledge of the similar signal into CS via $\ell_1$-$\ell_1$ and $\ell_1$-$\ell_2$ minimization. We then establish bounds on the number of measurements required by these problems to successfully reconstruct the original signal. Our bounds and geometrical interpretations reveal that if the prior information has good enough quality, $\ell_1$-$\ell_1$ minimization improves the performance of CS dramatically. In contrast, $\ell_1$-$\ell_2$ minimization has a performance very similar to classical CS and brings no significant benefits. All our findings are illustrated with experimental results.

Index Terms—Compressed sensing, prior information, basis pursuit, $\ell_1$-$\ell_1$ and $\ell_1$-$\ell_2$ minimization, Gaussian width.

I. INTRODUCTION

Nearly a decade ago, compressed sensing (CS) emerged as a new paradigm for signal acquisition [1], [2]. By assuming that signals are compressible rather than bandlimited, CS enables signal acquisition using far less measurements than classical acquisition schemes [3], [4]. Since most signals of interest are indeed compressible, CS has found many applications, including medical imaging [5], radar [6], camera design [7], and sensor networks [8].

We show that, whenever a signal similar to the signal to reconstruct is available, the number of measurements can be reduced even further. Such additional knowledge is often called prior [9]–[15] or side [16]–[18] information.

Compressed Sensing (CS). Let $x^* \in \mathbb{R}^n$ be an unknown $s$-sparse signal, i.e., it has at most $s$ nonzero entries. Assume we have $m$ linear measurements $y = Ax^*$, where the matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ is known. CS answers two fundamental questions: how to reconstruct the signal $x^*$ from the measurements $y$? And how many measurements $m$ are required for successful reconstruction? A remarkable result states that if $A$ satisfies a restricted isometry property (RIP) [19]–[21] or a nullspace property [22], then $x^*$ can be reconstructed perfectly by solving Basis Pursuit (BP) [23]:

$$\minimize_{x} \left\{ \|x\|_1 : Ax = y \right\}.$$ (BP)

where $\|x\|_1 := \sum_{i=1}^{n} |x_i|$ is the $\ell_1$-norm of $x$; see [19]–[22]. For example, if $m > 2s \log(n/s) + (7/5)s$, and the entries of $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ are drawn independently and identically distributed (i.i.d.) from the Gaussian distribution, then $A$ satisfies a nullspace property (and thus BP recovers $x^*$) with high probability [22]. See [1], [2], [24]–[29] for related results.

CS with prior information. Consider that, in addition to the set of measurements $y = Ax^*$, we also have access to prior information, that is, to a signal $w \in \mathbb{R}^n$ similar to the original signal $x^*$. This occurs in many scenarios: for example, in video acquisition [16], [30] and estimation problems [31], past signals are very similar to the signal to be acquired and, thus, they can be used as prior information; more concretely, if $x^*$ is a sparse representation of the signal we want to reconstruct, then $w$ can be a sparse representation of an already reconstructed signal. Similarly, signals captured by nearby sensors in sensor networks [32] and images captured by close-by cameras in multiview camera systems [33], [34] are also similar and hence can be used as prior information. The goal of this paper is to answer the following two key questions:

• How to reconstruct the signal $x^*$ from the measurements $y = Ax^*$ and the prior information $w$?
• And how many measurements $m$ are required for successful reconstruction?

A. Overview of Our Approach and Main Results

We address CS with prior information by solving an appropriate modification of BP. Suppose $g : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a function that measures the similarity between $x^*$ and the prior information $w$, in the sense that $g(x^* - w)$ is expected to be small. Then, given $y = Ax^*$ and $w$, we solve

$$\minimize_{x} \|x\|_1 + \beta g(x-w) \tag{1}$$
subject to $Ax = y$ ,

where $\beta > 0$ establishes a tradeoff between signal sparsity and fidelity to prior information. We consider two specific, convex models for $g$: $g_1 := \| \cdot \|_1$ and $g_2 := \frac{1}{2} \| \cdot \|_2^2$, where $\|z\|_2 := \sqrt{z^\top z}$ is the $\ell_2$-norm. Then, problem (1) becomes

$$\minimize_{x} \|x\|_1 + \beta \|x-w\|_1 \tag{2}$$
subject to $Ax = y$ ,

and

$$\minimize_{x} \|x\|_1 + \frac{\beta}{2} \|x-w\|_2^2 \tag{3}$$
subject to $Ax = y$ ,

which we will refer to as $\ell_1$-$\ell_1$ and $\ell_1$-$\ell_2$ minimization, respectively. The use of the constraints $Ax = y$ implicitly assumes that $y$ was acquired without noise. However, our results also apply to the noisy scenario, i.e., when the constraints are $\|Ax - y\|_2 \leq \sigma$ instead of $Ax = y$.

Overview of results. Problems (2) and (3), as well as their Lagrangian versions, have rarely appeared in the literature (see...
Section II). For instance, [10], [15] (resp. [11]) considered problems very similar to (2) (resp. (3)). Yet, to the best of our knowledge, no CS-type results have ever been provided for either (2) and (3), their variations in [10], [11], [15], or their Lagrangian versions.

Our goal is to establish bounds on the number of measurements that guarantee that (2) and (3) reconstruct $x^*$ with high probability, when $A$ has i.i.d. Gaussian entries. Our bounds are a function of the prior information “quality” and the tradeoff parameter $\beta$. Hence, they not only help us understand what "good" prior information is, but also to select a $\beta$ that minimizes the number of measurements. The main elements of our contribution can be summarized as follows:

• First, the bound on the number of measurements that (2) requires for perfect reconstruction can be much smaller than the bounds for both classical CS (i.e., BP) and (3).

For example, even when the prior information $w$ has a relative error of 50% with respect to $x^*$, i.e., $\|w - x^*\|_2/\|x^*\|_2 \simeq 0.5$, (2) can require much fewer measurements than both BP and (3). This superior performance is also observed experimentally, and we interpret it in terms of the underlying geometry of the problem.

• Second, our bound on the number of measurements for (2) is minimized for $\beta = 1$, a value that is independent of $w$, $x^*$, or any other problem parameter. We will see later that the best $\beta$ in practice is indeed very close to 1. In contrast, the value of $\beta$ that minimizes our bound on the number of measurements for (3) depends on several parameters, including the unknown entries of $x^*$.

A representative result. To give an example of our results, we state a simplified version of our Theorem 3 which establishes bounds on the number of measurements for successful $\ell_1$-$\ell_1$ reconstruction with high probability. Here, we rewrite it for $\beta = 1$ which, incidentally, gives not only the simplest result, but also the best bound. Let us define

$$\tilde{\Pi} := \left\{|i : x^*_i > 0, x^*_i > w_i| \cup \{i : x^*_i < 0, x^*_i < w_i|\right\},$$

$$\xi := \left|\{i : w_i = 0 \neq x^*_i\} - \left|\{i : w_i = 0 \neq x^*_i\}\right|,\right.$$ 

where $| \cdot |$ denotes the cardinality of a set. Note that $\tilde{\Pi}$ is defined on the support $I := \{i : x^*_i \neq 0\}$ of $x^*$. Recall that $s = |I|$. Later, we will call $\tilde{\Pi}$ the number of bad components of $w$. For example, if $x^* = (0, 3, -2, 0, 1, 0, 4)$ and $w = (0, 4, 3, 1, 1, 0, 0)$, then $\tilde{\Pi} = 2$ (due to 3rd and last components) and $\xi = 1 - 1 = 0$ (4th and 5th components).

**Theorem 1 ($\ell_1$-$\ell_1$ minimization: simplified).** Let $x^* \in \mathbb{R}^n$ be the vector to reconstruct and let $w \in \mathbb{R}^n$ be the prior information. Assume $\tilde{\Pi} > 0$ and that there exists at least one index $i$ for which $x^*_i = w_i = 0$. Let the entries of $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ be i.i.d. Gaussian with zero mean and variance 1/m. If

$$m \geq 2\tilde{\Pi} \log \left(\frac{n}{s + \xi/2}\right) + \frac{7}{5} \left(s + \frac{\xi}{2}\right) + 1,$$

then, with probability greater than $1 - \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(m - \sqrt{m})^2\right)$, $x^*$ is the unique solution of (2) with $\beta = 1$.

Recall that classical CS requires

$$m \geq 2s \log \left(\frac{n}{s}\right) + \frac{7}{5}s + 1$$

measurements to reconstruct $x^*$ with a similar probability [22]; see also Theorem 2 and Proposition 2 in Section II below. To compare (4) and (5), suppose $\xi = 0$, i.e., the number of components in which $x^*$ and $w$ differ outside $I$ equals the number of components in which they coincide on $I$. In this case, (4) becomes equal to (5), except for the factor multiplying the log: it is $2\tilde{\Pi}$ in (4) and $2s$ in (5). Since, by definition, $\tilde{\Pi}$ is smaller than $s$, (4) is always smaller than (5). When $\xi \neq 0$ and the dominant terms are the ones involving the log's, (4) is smaller than (5) whenever $\xi$ is larger than some small negative number.

A numerical example. We now provide a numerical example to illustrate further our results. We generated $x^*$ with 1000 entries, 70 of which were nonzero, i.e., $n = 1000$ and $s = 70$. The nonzero components of $x^*$ were drawn from a standard Gaussian distribution. The prior information $w$ was generated as $w = x^* + z$, where $z$ is a 28-sparse vector whose nonzero entries were drawn from a zero-mean Gaussian distribution with standard deviation 0.8. The supports of $x^*$ and $z$ coincided in 22 positions and differed in 6. Such a prior information differed significantly from $x^*$ in both the $\ell_2$- and $\ell_1$-norms: $\|w - x^*\|_2/\|x^*\|_2 \simeq 0.48$ and $\|w - x^*\|_1/\|x^*\|_1 \simeq 0.25$. This pair of $x^*$ and $w$ yielded $\tilde{\Pi} = 11$ and $\xi = -42$. Plugging the previous values into (4) and (5), we see that $\ell_1$-$\ell_1$ minimization and classical CS require 136 and 472 measurements for perfect reconstruction with high probability, respectively.

Fig. 1 shows the experimental performance of classical CS and $\ell_1$-$\ell_1$ and $\ell_1$-$\ell_2$ minimization, i.e., problems (BP), (2) and (3), respectively. More specifically, it depicts the rate of success of each problem versus the number of measurements $m$. For a fixed $m$, the success rate is the number of times a given problem recovered $x^*$ with an error smaller than 1% divided by the total number of 50 trials (each trial considered different pairs of $A$ and $b$). The plot shows that $\ell_1$-$\ell_1$ minimization required less measurements to reconstruct $x^*$ successfully than both CS and $\ell_1$-$\ell_2$ minimization. The curves of the last two, in fact, almost coincide, with $\ell_1$-$\ell_2$ minimization (line with triangles) having a slightly sharper phase transition. The vertical lines show the bounds (4), (5), and the bound for $\ell_1$-$\ell_2$ minimization, provided in Section IV. We see that, for this
particular example, the bound \( \ell_1 \) is quite sharp, while the bound for \( \ell_1-\ell_2 \) minimization is quite loose (the sharpness of our bounds is discussed in Sections [V] and [VI]). Most importantly, this example shows that using prior information properly can improve the performance of CS dramatically.

B. Outline

The rest of the paper provides a detailed treatment of CS with prior information, covering both an overview of related research and the statement and proof of the main results. In Section II we discuss related work, including the use of other types of “prior information” in CS. Section III introduces the fundamental tools in our analysis, which are also used to provide geometrical interpretations of \( \ell_1-\ell_1 \) and \( \ell_1-\ell_2 \) minimization. The main results are stated and discussed in Section IV. In Section V we provide some experimental results. The main theoretical results are proven in Section VI, and some auxiliary results are proven in the appendices.

II. RELATED WORK

There is a clear analogy of CS with prior information and the distributed source coding problem. Namely, we can view the number of measurements and the reconstruction quality in CS as the information rate and the incurred distortion in coding theory, respectively. As such, our problem of CS with prior information at the reconstruction side is reminiscent of the problem of coding with side/prior information at the decoder, a field whose foundations were laid by Slepian and Wolf [35], and Wyner and Ziv [50]; see also [37].

The concept of prior information has appeared in CS under many guises [10], [11], [15], [13], [51]. The work in [10] was apparently the first to consider [11], in particular \( \ell_1-\ell_1 \) minimization. Specifically, [10] considers dynamic computed tomography, where the image reconstructed in the previous time instant helps reconstructing the current one. That is accomplished by solving [2]. That work, however, neither provides any kind of analysis nor highlights the benefits of solving [2] with respect to classical CS, i.e., BP. Very recently, [15] considered a variation of [2] where the second term of the objective rather than penalizing differences between \( x \) and \( w \) in the sparse domain, penalizes differences in the signals’ original domain. Specifically, [15] solves (a slightly more general version of)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{minimize} & \quad \|x\|_1 + \beta \|\Psi(x-w)\|_1 \\
\text{subject to} & \quad \Phi \Psi x = y,
\end{align*}
\]

where \( A \) was decomposed as the product of a sensing matrix \( \Phi \) and a transform matrix \( \Psi \) that sparsifies both \( x^* \) and \( w \). Although [15] shows experimentally that (6) requires less measurements than conventional CS to reconstruct MRI images, no analysis or reconstruction guarantees are given for (6).

In [11], prior information refers to an estimate \( T \subseteq \{1, \ldots, n\} \) of the support of \( x^* \) (see [9], [13], [14] for related approaches). Using the restricted isometry constants of \( A, [11] \) provides exact recovery conditions for BP when its objective is modified to \( \|x_T\|_1 \), where \( x_T \) denotes the components of \( x \) indexed by the set \( T \), and \( T^c \) is the complement of \( T \) in \( \{1, \ldots, n\} \). When \( T \) is a reasonable estimate of the support of \( x^* \), those conditions are shown to be milder than the ones in [19], [20] for standard BP. Then, [11] considers prior information as we do: there is an estimate of the support of \( x^* \) as well as of the value of the respective nonzero components. However, it solves a problem slightly different from (3). Namely, the objective of (3) is replaced with \( \|x_T\|_1 + \beta \|x_T - w_T\|_2^2 \). Although some experimental results are presented, no analysis is given for that problem.

A modification of BP that has often appeared in the literature considers, instead of the \( \ell_1 \)-norm, the weighted \( \ell_1 \)-norm \( \|x\|_1 := \sum_{i=1}^n r_i x_i \), where \( r_i > 0 \) is a known weight. This norm penalizes each component of \( x \) according to the magnitude of the corresponding weight and, thus, requires “prior information” about \( x \). The weight \( r_i \) associated to the component \( x_i \) can, for example, be proportional to the probability of \( x_i^* = 0 \). Several algorithms based on this idea have been proposed e.g., [38], [39]. Moreover, [12] proved that the number of measurements for exact recovery is asymptotically smaller for the weighted \( \ell_1 \)-norm than for the unweighted one. The work in [13] also obtains asymptotic bounds and proposes setting \( r_i = -\log p_i \), where \( p_i \) is the probability that \( x_i^* \neq 0 \).

Alternative work has considered

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{minimize} & \quad \|x\|_1 + \beta g(x-w) + \lambda \|Ax-y\|_2^2, \\
\text{subject to} & \quad Ax-y \leq \sigma,
\end{align*}
\]

with \( \lambda > 0 \), which can be viewed as a Lagrangian version of

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{minimize} & \quad \|x\|_1 + \beta g(x-w) \\
\text{subject to} & \quad Ax-y \leq \sigma.
\end{align*}
\]

Problem 8 is a generalization of 11 for noisy scenarios, and we will provide bounds on the number of measurements that it requires for successful reconstruction with \( g = \|\cdot\|_1 \) and \( g = \frac{1}{2}\|\cdot\|_2^2 \). Problem 7 has appeared before in [51], in the context of dynamical system estimation. Specifically, the state \( x(t) \) of a system at time \( t \) evolves as \( x(t+1) = f(t)(x(t)) + \epsilon(t) \), where \( f(t) \) models the system’s dynamics at time \( t \) and \( \epsilon(t) \) accounts for modeling errors. Observations of the state \( x(t) \) are taken as \( y(t) = A(t)x(t) + \eta(t) \), where \( A(t) \) is the observation matrix and \( \eta(t) \) is noise. The goal is to estimate the state \( x(t) \) given the observations \( y(t) \). The state of the system in the previous instant, \( x(t-1) \), can be used as prior information by making \( w(t) = f(t-1)(x(t-1)) \). If the modeling error \( \epsilon(t) \) is Gaussian and the state \( x(t) \) is assumed sparse, then \( x(t) \) can be estimated by solving (7) with \( g = \|\cdot\|_2^2 \); if the modeling noise is Laplacian, we set \( g = \|\cdot\|_1 \) instead. Although [51] does not provide any analysis, their experimental results show that, among several strategies for state estimation including Kalman filtering, (7) with \( g = \|\cdot\|_1 \) yields the best results. If we take into account the relation between (7) and (8), our theoretical analysis can be used to provide an explanation. We also mention that [18] proposed and analyzed an approximate message passing algorithm to solve problem 7 with \( g = \|\cdot\|_2^2 \).

The use of more complex signal models, rather than sparsity, can also be seen as an instance of prior information, and has attracted considerable attention [40]. Examples include the notion of block sparsity (see [41] and [42] for nullspace-based and RIP-based reconstruction guarantees), model-based
CS [43], multiple measurement vectors [44, 45], and Gaussian mixture models [46]. The additional structure considered in these works can be used to reduce the number of measurements for successful reconstruction (see, e.g., [41] and [42] for block sparsity, [44] and [45] for multiple measurement vectors, and [43] for more general models) or even to design measurement matrices [47]-[49].

Finally, we mention that several authors have been using the same tools as we do, namely the concept of Gaussian width and Gordon’s lemma [50], to derive CS results [23, 27, 51] and analyze related problems [52]-[60].

III. THE GEOMETRY OF \( \ell_1-\ell_1 \) AND \( \ell_1-\ell_2 \) MINIMIZATION

This section introduces concepts and results in CS that will be used in our analysis. We follow the approach of [22], since it leads to the current best CS bounds for Gaussian measurements, and provides the means to understand some of our definitions.

A. Known Results and Tools

The concept of Gaussian width plays a key role in [22]. Originally proposed in [50] to quantify the probability of a randomly oriented subspace intersecting a cone, the Gaussian width has been used to prove CS results [22, 27, 51] and, more recently, to tackle problems in other areas [52]-[60]. Before defining it, we analyze the optimality conditions of a linearly constrained convex optimization problem.

The nullspace property. Consider a real-valued convex function \( f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R} \) and the following optimization problem:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{minimize} & \quad f(x) \\
\text{subject to} & \quad Ax = y.
\end{align*}
\]  

(9)

Assume \( Ax = y \) has at least one solution, say \( x^* \). The set of all solutions of \( Ax = y \) is given by \( \mathcal{A} := x^* + \text{null}(A) \), where \( \text{null}(A) := \{x : Ax = 0\} \) is the nullspace of \( A \). In other words, \( \mathcal{A} \) is the feasible set of (9). To determine whether or not an arbitrary \( x^* \in \mathcal{A} \) is a solution of (9), we can use the concept of tangent cone of \( f \) at \( x^* \) [61, Prop.5.2.1, Thm.1.3.4]:

\[
T_f(x^*) := \text{cone}(S_f(x^*) - x^*),
\]

(10)

where cone \( C := \{\alpha c : \alpha \geq 0, c \in C\} \) is the cone generated by the set \( C \), and \( S_f(x^*) := \{x : f(x) \leq f(x^*)\} \) is the sublevel set of \( f \) at \( x^* \). In words, \( d \) belongs to \( T_f(x^*) \) if it can be written as \( d = \alpha(\bar{x} - x^*) \) for some \( \alpha \geq 0 \) and \( \bar{x} \in S_f(x^*) \). In particular, if \( \alpha > 0 \), then \( \bar{x} = x^* + \alpha d \in S_f(x^*) \), that is, \( f(x^* + \alpha d) \leq f(x^*) \). This means that \( T_f(x^*) \) contains all the directions \( d \) such that \( x^* + \gamma d \), for some \( \gamma > 0 \), leads to a possible decrease in the value of \( f(x^*) \): \( f(x^* + \gamma d) \leq f(x^*) \).

If not such direction exists in \( \mathcal{A} \), then \( x^* \) is the unique solution of (9), and vice-versa. That is,

\[
T_f(x^*) \cap \{x^* + \text{null}(A)\} = \{x^*\}
\]

(11)

if and only if \( x^* \) is the unique solution of (9). If we subtract \( x^* \) from both sides of (11), we obtain:

**Proposition 1** (Prop. 2.1 in [22]). \( x^* \) is the unique optimal solution of (9) if and only if \( T_f(x^*) \cap \text{null}(A) = \{0\} \).

Although this proposition was stated in [22, Prop.2.1] for \( f \) equal to an atomic norm, its proof holds for any real-valued convex function. Fig. 2 illustrates (11) for BP, i.e., with \( f(x) = \|x\|_1 \). It shows the respective sublevel set \( S_f(x^*) \) and tangent cone \( T_f(x^*) \) at a “sparse” point \( x^* \). In the figure, \( \mathcal{A} = x^* + \text{null}(A) \) intersects \( T_f(x^*) \) at \( x^* \) only, meaning that (11), and hence Proposition 1 holds.

**Gaussian width.** When \( A \) is generated randomly, its nullspace \( \text{null}(A) \) has a random orientation, and (11) holds or not with a given probability. The smaller the width (or aperture) of \( T_f(x^*) \), the more likely (11) will hold. Such a statement was formalized by Gordon in [50] for Gaussian matrices \( A \). To measure the width of cone \( C \subset \mathbb{R}^n \), Gordon defined the concept of Gaussian width:

\[
w(C) := \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \sup_{z \in C \cap B_n(0,1)} g^T z \right],
\]

(12)

where \( B_n(0,1) := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|x\|_2 \leq 1\} \) is the unit \( \ell_2 \)-norm ball in \( \mathbb{R}^n \) and \( g \sim N(0, I_n) \) is a vector of \( n \) independent, zero-mean, and unit-variance Gaussian random variables. The symbol \( \mathbb{E}_g[\cdot] \) denotes the expected value with respect to \( g \). The Gaussian width is usually defined for generic sets by taking their intersection with the spherical part of \( B_n(0,1) \), \( S_n(0,1) := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|x\|_2 = 1\} \), rather than with \( B_n(0,1) \). When the set is a cone, however, that is equivalent to intersecting it with \( B_n(0,1) \), as in [13].

That is because the maximizer of the problem in (12) is always in \( S_n(0,1) \). To see that, suppose it is not, i.e., for a fixed \( g \), \( z_g := \sup_{z \in C \cap B_n(0,1)} g^T z \). Since \( C \) is a cone, \( z_g \) is a “sparse” point of \( C \), contradicting the fact that \( z_g \) is optimal.
a result, the Gaussian width of a cone $C$ is the expected
distance of a Gaussian vector $g$ to the polar cone of $C$, defined
as $C^o := \{ y : y^\top z \leq 0, \forall z \in C \}$.

**Proposition 2** (Example 2.3.1 in [61]; Prop. 3.6 in [22]).
The Gaussian width of a cone $C$ can be written as
\[ w(C) = \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist}(g, C^o) \right], \tag{13} \]
where \( \text{dist}(x, S) = \min \{ \| z - x \|_2 : z \in S \} \) denotes the
distance of the point $x$ to the set $S$.

This follows from the fact that the support function of a
"truncated" cone is the distance to its polar cone [61 Ex.2.3.1];
and can be proved by computing the dual of the optimization
problem in (12) [22 Prop.3.6]. Besides providing a way easier
than (12) for computing Gaussian widths, Proposition 2 also
provides a geometrical explanation of why the Gaussian width
gets wider; see Fig. 3.

**From geometry to CS bounds.** In [50], Gordon used the
concept of Gaussian width to compute bounds on the probability
of a cone intersecting a subspace whose orientation is
uniformly distributed, e.g., the nullspace of a Gaussian matrix.
More recently, [52] showed that those bounds are sharp. Based
on Gordon’s result, on Proposition 1 (and its generalization
for the case where the constraints of (9) are $\| Ax - y \|_2 \leq \sigma$),
and a concentration of measure result, [22] establishes:

**Theorem 2** (Corollary 3.3 in [22]). Let $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ be a matrix
whose entries are i.i.d., zero-mean Gaussian random variables
with variance $1/m$. Assume $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is convex, and let
$\lambda_m := \mathbb{E}_g \| g \|_2$ denote the expected length of a zero-mean,
unit-variance Gaussian vector $g \sim N(0, I_m)$ in $\mathbb{R}^m$.

1) Suppose $y = Ax^*$ and let
\[ \hat{x} = \arg \min_x f(x) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad Ax = y, \tag{14} \]
and
\[ m \geq w(T_f(x^*))^2 + 1. \tag{15} \]
Then, $\hat{x} = x^*$ is the unique solution of (14) with probability
greater than $1 - \exp(-\frac{1}{2} [\lambda_m - w(T_f(x^*))^2])$.

2) Suppose $y = Ax^* + \eta$, where $\| \eta \|_2 \leq \sigma$ and let
\[ \hat{x} \in \arg \min_x f(x) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \| Ax - y \|_2 \leq \sigma. \tag{16} \]

Define $0 < \epsilon < 1$ and let
\[ m \geq \frac{w(T_f(x^*))^2 + 3/2}{(1 - \epsilon)^2}. \tag{17} \]
Then, $\| \hat{x} - x^* \|_2 \leq 2\sigma/\epsilon$ with probability greater than
$1 - \exp(-\frac{1}{2} [\lambda_m - w(T_f(x^*)) - \epsilon \sqrt{m}]^2)$.

**Proposition 3** was stated in [22] for $f$ equal to an atomic norm.
Its proof, however, remains valid when $f$ is any convex function.
Note, in particular, that (14) becomes (15), (2), and (3)
when $f(x) = \| x \|_1$, $\| x \|_1 + \| x - w \|_1$, and $\| x \|_1 + \frac{\sigma}{\epsilon} \| x - w \|_2^2$,
in Figs. 4(c) and 4(d) are

Therefore, we say that the nonzero components of the $x$ vector to reconstruct and let $\mathbf{w}$. The sublevel sets of $f_1$ and $f_2$ with $\beta = 1$ for $x^* = (0, 1)$. In both (a) and (b), the prior information is $w^{(1)} = (0, 1.6)$ and $w^{(2)} = (0, 1.3)$, while in (c) and (d) it is $w^{(3)} = (0, 0.5)$, and $w^{(4)} = (0, –0.5).$ For reference, the sublevel set $S_{\|\|_1}$ of the $\ell_1$-norm at $x^*$ is also shown in all figures.

$w^{(1)} = (0, 1.6)$ and $w^{(2)} = (0, 1.3)$ in Figs. 4(a) and 4(b) and $w^{(3)} = (0, 0.5)$ and $w^{(4)} = (0, –0.5)$ in Figs. 4(c) and 4(d). The sublevel sets are denoted with

$S_{f_i}^{(j)} := \{ x : \| x \|_1 + g_i(x - w^{(j)}) \leq \| x^* \|_1 + g_i(x^* - w^{(j)}) \}$, where $i = 1, 2$, $j = 1, 2, 3, 4$, and $g_1 = \| \cdot \|_1$ and $g_2 = \frac{1}{2} \| \cdot \|_2^2.

For reference, we also show the sublevel set $S_{\|\|_1}$ associated with BP. The sublevel sets of $f_1$ are shown in Figs. 4(a) and 4(c) whereas the sublevel sets of $f_2$ are shown in Figs. 4(b) and 4(d). For example, the sublevel set $S_{f_1}^{(1)}$ in Fig. 4(a) can be computed in closed-form as $S_{f_1}^{(1)} = \{ (0, x_2) : 0 \leq x_2 \leq 1.6 \}$. The cone generated by this set is the axis $x_1 = 0$. In the same figure, $S_{f_2}^{(1)} = \{ (0, x_2) : 0 \leq x_2 \leq 1.3 \}$ and it generates the same cone as $S_{f_1}^{(1)}$: the axis $x_2 = 0$. Hence, both $S_{f_1}^{(1)}$ and $S_{f_2}^{(1)}$ generate the same (tangent) cone $\{ (0, x_2) : x_2 \in \mathbb{R} \}$, which has zero Gaussian width in $\mathbb{R}^2$. When we consider $f_2$ and the same prior information vectors, as in Fig. 4(b) the tangent cones no longer have zero width, but still have a width smaller than $T_{\|\|_1}(x^*)$. Since small widths are desirable, we say that the nonzero components of the $w$'s in Figs. 4(a) and 4(b) are good components. On the other hand, the cones generated by the sublevel sets of Fig. 4(c) coincide with $T_{\|\|_1}(x^*)$, and the cones generated by the sublevel sets of Fig. 4(d) have widths larger than $T_{\|\|_1}(x^*)$. Therefore, we say that the nonzero components of the $w$'s in Figs. 4(c) and 4(d) are bad components. Fig. 4(e) illustrates the concepts of good and bad components only for $x^*_1 > 0$. For $x^*_1 < 0$, there is geometric symmetry. This motivates the following definition.

**Definition 1** (Good and bad components). Let $x^* \in \mathbb{R}^n$ be the vector to reconstruct and let $w \in \mathbb{R}^n$ be the prior information. For $i = 1, \ldots, n$, a component $x_i$ is considered good if

\[ x_i^* > 0 \text{ and } x_i^* < w_i \quad \text{or} \quad x_i^* < 0 \text{ and } x_i^* > w_i, \]

and $w_i$ is considered bad if

\[ x_i^* > 0 \text{ and } x_i^* > w_i \quad \text{or} \quad x_i^* < 0 \text{ and } x_i^* < w_i. \]

Note that good and bad components are defined only on the support of $x^*$ and that the inequalities in the definition are strict. Although good and bad components were motivated geometrically, we will see that they arise naturally in our proofs. Notice that Definition 1 (and Fig. 4) consider only components $w_i$ such that $w_i \neq x_i^*$ and for which $x_i^* \neq 0$. The other components will, of course, also influence the Gaussian width of $T_{\|\|_1}(x^*)$ and $T_{\|\|_1}(x^*)$ (see, e.g., the role of $\xi$ in Theorem 1). This will be clear when we present our main results in the next section.

**IV. MAIN RESULTS**

In this section we present our main results, namely reconstruction guarantees for $\ell_1-\ell_1$ and $\ell_1-\ell_2$ minimization. After some definitions and preliminary results, we present the results for $\ell_1-\ell_1$ minimization first, and the results for $\ell_1-\ell_2$ minimization next. All proofs are relegated to Section VI.

**A. Definitions and Preliminary Results**

We start by defining the following sets.

**Definition 2** (Support sets). Let $x^* \in \mathbb{R}^n$ be the vector to reconstruct and let $w \in \mathbb{R}^n$ be the prior information. We define

\[ I := \{ i : x_i^* \neq 0 \} \quad \text{and} \quad J := \{ j : x_j^* \neq w_j \}. \]

\[ I^c := \{ i : x_i^* = 0 \} \quad \text{and} \quad J^c := \{ j : x_j^* = w_j \}. \]

\[ I_+ := \{ i : x_i^* > 0 \} \quad \text{and} \quad J_+ := \{ j : x_j^* > w_j \}. \]

\[ I_- := \{ i : x_i^* < 0 \} \quad \text{and} \quad J_- := \{ j : x_j^* < w_j \}. \]

To simplify notation, we denote the intersection of two sets $A$ and $B$ with the product $AB := A \cap B$. Then, the set of good components can be written as $I_+ + J_- \cup I_- + J_+$, and the set of bad components can be written as $I_+ J_+ \cup I_- J_-.

**Definition 3** (Cardinality of sets). The number of good components, the number of bad components, the sparsity of $x^*$, the sparsity of $w$, and the cardinality of the union of the supports of $x^*$ and $x^* - w$ are represented, respectively, by

\[ h := |I_+ J_-| + |I_- J_+| \]

\[ \bar{h} := |I_+ J_+| + |I_- J_-| \]

\[ s := |I| \]

\[ l := |J| \]

\[ q := |I \cup J|. \]

All these quantities are nonnegative. Before moving to our main results, we present the following useful lemma:
Lemma 1. For \( x^* \) and \( w \) as in Definition 2

\[
\begin{align*}
|IJ| &= h + \overline{h} \quad (19) \\
|IJ^c| &= s - (h + \overline{h}) \quad (20) \\
|I^c J| &= q - s \quad (21) \\
|I^c J^c| &= n - q \quad (22)
\end{align*}
\]

Proof: Identity (19) is proven by noticing that \( I_+ \) and \( I_- \) partition \( I \), and \( J_+ \) and \( J_- \) partition \( J \). Then,

\[
|IJ| = |I_+ J| + |I_- J| = |I_+ J_+| + |I_+ J_-| + |I_- J_+| + |I_- J_-| = h + \overline{h}.
\]

To prove (20), we use (19) and the fact that \( J \) and \( J^c \) are a partition of \( \{1, \ldots, n\} \):

\[
s = |I| = |IJ| + |IJ^c| = (h + \overline{h}) + |IJ^c|,
\]

from which (20) follows. To prove (21), we use the identity \( I \cup J = (I^c J) \cup (IJ) \cup (IJ^c) \), where \( I^c J \), \( IJ \) and \( IJ^c \) are pairwise disjoint. Then, using (19) and (20),

\[
q = |I \cup J| = |I^c J| + |IJ| + |IJ^c| = |I^c J| + s.
\]

Finally, (22) holds because

\[
n = |I| + |I^c| = |IJ| + |IJ^c| + |I^c J| + |IJ^c| = q + |I^c J|,
\]

where we used (19), (20), and (21).

From Lemma 1 we can easily obtain the following identities, which will be used frequently:

\[
\begin{align*}
|I^c J| + |IJ^c| &= q - (h + \overline{h}) \quad (23) \\
|I^c J| + |IJ^c| + 2|I^c J^c| &= 2n - (q + h + \overline{h}) \quad (24) \\
|I^c J| - |IJ^c| &= q + h + \overline{h} - 2s. \quad (25)
\end{align*}
\]

Finally, note that (22) allows interpreting \( q \) as the size of the union of the supports of \( x^* \) and \( w \); since both \( x^* \) and \( w \) are zero in \( I^c J^c \), \( q \) is the number of components in which at least one of them is not zero.

B. \( \ell_1-\ell_1 \) Minimization

We now state our result for \( \ell_1-\ell_1 \) minimization. Its proof can be found in Subsection VI-B.

Theorem 3 (\( \ell_1-\ell_1 \) minimization). Let \( x^* \in \mathbb{R}^n \) be the vector to reconstruct and let \( w \in \mathbb{R}^n \) be the prior information. Let \( f_1(x) = \|x\|_1 + \beta \|x - w\|_1 \) with \( \beta > 0 \), and assume \( x^* \neq 0 \), \( w \neq x^* \), and \( q < n \).

1) Let \( \beta = 1 \), and assume there is at least one bad component, i.e., \( \overline{h} > 0 \). Then,

\[
w(T_{f_1}(x^*))^2 \leq 2\overline{h} \log \left( \frac{2n}{q + h + \overline{h}} \right) + \frac{7}{10}(q + h + \overline{h}).
\]

2) Let \( \beta < 1 \).

\[
a) \text{If } \frac{q - s}{2n - (q + h + \overline{h})} \leq 1 - \beta \left( \frac{q + h + \overline{h}}{2n} \right)^{\frac{4\beta}{(\beta + 1)^2}},
\]

then

\[
w(T_{f_1}(x^*))^2 \leq 2 \left[ \overline{h} + (s - \overline{h}) \left( \frac{1 - \beta}{1 + \beta} \right)^2 \right] \times \log \left( \frac{2n}{q + h + \overline{h}} \right) + s + \frac{2}{5}(q + h + \overline{h}).
\]

b) If \( q > s \) and

\[
\frac{q - s}{2n - (q + h + \overline{h})} \geq \frac{1 - \beta}{1 + \beta} \left( \frac{s}{q} \right)^{\frac{4\beta}{(\beta + 1)^2}},
\]

then

\[
w(T_{f_1}(x^*))^2 \leq 2 \left[ \frac{(1 + \beta)^2}{(1 - \beta)^2} + s - \overline{h} \right] \log \left( \frac{q}{s} \right) + \frac{7}{5}s.
\]

3) Let \( \beta > 1 \).

\[
a) \text{If } \frac{s - (h + \overline{h})}{2n - (q + h + \overline{h})} \leq \frac{\beta - 1}{\beta + 1} \left( \frac{q + h + \overline{h}}{2n} \right)^{\frac{4\beta}{(\beta - 1)^2}},
\]

then

\[
w(T_{f_1}(x^*))^2 \leq 2 \left[ \overline{h} + (q + h - s) \left( \frac{\beta - 1}{\beta + 1} \right)^2 \right] \times \log \left( \frac{2n}{q + h + \overline{h}} \right) + l + \frac{2}{5}(q + h + \overline{h}).
\]

b) If \( s > h + \overline{h} > 0 \) and

\[
\frac{s - (h + \overline{h})}{2n - (q + h + \overline{h})} \geq \frac{\beta - 1}{\beta + 1} \left( \frac{h + \overline{h}}{s} \right)^{\frac{4\beta}{(\beta - 1)^2}},
\]

then

\[
w(T_{f_1}(x^*))^2 \leq 2 \left[ \frac{(\beta + 1)^2}{(\beta - 1)^2} + q + h - s \right] \times \log \left( \frac{s}{h + \overline{h}} \right) + l + \frac{2}{5}(h + \overline{h}).
\]

Similarly to Proposition 4, the previous theorem establishes upper bounds on \( w(T_{f_1}(x^*))^2 \) that depend only on key parameters \( n, s, \beta, q, h, \) and \( \overline{h} \). Together with Theorem 2, it then provides (useful) bounds on the number of measurements that guarantee that (2) reconstructs \( x^* \) with high probability. The assumption \( q < n \) means that the union of the supports of \( x^* \) and \( w \) is not equal to the full set \( \{1, \ldots, n\} \) or, equivalently, that there is at least one index \( i \) such that \( x^*_i = w_i = 0 \). Assuming \( w \neq x^* \) and \( x^* \neq 0 \) is equivalent to assuming that the sets \( J \) and \( I \) are nonempty, respectively.

The theorem is divided into three cases: 1) \( \beta = 1 \), 2) \( \beta < 1 \), and 3) \( \beta > 1 \). We will see that, although rare in practice, the theorem may not cover all possible values of \( \beta \), due to the conditions imposed in cases 2) and 3). Recall that Theorem 1 in Section II instantiates case 1), i.e., \( \beta = 1 \), but in a slightly different format. Namely, to obtain (4) from (26), notice that \( \xi = |I^c J| - |IJ^c| \) and that (25) implies \( (q + h + \overline{h})/2 = s + \xi/2 \). Therefore, the observations made for Theorem 1 apply to case 1) of the previous theorem. We add to those observations
that the assumption that there is at least one bad component, i.e., $h > 0$, is necessary to guarantee $0 \notin \partial f_1(x^*)$ and, hence, that we can use Proposition 1. In fact, it will be shown in part 1) of Lemma 3 that $0 \notin \partial f_1(x^*)$ if and only if $h > 0$ or $\beta \neq 1$. Thus, the assumption $h > 0$ can be dropped in cases 2) and 3), where $\beta \neq 1$. Note that the quantities on the right-hand side of (26) are well defined and positive: the assumption that there is at least one index $i$ for which $x_i^* \neq 0$ and another index $j$ for which $x_j^* \neq 0$ and $x_j^* \neq x_i^*$, are stronger than the linear terms in (28) whenever $\beta = 0$, the bounds in (29) and (39) are valid only for values of $\beta$ near 1, a fact that we will see in its proof, it is the one whose derivation required the fewer number of approximations. Case 3) in the theorem is very similar to case 2): the expression for both the conditions and the bounds are very similar. The observations made to case 2) then also apply to case 3) similarly. Note, for example, that in case (3b) it is assumed $s > h + T > 0$. According to (19) and (20), this is equivalent to saying that there is at least one index $i$ for which $x_i^* \neq 0$ and $w_i \neq x_i^*$ and another index $j$ for which $x_j^* \neq 0$ and $x_j^* \neq x_i^*$. The most striking fact about Theorem 3 is that its expressions depend only on the quantities given in Definition 3, which depend on the signs of $x_i^*$ and $x_i^* - w_i$, but not on their magnitude. As we will see next, that is no longer the case for $\ell_1$-minimization.

C. $\ell_1$-$\ell_2$ Minimization

Stating our results for $\ell_1$-$\ell_2$ minimization requires additional notation. Namely, we will use the following subsets of $\mathbb{R}^n$:

$$K^\circ := \{i \in \mathbb{N} : w_i = 1/\beta\}$$

$$K^\neq := \{i \in \mathbb{N} : |w_i| > 1/\beta\},$$

where we omit their dependency on $\beta$ for notational simplicity. We will also use

$$v_\beta := \sum_{i \in I^+} (1 + \beta(x_i^* - w_i))^2 + \sum_{i \in I^-} (1 - \beta(x_i^* - w_i))^2$$

$$+ \sum_{i \in K^\neq} (\beta|w_i| - 1)^2,$$

and $\overline{w} := |w_k|$, where

$$k := \arg \min_{i \in I^\circ} \left| |w_i| - \frac{1}{\beta}\right|.$$

In words, $\overline{w}$ is the absolute value of the component of $w$ whose absolute value is closest to $1/\beta$, in the set $I^\circ$.

**Theorem 4 ($\ell_1$-$\ell_2$ minimization).** Let $x^* \in \mathbb{R}^n$ be the vector to reconstruct and let $w \in \mathbb{R}^n$ be the prior information. Let $f_2(x) = \|x\|_1 + \frac{\alpha}{2}\|x-w\|_2^2$ with $\beta > 0$, and assume $x^* \neq 0$ and $q < n$. Also, assume that there exists $i \in I^\circ$ such that $|w_i| > 1/\beta$ or that there exists $i \in IJ$ such that $\beta \neq \text{sign}(x_i^*)(w_i - x_i^*)$.

1) If

$$\frac{q - s}{n - q} \leq 1 - |\beta| \overline{w} \exp \left( (\beta \overline{w})^2 - 2\beta \overline{w} \log \left( \frac{n}{q} \right) \right),$$

then

$$w(T_{f_2}(x^*))^2 \leq 2v_\beta \log \left( \frac{n}{q} \right) + s + |K^\neq| + \frac{1}{2} |K^\circ| + \frac{4}{5}q.$$
2) If \( q > s \) and
\[
\frac{q - s}{n - q} \geq 1 - \beta w | \exp \left( \frac{4(\beta w - 2)\beta w}{1 - \beta w}^2 \log \left( \frac{q}{s} \right) \right),
\]
then
\[
w(T_{f_2}(x^*)^2 \leq \frac{2\beta w}{(1 - \beta w)^2} \log \left( \frac{q}{s} \right) + |K^\mathbb{R}| \left( \frac{1}{2} |K^I| \right) + \frac{9}{5} s.
\]

Similarly to Theorem 3 and Proposition 4, this theorem upper bounds \( w(T_{f_2}(x^*)^2 \) with expressions that depend on key problem parameters, namely \( n, q, s, \beta, v_\beta, w, |K^\mathbb{R}|, \) and \( |K^I| \). Together with Theorem 2, it then provides a sufficient number of measurements that guarantee that \( f \) reconstructs \( x^* \) with high probability. As in Theorem 3, the previous theorem also assumes \( q < n \) or, equivalently, that \( |F \cap J| \) is nonempty. This makes \( \mathbb{P} \) well defined. It will be shown in Lemma 4 that the remaining assumptions are equivalent to \( 0 \not\in \partial f_2(x^*) \) and, hence, that we can use Proposition 3. It is relatively easy to satisfy one of these assumptions, namely that there exists \( i \in IJ \) such that \( \beta \not= \text{sign}(x^*_i)/(w_i - x^*_i) \); a sufficient condition is that there are at least two indices \( i, j \) in \( I \) such that \( \text{sign}(x^*_i)/(w_i - x^*_i) \not= \text{sign}(x^*_j)/(w_j - x^*_j) \). The alternative is to set \( \beta > 1/|w_i| \) for all \( i \in I \). Setting large values for \( \beta \), however, will not only make the bounds in the theorem very large, but also degrade the performance of \( \ell_1-\ell_2 \) minimization significantly, as we will see in the next section.

The theorem is divided into two cases: 1) if condition (39) is satisfied, the bound in (40) holds; 2) if condition (41) is satisfied, the bound in (42) holds. As in \( \ell_1-\ell_1 \) minimization, the conditions (39) and (41) are neither necessarily disjoint nor are they guaranteed to cover all the possible values of \( \beta \) (although such a case is rare in practice). But in contrast, it is not easy to compare the bounds in the previous theorem with the one for classical CS in Proposition 4 or even with the ones for \( \ell_1-\ell_1 \) minimization. More specifically, \( v_\beta \), defined in (38), is always larger than \( s \); to see that, assume first that \( x^*_i = w_i \) for all \( i \in I \) and observe that the first two terms in (38) will sum to \( s \); since the third term is nonnegative and the previous condition does not hold in general, \( v_\beta \) is indeed larger than \( s \). Yet, it is not clear whether or not the dominant term of (40), i.e., \( 2\beta w \log(n/q) \) is smaller than the corresponding term in (42), i.e., \( 2s \log(n/s) \); while \( v_\beta \) is larger than \( s, n/q \) is smaller than \( n/s \) (since \( q = |I \cup J| \geq |I| = s \)). However, since \( s + (4/5)q \geq s + (4/5)s = (9/5)s > (7/5)s \), the linear (non-dominant) terms in (40) are always larger than the linear (non-dominant) terms in (42). Similarly, it is also not clear how the bound in (42) (in case 2) compares with the one for classical CS: while \( q/s \) is always smaller than \( n/s \), the terms \( 2\beta w/(1 - \beta w)^2 \) and \( 2s \) do not compare easily.

Condition (41) is likely to hold for values of \( \beta \) close to \( 1/\mathbb{P} \). But, when that happens, the bound in (42) becomes large, due to the term \( 2\beta w/(1 - \beta w)^2 \). On the other hand, condition (39) is likely to hold for large values of \( \beta \). The bound in (40), however, gives large values when \( \beta \) is large, since \( v_\beta \) also becomes large; namely, a large \( \beta \) amplifies the differences between \( x^*_i \) and \( w_i \), for all \( i \in I \). Curiously, the definition of \( v_\beta \) uses the notions of good and bad components: the first term considers \( i \in I_+ \), i.e., \( x^*_i > 0 \); therefore, if \( w_i \) is a bad component, i.e., \( w_i < x^*_i \), then it gets more penalized than a good component, i.e., \( w_i > x^*_i \). The same happens in the second term. Finally, note that \( v_\beta \) is the only term in (20) that depends on \( \beta \). Therefore, that bound is minimized when \( v_\beta \) is minimized, which occurs for
\[
\beta^\ast = \frac{1}{m} w_{K^\mathbb{R}} + \frac{1}{m} w_{I^\mathbb{R}} - \frac{1}{m} w_{I^\mathbb{R}} - \frac{1}{m} w_{I^\mathbb{R}}.
\]
where \( z_S \) denotes the vector whose components are the components of \( z \) that are indexed by the set \( S \), and \( 1 \) denotes the vector of ones with appropriate dimensions. The bound in (43) depends on \( \beta \) through the term \( v_\beta/(1 - \beta w)^2 \). Although it can be minimized in closed-form, its expression is significantly more complicated than (43). Note that, in contrast to \( \ell_1-\ell_1 \) minimization, the \( \beta \) that minimizes these bounds depends on several unknown parameters. Given the interpretation of Fig. 4, it is not surprising that the bounds we obtain for \( \ell_1-\ell_2 \) minimization depend on the differences between \( x^* \) and \( w \). And, as we will see in its proof, it is exactly this fact that makes the bounds in (40) and (42) loose when compared with the ones for \( \ell_1-\ell_1 \) minimization.

V. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

In this section, we describe experiments designed to assess the sharpness of our bounds for a wide range of \( \beta \)’s.

Experimental setup. The data was generated as the one in Fig. 1 but for smaller dimensions. Namely, \( x^* \) had \( n = 500 \) entries, \( s = 50 \) of which were nonzero. The values of these entries were drawn from a zero-mean Gaussian distribution with unit variance. According to Theorem 2 and Proposition 4, this implies that standard CS requires at least 302 measurements for successful reconstruction. We then generated the prior information as \( w = x^* + z \), where \( z \) was 20-spars, and whose support coincided with the one of \( x^* \) in 16 entries and differed in 4 of them. The nonzero entries were zero-mean Gaussian with standard deviation 0.8. This yielded \( h = 6, \ h = 11, q = 53, \) and \( l = 20 \).

The experiments were conducted as follows. We created a square matrix \( \mathbb{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{500 \times 500} \) with entries drawn independently from the standard Gaussian distribution. We then set \( \mathbb{N} = \mathbb{A} x^* \). Next, for a fixed \( \beta \), we solved problem (2), first by using only the first row of \( \mathbb{A} \) and the first entry of \( \mathbb{N} \). If the solution of (2), say \( \hat{x}_1(\beta) \), did not satisfy \( \|\hat{x}_1(\beta) - x^*\|_2/\|x^*\|_2 \leq 10^{-2} \), we proceeded by solving (2) with the first two rows of \( \mathbb{A} \) and the first two entries of \( \mathbb{N} \). This procedure was repeated until \( \|\hat{x}_m(\beta) - x^*\|_2/\|x^*\|_2 \leq 10^{-2} \), where \( \hat{x}_m(\beta) \) denotes the solution of (2) when \( A \) (resp. \( y \)) consists of the first \( m \) rows (resp. entries) of \( \mathbb{A} \) (resp. \( \mathbb{N} \)). In other words, we stopped when we found the minimum number of measurements that \( \ell_1-\ell_1 \) minimization requires for successful reconstruction for a given \( \beta \), that is, \( \min \{ m : \|\hat{x}_m(\beta) - x^*\|_2/\|x^*\|_2 \leq 10^{-2} \} \). The values of \( \beta \) were 0.01, 0.05, 0.1, 0.5, 0.75, 0.9, 1, 2.5, 5, 10, 50, and 100. We then repeated the entire procedure for 4 other randomly generated pairs \( (\mathbb{A}, \mathbb{N}) \).

Results for \( \ell_1-\ell_1 \) minimization. Fig. 6 shows the results of these experiments. It displays the minimum number of
Fig. 6 also shows that setting \( \beta = 1 \) in practice close to the optimal one. Indeed, three out of five solid lines give the experimental performance of \( \ell_1-\ell_1 \) minimization for 5 different Gaussian matrices as a function of \( \beta \) (solid lines). The dotted line depicts the bounds given by Theorem 3 which are minimized for \( \beta = 1 \) (vertical line). The horizontal line indicates the bound given by (52) for classical CS.

![Minimum number of measurements for \( \ell_1-\ell_1 \) minimization](image1)

### VI. PROOF OF MAIN RESULTS

In this section we present the proofs of Theorems 3 and 4. This is the content of Subsections VI-B and VI-C, respectively. Before presenting those proofs, we state some auxiliary results.

#### A. Auxiliary Results

The following lemma will play an important role in our proofs. It upper bounds the expected squared distance of a scalar Gaussian random variable to an interval in \( \mathbb{R} \). Recall that the probability density function of a scalar Gaussian random variable with zero-mean and unit variance is given by

\[
\phi(x) := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2}\right).
\]

We denote an interval in \( \mathbb{R} \) with

\[
\mathcal{I}(a,b) := \{x \in \mathbb{R} : |x - a| \leq b\} = [a-b, a+b].
\]

**Lemma 2.** Let \( g \sim \mathcal{N}(0,1) \) be a scalar, zero-mean Gaussian random variable with unit variance. Let \( a, b \in \mathbb{R} \) and \( b \geq 0 \).

1) If \( b = 0 \), then \( \mathcal{I}(a,b) = \{a\} \) and

\[
\mathbb{E}_g[\text{dist}(g,a)^2] = a^2 + 1.
\]

2) If \( b > 0 \) and \( |a| < b \), i.e., \( 0 \in \mathcal{I}(a,b) \), then

\[
\mathbb{E}_g[\text{dist}(g,\mathcal{I}(a,b))^2] \leq \frac{\varphi(b-a)}{b-a} + \frac{\varphi(a+b)}{a+b}.
\]

*That is not always the case in practice: in general, the bounds in Theorem 4 can be smaller than the one for standard CS when \( x^* \) is very sparse.*
where $f$ is a function.

Before that, let us compute the condition in terms of the problem parameters in Definition 3.

The subdifferentials do not contain the zero vector:

Therefore, $\partial f(x^*) = \{ \partial f^{(i)}(x^*_i) | i \in I \}$

Recall that $\partial |s| = \text{sign}(s)$ for $s \neq 0$, and $\partial |s| = [-1, 1]$ for $s = 0$. The function $\text{sign}(\cdot)$ returns the sign of a number, i.e., $\text{sign}(a) = 1$ if $a > 0$, and $\text{sign}(a) = -1$ if $a < 0$. We then have

Lemma 4. Assume $x^* \neq 0$, or, equivalently, that $I \neq 0$. Assume also $w \neq x^*$ or, equivalently, that $J \neq 0$. Consider $f_1$ and $f_2$ in (53) and (54), respectively.

1) $0 \notin \partial f_1(x^*)$ if and only if $\bar{r} > 0$ or $\beta \neq 1$.

2) $0 \notin \partial f_2(x^*)$ if and only if there is $i \in I$ such that

$\beta \neq \text{sign}(x_i^*)/(w_i - x_i^*)$ or there is $i \in I^c$ such that $\beta > 1/|w_i|$.

The proof is in Appendix C.

B. Proof of Theorem 3

Proposition 2 establishes that $w(C) = \mathbb{E}_g[\text{dist}(g, C^\circ)]$, for a cone $C$ and its polar cone $C^\circ$, where $g \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \bar{I})$. Using Jensen’s inequality \cite{61}, Thm. B.1.1.8, $w(C) \leq \mathbb{E}_g[\text{dist}(g, C^\circ)^2]$. The polar cone of the tangent cone $T_{f_i}(x^*)$ is the normal cone $N_{f_i}(x^*)$ which, according to Proposition 3 coincides with the cone generated by the subdifferential $\partial f_i(x^*)$ whenever $0 \notin \partial f_i(x^*)$. In other words, if $0 \notin \partial f_i(x^*)$, then

$$w(T_{f_i}(x^*))^2 \leq \mathbb{E}_g[\text{dist}(g, \text{cone } \partial f_i(x^*))^2]. \quad (57)$$

Part 1) of Lemma 4 establishes that $0 \notin \partial f_i(x^*)$ is equivalent to $\beta \neq 1$ or $\bar{h} > 0$. So, provided we assume that $\bar{h} > 0$ for part 1) of the theorem, we can always use (57). The proof is organized as follows. First, we compute a generic upper bound on (57), using the several cases of Lemma 2. This will give us three bounds, each one for a specific case of the theorem, i.e., $\beta = 1$, $\beta < 1$, and $\beta > 1$. These bounds, however, will be uninformative since they depend on unknown quantities and on a free variable. We then address each case separately, selecting a specific value for the free variable and “getting rid” of the unknown quantities. In this last step, we will use the bound in Lemma 3 frequently.

1) Generic Bound: A vector $d \in \mathbb{R}^n$ belongs to the cone generated by $\partial f_i(x^*)$ if $d = ty$ for some $t \geq 0$ and some $y \in \partial f_i(x^*)$. According to (55), each component $d_i$ satisfies

$$d_i = t \text{sign}(x_i^*) + t\beta \text{sign}(x_i^* - w_i), \quad \text{if } i \in I$$

$$d_i \leq t \beta \text{sign}(x_i^*) \leq t, \quad \text{if } i \in I^c$$

$$d_i \leq t(\beta + 1) \quad \text{if } i \in I^c.$$
for some $t \geq 0$. Thus, the right-hand side of (57) is written as

$$
\mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist}(g, \text{cone } \partial f_1(x^*))^2 \right] = \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \min_{t \geq 0} \left( \sum_{i \in I} \text{dist} \left( g_i, t \text{ sign}(x_i^*) + t \beta \text{ sign}(x_i^* - w_i) \right)^2 \right) + \sum_{i \in I^c} \text{dist} \left( g_i, \mathcal{I}(t \beta \text{ sign}(x_i^* - w_i)) \right)^2 \right] + \sum_{i \in I^c} \text{dist} \left( g_i, \mathcal{I}(0, t(\beta + 1)) \right)^2 \right].
$$

As in the proof of Proposition 4 (in [2]), we fix $t$ now and select a particular value for it later. Our choice for $t$ will not necessarily be optimal, but it will give bounds that can be expressed as a function of the parameters in Definition 3. In other words, if $h$ is a function of $t$ and $g$, we have

$$
\mathbb{E}_g \left[ \min_t h(g, t) \right] \leq \min_t \mathbb{E}_g[h(g, t)] \leq \mathbb{E}_g[h(g, t)], \forall t. \tag{58}
$$

The value we will select for $t$ does not necessarily minimize the second term in (58), but allows deriving useful bounds. For a fixed $t$, we then have:

$$
\mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist}(g, \text{cone } \partial f_1(x^*))^2 \right] \leq \sum_{i \in I} \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist} \left( g_i, t \text{ sign}(x_i^*) + t \beta \text{ sign}(x_i^* - w_i) \right)^2 \right] + \sum_{i \in I^c} \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist} \left( g_i, \mathcal{I}(t \beta \text{ sign}(x_i^* - w_i)) \right)^2 \right] + \sum_{i \in I^c} \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist} \left( g_i, \mathcal{I}(0, t(\beta + 1)) \right)^2 \right]. \tag{59a}
$$

Next, we use Lemma 2 to compute (59a) in closed-form and to upper bound (59b), (59c), and (59d).

**Expression for (59a).** By partitioning the set $IJ$ into $I_+ J_+ \cup I_- J_- \cup I_+ J_- \cup I_- J_+$, we obtain

$$
\text{Expression for (59a).} \quad \sum_{i \in I_+ J_+} \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist} \left( g_i, t(\beta + 1) \right)^2 \right] + \sum_{i \in I_- J_-} \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist} \left( g_i, -t(\beta + 1) \right)^2 \right] + \sum_{i \in I_+ J_-} \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist} \left( g_i, t(\beta - 1) \right)^2 \right] + \sum_{i \in I_- J_+} \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist} \left( g_i, t(1 - \beta) \right)^2 \right].
$$

And using (46) in Lemma 2 and $h$ and $\mathcal{H}$ in Definition 3

$$
\sum_{i \in I_+ J_+} \left[ t^2(\beta + 1)^2 + 1 \right] + \sum_{i \in I_- J_-} \left[ t^2(\beta + 1)^2 + 1 \right] + \sum_{i \in I_+ J_-} \left[ t^2(\beta - 1)^2 + 1 \right] + \sum_{i \in I_- J_+} \left[ t^2(\beta - 1)^2 + 1 \right] = \left| I_+ J_+ \right| + \left| I_+ J_- \right| + \left| I_- J_+ \right| + \left| I_- J_- \right| \right) t^2(\beta + 1)^2 + 1 \right) + \left( \left| I_+ J_+ \right| + \left| I_- J_- \right| \right) t^2(\beta - 1)^2 + 1 \right) = t^2(\mathcal{H}(\beta + 1)^2 + h(\beta - 1)^2) + |IJ|}. \tag{60}
$$

**Bounding (59b).** If we decompose $IJ^c = I_+ J^c \cup I_- J^c$, we see that

$$
\sum_{i \in I_+ J^c} \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist} \left( g_i, \mathcal{I}(t, t\beta) \right)^2 \right] + \sum_{i \in I_- J^c} \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist} \left( g_i, \mathcal{I}(-t, t\beta) \right)^2 \right]. \tag{61}
$$

There are three cases: $\beta = 1$, $\beta < 1$, and $\beta > 1$.

- If $\beta = 1$, then $I(t, t\beta) = [0, 2t]$ and $I(-t, t\beta) = [-2t, 0]$. Applying (51) (resp. (50)) to each summand in the first (resp. second) term of (61) we conclude that

$$
\mathbb{E}_g \left[ \min_t h(g, t) \right] \leq |IJ^c| \left( \frac{\varphi(t(2t) + 1)}{2t} + \frac{1}{2} \right). \tag{62}
$$

- If $\beta < 1$, then $0 \notin I(t, t\beta)$ and $0 \notin I(-t, t\beta)$. If we apply (49) to the summands in the first term of (61) and (48) to the summands in the second term, and take into account that $\left| I_+ J^c \right| + \left| I_- J^c \right| = |IJ^c|$, we conclude that

$$
\mathbb{E}_g \left[ \min_t h(g, t) \right] \leq |IJ^c| \left( 1 + t^2(1 - \beta)^2 + \frac{\varphi(t(\beta + 1))}{t(\beta + 1)} \right). \tag{63}
$$

- Finally, if $\beta > 1$, then $0 \in I(t, t\beta)$ and $0 \in I(-t, t\beta)$. Applying (47) to each summand in both terms of (61) we conclude that

$$
\mathbb{E}_g \left[ \min_t h(g, t) \right] \leq |IJ^c| \left( \frac{\varphi(t(\beta - 1))}{t(\beta - 1)} + \frac{\varphi(t(\beta + 1))}{t(\beta + 1)} \right). \tag{64}
$$

**Bounding (59c).** Decompose $I^c J = I^c J^c \cup I^c J^c$ and write

$$
\sum_{i \in I^c J^c} \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist} \left( g_i, \mathcal{I}(t, t\beta) \right)^2 \right] + \sum_{i \in I^c J^c} \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist} \left( g_i, \mathcal{I}(-t, t\beta) \right)^2 \right]. \tag{65}
$$

As before, we have three cases: $\beta = 1$, $\beta < 1$, and $\beta > 1$.

- If $\beta = 1$, then $I(t, t\beta) = [0, 2t]$ and $I(-t, t\beta) = [-2t, 0]$. If we apply (51) (resp. (50)) to each summand in the first (resp. second) term of (65), we conclude that

$$
\mathbb{E}_g \left[ \min_t h(g, t) \right] \leq |I^c J| \left( \frac{\varphi(t(2t) + 1)}{2t} + \frac{1}{2} \right). \tag{66}
$$

- If $\beta < 1$, then $0 \notin I(t, t\beta)$ and $0 \notin I(-t, t\beta)$. Therefore, according to (47),

$$
\mathbb{E}_g \left[ \min_t h(g, t) \right] \leq |I^c J| \left( \frac{\varphi(t(1 + \beta))}{t(1 + \beta)} + \frac{\varphi(t(1 - \beta))}{t(1 - \beta)} \right). \tag{67}
$$
If $\beta > 1$, then $0 \not\in \mathcal{I}(t, \beta)$ and $0 \not\in \mathcal{I}(-t, \beta)$. If we apply (49) to each summand in the first term of (65) and (48) to each summand in the second term, we find that
\[
\left| E_J \left[ \frac{\partial f(t, \beta)}{\beta} \right] \right| \leq \left| E_J \left[ 1 + t^2 (\beta - 1)^2 + \frac{\phi(t + 1)}{\beta} \right] \right| . \tag{68}
\]

Bounding (59c). The interval $\mathcal{I}(0, t(\beta + 1))$ contains the origin, so we can apply (47) directly to each summand in (59d):
\[
\left| E_{J} \left[ \frac{\phi(t + 1)}{t(\beta + 1)} \right] \right| \leq \left| E_{J} \left[ \frac{\phi(t + 1)}{t(\beta + 1)} \right] \right| . \tag{69}
\]

Bounding (59a) + (59b) + (59c) + (59d). Given all the previous bounds, we can now obtain a generic bound for $f(\beta)$. Naturally, there are three cases: $\beta = 1$, $\beta < 1$, and $\beta > 1$.

For $\beta = 1$, we sum (60), (62), (66), and (69) (with $\beta = 1$):
\[
E_g \left[ \text{dist}(g, \text{cone} \partial f_1(x^*))^2 \right] \leq 4t^2 + |I_J| + \frac{1}{2} \left[ |I_{J^c}| + |I_J| + |I_{J^c}| \right] \frac{\phi(t + 1)}{t(\beta + 1)} . \tag{70}
\]

For $\beta < 1$, we sum (60), (63), (67), and (69):
\[
E_g \left[ \text{dist}(g, \text{cone} \partial f_1(x^*))^2 \right] \leq 2t \left[ |I_{J^c}|(\beta + 1)^2 + (h + |I_{J^c}|)(\beta - 1)^2 \right] \frac{\phi(t(1 - \beta))}{t(1 - \beta)} + \frac{1}{|I_J|} \left[ |I_{J^c}| + |I_{J^c}| \right] \frac{\phi(t(\beta + 1))}{t(\beta + 1)} . \tag{71}
\]

For $\beta > 1$, we sum (60), (63), (68), and (69):
\[
E_g \left[ \text{dist}(g, \text{cone} \partial f_1(x^*))^2 \right] \leq t^2 \left[ |I_{J^c}|(\beta + 1)^2 + (h + |I_{J^c}|)(\beta - 1)^2 \right] \frac{\phi(t(\beta + 1))}{t(\beta + 1)} + |I_J| \frac{\phi(t(\beta - 1))}{t(\beta - 1)} . \tag{72}
\]

2) Specification of the Bound for Each Case: We now address each one of the cases $\beta = 1$, $\beta < 1$, and $\beta > 1$ individually. Before that, recall from (24) that $|I_{J^c}| + |I_{J^c}| + 2|I_{J^c}| = 2n - (q + h + \bar{h})$, a term that appears in (70), (71), and (72). That term is always positive due to our assumption that $n - q = |I_{J^c}| > 0$.

Case 1: $\beta = 1$. Notice that, according to (19) and (23),
\[
|I_J| + \frac{1}{2} |I_{J^c}| + |I_{J^c}| = h + \bar{h} + \frac{1}{2} q - \frac{1}{2} (h + \bar{h}) = \frac{1}{2} (q + h + \bar{h}).
\]

This allows rewriting (70) as
\[
E_g \left[ \text{dist}(g, \text{cone} \partial f_1(x^*))^2 \right] \leq 4t^2 \left[ h + \bar{h} + \frac{1}{2} q - \frac{1}{2} (h + \bar{h}) \right] + \frac{1}{2} \left[ 2n - (q + h + \bar{h}) \right] \frac{1}{t \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp(-2t^2) , \tag{73}
\]
where we used the definition of $\varphi$ in (44). We now select $t$ as
\[
t^* := \frac{1}{\beta + 1} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{2n}{q + h + \bar{h}} \right) \right] = \frac{1}{\beta + 1} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \log r \right] ,
\]
where $r := 2n/(q + h + \bar{h})$. Notice that $t^*$ is well defined because $2n > q + h + \bar{h}$, i.e., $r > 0$. It is also finite, as our assumption that $x^* \neq 0$, or $|I| > 0$, implies $q = |I \cup J| > 0$. Replacing $t^*$ in (73), we obtain
\[
E_g \left[ \text{dist}(g, \text{cone} \partial f_1(x^*))^2 \right] \leq 2t^2 \left[ h + \bar{h} + \frac{1}{2} q + \frac{1}{2} \left( 2n - (q + h + \bar{h}) \right) \right] \frac{1}{t \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp(-2t^2) .
\]

Case 2: $\beta < 1$. We rewrite (71) as
\[
E_g \left[ \text{dist}(g, \text{cone} \partial f_1(x^*))^2 \right] \leq s + F(\beta, t) + G(\beta, t) \tag{74}
\]
\[
t^2 \left[ h + \bar{h} + \frac{1}{2} q + \frac{1}{2} \left( 2n - (q + h + \bar{h}) \right) \right] \frac{1}{t \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp(-2t^2) .
\]

where we used $s := |I|$, $\frac{1}{2} |I_{J^c}| = s - (h + \bar{h})$ (cf. (20)), and
\[
F(\beta, t) := (s - q) \frac{\varphi(t(1 - \beta))}{t(1 - \beta)} \tag{75}
\]
\[
G(\beta, t) := (2n - (q + h + \bar{h})) \frac{\varphi(t(\beta + 1))}{t(\beta + 1)} .
\]

Note that we used (21) and (23) when defining $F$ and $G$. We will consider two cases: $F(\beta, t) \leq G(\beta, t)$ and $F(\beta, t) \geq G(\beta, t)$. Note that
\[
\frac{F(\beta, t)}{G(\beta, t)} \leq 1
\]
\[
\iff \frac{q - s}{2n - (q + h + \bar{h})} \leq \frac{1}{1 + \beta} \exp(-2t^2) .
\]

\[
E_g \left[ \text{dist}(g, \text{cone} \partial f_1(x^*))^2 \right] \leq s + F(\beta, t) + G(\beta, t)
\]
\[
t^2 \left[ h + \bar{h} + \frac{1}{2} q + \frac{1}{2} \left( 2n - (q + h + \bar{h}) \right) \right] \frac{1}{t \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp(-2t^2) .
\]

where we used the definition of $\varphi$. We now select $t$ as
\[
t^* := \frac{1}{\beta + 1} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{2n}{q + h + \bar{h}} \right) \right] = \frac{1}{\beta + 1} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{1}{2} \right] \sqrt{2\log r} .
\]

where $r := 2n/(q + h + \bar{h})$ is as before. Replacing $t^*$ in (77) yields
\[
E_g \left[ \text{dist}(g, \text{cone} \partial f_1(x^*))^2 \right] \leq s + F(\beta, t) + G(\beta, t)
\]
\[ \leq 2 \left[ \frac{h + (s - h)(\beta - 1)^2}{(\beta + 1)^2} \right] \log r + s \\
+ 2 \left[ \frac{2n - (q + h + h)}{r} \right] \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\log r}} \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{1}{\sqrt{q + h + h}} \\
= 2 \left[ h + (s - h)(\beta - 1)^2 \right] \log r + s \\
+ (q + h + h) \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi \log r}} \\
\leq 2 \left[ h + (s - h)(\beta - 1)^2 \right] \log \left( \frac{2n}{q + h + h} \right) + s \\
+ \frac{2}{5} (q + h + h), \]

which is (28). We used (52) in the last inequality. This bound is valid only if (76) with \( \leq \) is satisfied with \( t = t^* \), i.e.,

\[ \frac{q - s}{2n - (q + h + h)} \leq 1 - \beta \left( \frac{q + h + h}{2n} \right)^{\log(\frac{q}{s})}, \]

which is condition (27).

- Case 3: \( \beta > 1 \). We rewrite (72) as

\[ \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist}(g, \text{cone} \partial f_1(x^*))^2 \right] \leq t^2 \left[ h(\beta + 1)^2 + (q + h - s)(\beta - 1)^2 \right] + l + H(\beta, t), \]

where we used \( l := |J|, |I^c J| = q - s \) (cf. (21)), \( G \) is defined in (75), and

\[ H(\beta, t) := (s - (h + h)) \frac{\phi(t(\beta - 1))}{t(\beta - 1)}. \]

We select \( t \) as

\[ t^* = \frac{1}{\beta + 1} \sqrt{2\log \left( \frac{2n}{q + h + h} \right)} = \frac{1}{\beta + 1} \sqrt{2\log r}, \]

where \( r \) is now \( r := q/s \). Since in case 2b) of the theorem, we assume \( 0 < |I^c J| = q - s \), we have \( t^* > 0 \). Notice that \( t^* \) is finite, because \( s > 0 \) (given that \( x^* \neq 0 \). Replacing \( t^* \) into (75) yields

\[ \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist}(g, \text{cone} \partial f_1(x^*))^2 \right] \leq 2 \left[ h(1 + \beta)^2 + s - h \right] \log r + s \\
+ 2(q - s) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\log r}} \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{1}{\sqrt{q + h + h}} \\
= 2 \left[ h(1 + \beta)^2 + s - h \right] \log r + s + \frac{1 - \beta}{\sqrt{\pi \log r}} \\
\leq 2 \left[ h(1 + \beta)^2 + s - h \right] \log r + s + \frac{2}{5} s \\
= 2 \left[ h(1 + \beta)^2 + s - h \right] \log \left( \frac{q}{s} \right) + \frac{7}{5} s, \]

which is (30). Again, we used (52) in the last inequality. This bound is valid only if (76) with \( \geq \) is satisfied for \( t = t^* \), i.e.,

\[ \frac{q - s}{2n - (q + h + h)} \geq 1 - \beta \left( \frac{s}{q} \right)^{\frac{4\beta}{\beta - 1}}, \]

where we used (20) when defining \( H \). We also consider two cases: \( H(\beta, t) \leq G(\beta, t) \) and \( H(\beta, t) \geq H(\beta, t) \). Note that

\[ \frac{H(\beta, t)}{G(\beta, t)} \leq 1 \]

\[ \iff \]

\[ \frac{s - (h + h)}{2n - (q + h + h)} \leq \beta - 1 \exp \left( -2\beta t^2 \right). \]

- Suppose \( H(\beta, t) \leq G(\beta, t) \), i.e., (80) is satisfied with \( \geq \). Then, (79) implies

\[ \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist}(g, \text{cone} \partial f_1(x^*))^2 \right] \leq t^2 \left[ h(\beta + 1)^2 + (q + h - s)(\beta - 1)^2 \right] + l + 2G(\beta, t) \\
= t^2 \left[ h(\beta + 1)^2 + (q + h - s)(\beta - 1)^2 \right] + l \\
+ 2(2n - (q + h + h)) \frac{\exp \left( -\beta^2 (1 - \beta)^2 \right)}{\sqrt{2\pi \beta t(\beta - 1)}}. \]

Now we select

\[ t^* = \frac{1}{\beta + 1} \sqrt{2\log \left( \frac{2n}{q + h + h} \right)} = \frac{1}{\beta + 1} \sqrt{2\log r}, \]

where \( r := 2n/(q + h + h) \). Again, note that our assumptions imply that \( t^* \) is well defined and positive. Replacing \( t^* \) into (81) yields

\[ \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist}(g, \text{cone} \partial f_1(x^*))^2 \right] \leq 2 \left[ h + (q + h - s) \left( \frac{\beta - 1}{\beta + 1} \right)^2 \right] \log r + l \\
+ (2n - (q + h + h)) \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi \log r}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{q + h + h}} \\
= 2 \left[ h + (q + h - s) \left( \frac{\beta - 1}{\beta + 1} \right)^2 \right] \log r + l \\
+ (q + h + h) \frac{1 - \beta}{\sqrt{\pi \log r}} \\
\leq 2 \left[ h + (q + h - s) \left( \frac{\beta - 1}{\beta + 1} \right)^2 \right] \log \left( \frac{2n}{q + h + h} \right) + l \\
+ \frac{2}{5} (q + h + h). \]
This is (52). Again, (52) was used in the last step. This bound is valid only when (80) with ≤ is satisfied for \( t = t^* \), i.e.,

\[
\frac{s - (h + \overline{\eta})}{2n - (q + h + \overline{\eta})} \leq \frac{\beta - 1}{\beta + 1} \left( \frac{g + h + \overline{\eta}}{2n} \right)^{\frac{4b}{(\beta+1)b}},
\]

which is condition (51).

• Suppose now that \( H(\beta, t) \geq G(\beta, t) \). Then, (79) implies

\[
\mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist}(g, \text{cone } \partial f_1(x^*)^2) \right] \leq t^2 \left[ \frac{\beta (\beta + 1)}{\beta - 1} \right] ^2 + q + h - s \log r + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi r}} \frac{r}{\sqrt{2}x}.
\]

This concludes the proof. \( \square \)

C. Proof of Theorem 2

The steps to prove the theorem are the same steps as the ones in the proof of Theorem 3. So, we will omit some details. Whenever \( 0 \notin \partial f_2(x^*) \), we can use the bound in (57) with \( f_1 \) replaced by \( f_2 \), i.e.,

\[
w(I I_2(x^*))^2 \leq \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist}(g, \text{cone } \partial f_2(x^*))^2 \right].
\]

Note that this bound results from the characterization of the normal cone provided in Proposition 3 and from Jensen’s inequality. Part 2) of Lemma 4 establishes that our assumptions guarantee that \( 0 \notin \partial f_2(x^*) \) and, thus, that we can use (83). Next, we express the right-hand side of (83) component-wise, and then we establish bounds for each term.

A vector \( d \in \mathbb{R}^n \) belongs to the cone generated by \( \partial f_2(x^*) \) if, for some \( t \geq 0 \) and some \( y \in \partial f_2(x^*) = dy \). According to (56), each component \( d_i \) satisfies

\[
\mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist}(g, \text{cone } \partial f_2(x^*))^2 \right] = \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \min_{t \geq 0} \left\{ \sum_{i \in I} \text{dist}(g_i, t \text{sign}(x_i^*) + t\beta(x_i^* - w_i)) \right\} \right] + \sum_{i \in I^c} \text{dist}(g_i, I(-t\beta w_i, t))^2.
\]

As in the proof of Theorem 3 we fix \( t \) and select it later (cf. (58)). Doing so, gives

\[
\mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist}(g, \text{cone } \partial f_2(x^*))^2 \right] \leq \sum_{i \in I} \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist}(g_i, t \text{sign}(x_i^*) + t\beta(x_i^* - w_i))^2 \right] + \sum_{i \in I^c} \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist}(g_i, (I(-t\beta w_i, t))^2 \right].
\]

Next, we use Lemma 2 to derive a closed-form expression for (84a) and establish a bound on (84b).

Expression for (84a). Using (46),

\[
(84a) = \sum_{i \in I} \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist}(g_i, t \text{sign}(x_i^*) + t\beta(x_i^* - w_i))^2 \right] = \sum_{i \in I} 1 + (1 + \beta(x_i^* - w_i))^2 + \sum_{i \in I^c} (1 - \beta(x_i^* - w_i))^2 + |I|,
\]

where we decomposed \( I = I_+ \cup I_- \). Bounding (84b). We have

\[
(84b) = \sum_{i \in I^c} \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist}(g_i, I(-t\beta w_i, t))^2 \right] = \sum_{i \in I^c} \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist}(g_i, I(-t\beta w_i, t))^2 \right].
\]
The second term in the right-hand side of (86) can be bounded according to (47):

\[
\sum_{i \in I^c J} \mathbb{E}_{g_i} \left[ \text{dist} \left( g_i, \mathcal{I}(0, t) \right)^2 \right] \leq 2 |I^c J| \varphi \left( t \right) t. \tag{87}
\]

The first term, however, is more complicated. Recall that \( I^c J = \{ i : w_i \neq x_i^* = 0 \} \). Let us analyze the several possible situations for the interval \( \mathcal{I}(t, -t \beta w_i, t) = \left[ t(-\beta w_i - 1), t(-\beta w_i + 1) \right] \). It does not contain zero whenever

\[ t(-\beta w_i - 1) > 0 \iff t \neq 0 \text{ and } w_i < -\frac{1}{\beta}, \]

or

\[ t(-\beta w_i + 1) < 0 \iff t \neq 0 \text{ and } w_i > \frac{1}{\beta}. \]

In addition to the subsets of \( I^c J \) defined in (36)-(37), define

\[
K_\pm := \left\{ i \in I^c J : w_i = \pm \frac{1}{\beta} \right\},
\]

where we omit the dependency of these sets on \( \beta \) for notational simplicity. Noticing that \( I^c J = K_- \cup K_+ \cup K^- \cup K^+ \cup L \) and using Lemma 2 we obtain

\[
\sum_{i \in I^c J} \mathbb{E}_{g_i} \left[ \text{dist} \left( g_i, \mathcal{I}(-t \beta w_i, t) \right)^2 \right] \leq \sum_{i \in K_} \left[ 1 + t^2 (\beta w_i + 1)^2 + \frac{\varphi(t(1 - \beta w_i))}{t(1 - \beta w_i)} \right] + \sum_{i \in K_+} \left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\varphi(t(1 - \beta w_i))}{t(1 - \beta w_i)} \right] + \sum_{i \in K^-} \left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\varphi(t(1 + \beta w_i))}{t(1 + \beta w_i)} \right] + \sum_{i \in K^+} \left[ \frac{\varphi(t(1 + \beta w_i))}{t(1 + \beta w_i)} + \frac{\varphi(t(1 - \beta w_i))}{t(1 - \beta w_i)} \right] = |K_\pm(\beta)| + \frac{1}{2} |K^\pm(\beta)| + t^2 \left[ \sum_{i \in K_} (\beta w_i + 1)^2 + \sum_{i \in K_+} (\beta w_i - 1)^2 \right] + \sum_{i \in K_} \frac{\varphi(t(1 + \beta w_i))}{t(1 + \beta w_i)} + \sum_{i \in K_+} \frac{\varphi(t(1 + \beta w_i))}{t(1 + \beta w_i)} + \sum_{i \in K_-} \frac{\varphi(t(1 + \beta w_i))}{t(1 + \beta w_i)} + \sum_{i \in K_+} \frac{\varphi(t(1 - \beta w_i))}{t(1 - \beta w_i)} \]

\[
\leq |K_\pm(\beta)| + \frac{1}{2} |K^\pm(\beta)| + t^2 \left[ \sum_{i \in K_} (\beta w_i + 1)^2 + \sum_{i \in K_+} (\beta w_i - 1)^2 \right] + \sum_{i \in K} \frac{\varphi(t(1 + \beta w_i))}{t(1 + \beta w_i)} + \sum_{i \in K_+} \frac{\varphi(t(1 + \beta w_i))}{t(1 + \beta w_i)} + \sum_{i \in K_-} \frac{\varphi(t(1 + \beta w_i))}{t(1 + \beta w_i)} + \sum_{i \in K_+} \frac{\varphi(t(1 - \beta w_i))}{t(1 - \beta w_i)} \]

where, in the second step, we used the definitions of \( K^- \) and \( K^\pm \) in (36) and (37), respectively. In the last step, we used \( w_p := |w_p| \) and \( \varpi_m := |m| \), for

\[ p := \arg \min_{i \in K_+ \cup K^- \cup L} 1 - \beta w_i \]

\[ m := \arg \min_{i \in K_+ \cup K^- \cup L} 1 + \beta w_i. \]

Note that

\[ \overline{w} = \left\{ \arg \min_{i \in K_+ \cup K^- \cup L} \{ |w|-1/\beta \} \right\}, \]

since the union of the sets \( K_-, K_+, K^-, K^+, L \) and \( K^\pm \) gives \( I^c J \). Therefore, \( \varphi(t(1 - \beta \overline{w}_j))/t(1 - \beta \overline{w}_j) \leq \varphi(t(1 - \beta \overline{w}_j))/t(1 - \beta \overline{w}_j) \), for \( j = p, m \). Using this in the last two terms of (88), and noticing that

\[ |K_+| + |K^| + |K_+| + |K^+| = \{ i \in I^c J : |w_i| \geq \frac{1}{\beta} \} =: K(\beta), \]

we obtain

\[
\sum_{i \in I^c J} \mathbb{E}_{g_i} \left[ \text{dist} \left( g_i, \mathcal{I}(-t \beta w_i, t) \right)^2 \right] \leq |K_\pm(\beta)| + \frac{1}{2} |K^\pm(\beta)| + t^2 \left[ \sum_{i \in K_} (\beta w_i + 1)^2 + \sum_{i \in K_+} (\beta w_i - 1)^2 \right] + \left| K(\beta) \right| + 2|L| \frac{\varphi(t(1 - \beta \overline{w}))}{t(1 - \beta \overline{w})}. \tag{89}
\]

**Bounding (84a) + (84b).** Adding up (85), (87), and (89), we obtain

\[
\mathbb{E}_{g} \left[ \text{dist} \left( g, \text{cone } \partial f_2(x^*) \right)^2 \right] \leq |I| + t^2 \left[ \sum_{i \in I} (1 + \beta(x_i^* - w_i))^2 + \sum_{i \in L} (1 - \beta(x_i^* - w_i))^2 \right] + 2 |I^c J| \frac{\varphi(t)}{t} + |K_\pm(\beta)| + \frac{1}{2} |K^\pm(\beta)| + \left| K(\beta) \right| + 2|L| \times \frac{\varphi(t(1 - \beta \overline{w}))}{t(1 - \beta \overline{w})} + 2 |I^c J| \frac{\varphi(t)}{t} \]

\[
\leq v_\beta t^2 + |I| + |K_\pm(\beta)| + \frac{1}{2} |K^\pm(\beta)| + \left| K(\beta) \right| + 2|L| \times \frac{\varphi(t(1 - \beta \overline{w}))}{t(1 - \beta \overline{w})} + 2 F(t, \beta, \overline{w}) + 2 G(t), \tag{90}
\]
where we used \(|K(\beta)| + 2|L| \leq 2|F \cdot J| = 2(q - s)\) (cf. (21)) in the last inequality. Note that \(v_β\) is defined in (33) and that we defined

\[
F(t, \beta, \overline{w}) := (q-s)\frac{\varphi(t(1-\beta \overline{w}))}{t(1-\beta \overline{w})},
\]

\[
G(t) := (n-q)\frac{\varphi(t)}{t}.
\]

We consider two scenarios: \(F(t, \beta, \overline{w}) \leq G(t)\) and \(F(t, \beta, \overline{w}) \geq G(t)\). Note that

\[
\frac{F(t, \beta, \overline{w})}{G(t)} \leq 1
\]

\(\iff\)

\[
\frac{q-s}{n-q} \leq |1-\beta \overline{w}| \exp\left(t^2 \beta \overline{w} \left(\frac{\beta}{2} - 1\right)\right),
\]

(91)

- Suppose \(F(t, \beta, \overline{w}) \leq G(t)\), i.e., (91) is satisfied with \(\leq\). The bound in (90) implies

\[
\mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist}(g, \text{cone} \partial f_2(x^*))^2 \right] 
\leq v_β t^2 + s + |K(\beta)| + \frac{1}{2}|K^-(\beta)| + 4G(t)
\]

\[= v_β t^2 + s + |K(\beta)| + \frac{1}{2}|K^-| + 4(n-q)\frac{1}{t} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{t^2}{2}\right).\]

We now select \(t\) as

\[t^* = \sqrt{2\log \left(\frac{n-q}{q}\right)} = \sqrt{2\log r},\]

where \(r := n/q\). Note that \(r\) is well defined, since \(x^* \neq 0\) implies \(q > 0\). Also, the assumption \(q < n\) implies \(t^* > 0\). Setting \(t = t^*\) and using (52), we get

\[
\mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist}(g, \text{cone} \partial f_2(x^*))^2 \right] 
\leq 2v_β \log \left(\frac{n}{q}\right) + s + |K(\beta)| + \frac{1}{2}|K^-| + 4(n-q)\frac{1}{t} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{t^2}{2}\right)
\]

\[= 2v_β \log \left(\frac{n}{q}\right) + s + |K(\beta)| + \frac{1}{2}|K^-| + 2q \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \log r
\]

\[\leq 2v_β \log \left(\frac{n}{q}\right) + s + |K(\beta)| + \frac{1}{2}|K^-| + \frac{4}{5}q,
\]

which is (40). This bound is valid only if (91) with \(\leq\) is satisfied for \(t^*\), i.e.,

\[
\frac{q-s}{n-q} \leq |1-\beta \overline{w}| \exp\left(2\beta \overline{w} \log \left(\frac{n}{q}\right) \left(\frac{\beta}{2} - 1\right)\right)
\]

which is condition (39).

- Suppose now that \(F(t, \beta, \overline{w}) \geq G(t)\), i.e., (91) is satisfied with \(\geq\). The bound in (90) implies

\[
\mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist}(g, \text{cone} \partial f_2(x^*))^2 \right] 
\leq v_β t^2 + s + |K(\beta)| + \frac{1}{2}|K^-| + 4F(t, \beta, \overline{w})
\]

\[= v_β t^2 + s + |K(\beta)| + \frac{1}{2}|K^-| + 4(q-s)\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{1}{t} \exp\left(-\frac{t^2}{2}(1-\beta \overline{w})^2\right).
\]

And we select \(t\) as

\[t^* = \frac{1}{\sqrt{|1-\beta \overline{w}|}} \sqrt{2\log \left(\frac{n}{q}\right)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{|1-\beta \overline{w}|}} \sqrt{2\log r},\]

where \(r := q/s\). Again, \(r\) is well defined because \(s > 0\). Since we assume \(q > s\), \(r\) is well defined. Setting \(t = t^*\) and using (52) again, we obtain

\[
\mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist}(g, \text{cone} \partial f_2(x^*))^2 \right] 
\leq \frac{2v_β}{|1-\beta \overline{w}|} \log \left(\frac{q}{s}\right) + s + |K(\beta)| + \frac{1}{2}|K^-| + 4(q-s)\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\log r}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\log r}}
\]

\[= \frac{2v_β}{|1-\beta \overline{w}|} \log \left(\frac{q}{s}\right) + s + |K(\beta)| + \frac{1}{2}|K^-| + 2s \frac{1-2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \log r
\]

\[\leq \frac{2v_β}{|1-\beta \overline{w}|} \log \left(\frac{q}{s}\right) + |K(\beta)| + \frac{1}{2}|K^-| + \frac{9}{5}s,
\]

which is (42). This bound is valid only when (91) with \(\geq\) is satisfied for \(t^*\), i.e.,

\[
\frac{q-s}{n-q} \geq |1-\beta \overline{w}| \exp\left(4\beta \overline{w} \log \left(\frac{n}{q}\right) \left(\frac{\beta}{2} - 1\right)\right)
\]

which is condition (41).

**Remarks.** Although these bounds were derived using the same techniques as the ones for \(\ell_1-\ell_1\) minimization, they are much looser. The main reason is their dependency on the magnitudes of \(x^*, w, \) and \(x^*-w\). This forced us to consider a worst-case scenario in the last step of (88).

**VII. Acknowledgments**

The authors would like to thank João Xavier for insightful discussions regarding Proposition [2] and the interpretation of Fig. [3] and to Volkan Cevher for fruitful discussions about relevant related literature.

**Appendix A**

**Proof of Lemma 2**

**A. Proof of 1):**

To show (46), we simply use the linearity of the expected value and the fact that \(g\) has zero mean and unit variance:

\[
\mathbb{E}_g[\text{dist}(g, a)^2] = \mathbb{E}_g[(a-g)^2] = \mathbb{E}_g[a^2 - 2ag + g^2] = a^2 + 1.
\]
B. Proofs of 2), 3), and 4):

In cases 2), 3), and 4), we have \( b > 0 \) and \(|a| \neq b\). Hence,

\[
\mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist}(g, I(a, b))^2 \right] = \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \min_{u} \frac{(u - g)^2}{2} \right. \\
\text{s.t. } |u - a| \leq b
\]

\[
= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{a+b}^{\infty}(g - (a + b))^2 \exp \left( -\frac{g^2}{2} \right) \, dg \\
+ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{a-b}(g - (a - b))^2 \exp \left( -\frac{g^2}{2} \right) \, dg
\]

\[
= A(a + b) + B(a - b),
\]

where

\[
A(x) := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{x}^{\infty}(g - x)^2 \exp \left( -\frac{g^2}{2} \right) \, dg
\]

\[
B(x) := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{x}(g - x)^2 \exp \left( -\frac{g^2}{2} \right) \, dg
\]

and they are sharp for large \( x \) \([62, \text{Eq. 2.121}]\):

\[
\frac{x}{1 + x^2 \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left( -\frac{x^2}{2} \right) \leq Q(x) \leq \frac{1}{x \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left( -\frac{x^2}{2} \right).
\]

The integral in \( A_2(x) \) can be computed in closed-form as

\[
A_2(x) = \frac{2x}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left( -\frac{x^2}{2} \right).
\]

From \([93, 94, 95], \text{and } 97\), we obtain

\[
A(x) = -\frac{x}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left( -\frac{x^2}{2} \right) (1 + x^2) Q(x)
\]

\[
B(x) = \frac{x}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left( -\frac{x^2}{2} \right) (1 + x^2) Q(-x).
\]

Now we compute bounds for \( A(x) \) and \( B(x) \) based on \(96\) and address the cases \( x < 0 \) and \( x > 0 \). We will use the property \( Q(x) = 1 - Q(-x) \). We will also make use of the shorthand notation \( \varphi(x) := \exp(-x^2/2)/\sqrt{2\pi} \) (cf. \([44]\)).

Let us start with \( A(x) \). Consider \( x < 0 \). Then,

\[
A(x) = -x \varphi(x) + (1 + x^2)(1 - Q(-x)) \leq -x \varphi(x) + (1 + x^2) \left(1 + \frac{x}{1 + x^2} \varphi(x)\right)
\]

\[
= 1 + x^2,
\]

where the inequality is due to the lower bound in \(96\). Now, let \( x > 0 \). Applying the upper bound in \(96\) directly, we obtain

\[
A(x) \leq -x \varphi(x) + (1 + x^2) \frac{1}{x} \varphi(x) = \frac{1}{x} \varphi(x).
\]

Now consider \( B(x) \) with \( x < 0 \). Since \( Q(-x) \) has a positive argument, we use the upper bound in \(96\):

\[
B(x) \leq x \varphi(x) + (1 + x^2) \left( -\frac{1}{x} \varphi(x) \right) = \frac{1}{|x|} \varphi(x),
\]

where, in the inequality, we used the fact that \( \varphi(-x) = \varphi(x) \). Assume now \( x > 0 \). Then,

\[
B(x) = x \varphi(x) + (1 + x^2)(1 - Q(x)) \leq x \varphi(x) + (1 + x^2) \left(1 - \frac{x}{1 + x^2} \varphi(x)\right)
\]

\[
= 1 + x^2,
\]

where we used the lower bound in \(96\). In sum, \(100), \(101), \(102), \text{and } 103\) tell us that

\[
A(x) \leq \begin{cases} 1 + x^2 & , \ x < 0 \\ \frac{1}{x} \varphi(x) & , \ x > 0 \end{cases}
\]

5 The lower bound in \([62, \text{Eq. 2.121}]\) is actually \((x^2 - 1)/x^3) \varphi(x)\). The lower bound in \([96], \) however, is tighter and stable near the origin. We found this bound in \([62]\). Since we were not able to track it to a published reference, we replicate the proof from \([33]\) here. For \( x > 0 \), there holds

\[
\left(1 + \frac{1}{x^2}\right) Q(x) = \int_x^\infty \left(1 + \frac{1}{u^2}\right) \varphi(u) \, du \geq \int_x^\infty \left(1 + \frac{1}{u^2}\right) \varphi(u) \, du
\]

\[
= -\int_x^\infty \frac{d\varphi(u)}{u} \left(\frac{u^2}{u^2} \varphi(u)\right) \, du = -\int_x^\infty \frac{d\varphi(u)}{u} \left(\frac{\varphi(u)}{x}\right)
\]

from which the bound follows. In the third step, we used the property \(d\varphi(u)/du = -u\varphi(u)\).
\[ B(x) \leq \begin{cases} \frac{1}{|x|} \varphi(x), & x < 0 \\ 1 + x^2, & x > 0 \end{cases} \quad (105) \]

From (92), (104), and (105),
\[ \mathbb{E}_g \left[ \text{dist}(g, I(a, b)) \right]^2 = A(a + b) + B(a - b) \]
\[ \leq \begin{cases} \frac{\varphi(a+b)}{a+b} + \frac{\varphi(a-b)}{|a-b|}, & |a| < b \\ 1 + (a + b)^2 + \frac{\varphi(a-b)}{|a-b|}, & a + b < 0 \\ \frac{\varphi(a+b)}{a+b} + 1 + (a - b)^2, & a - b > 0 \end{cases} \]

Taking into account that \( \varphi(x) = \varphi(-x) \) for any \( x \), this is exactly (47), (48), and (49).

\section*{Appendix B \hspace{1cm} Proof of Lemma 3}

Denote \( f(x) := (1 - 1/x)^{1/\sqrt{\log x}} \). It can be shown that
\[ \frac{d}{dx} f(x) = \frac{2 \log x + 1 - x}{2x^2 \log^{3/2} x} \]
\[ \frac{d^2}{dx^2} f(x) = \frac{3(x - 1) - 8 \log^2 x + 2(x - 3) \log x}{4x^3 \log^{5/2} x} \]

The stationary points of \( f \) are those for which \( \frac{d}{dx} f(x) = 0 \), that is, the points that satisfy the equation \( 2 \log x + 1 - x = 0 \).

This equation has only one solution, say \( \overline{x} \), for \( x > 1: \log \overline{x} = (\overline{x} - 1)/2 \). Using this identity, we can conclude that
\[ \frac{d^2}{dx^2} f(\overline{x}) = \frac{3(\overline{x} - 1) - 2(\overline{x} - 1)^2 + (\overline{x} - 3)(\overline{x} - 1)}{4x^3 \log^3 \overline{x} (\overline{x} - 1)^{3/2}} \]
\[ = \frac{2 - \overline{x}}{\sqrt{\overline{x}^3(\overline{x} - 1)^3}^{3/2}} < 0, \]

since \( \overline{x} > 2 \). This is because \( \log 2 > 1/2 \) and, e.g., \( \log 11 < 5 \) or, in other words, \( (x - 1)/2 \) intersects \( \log x \) somewhere in the interval \( 2 < x < 11 \), that is, \( 2 < \overline{x} < 11 \). This means that the only stationary point \( \overline{x} \) is a local maximum. Since \( \lim_{x \to 1+} f(x) = 0 \) and \( \lim_{x \to +\infty} f(x) = 0 \) (using for example l'Hôpital’s rule), \( \overline{x} \) is actually a global maximum.

Knowing that \( \overline{x} \) satisfies \( \log \overline{x} = (\overline{x} - 1)/2 \), we have
\[ f(\overline{x}) = \frac{\overline{x} - 1}{\overline{x} \log \overline{x}} = \frac{\overline{x} - 1}{\overline{x} \sqrt{\overline{x}} - 1} = \sqrt{2} \frac{\overline{x} - 1}{\overline{x}}. \]

By equating the derivative of the function \( \sqrt{x - 1}/x \) to zero, we know that it achieves its maximum at \( x = 2 \). Therefore, \( f(\overline{x}) \leq \sqrt{2}/2 = 1/\sqrt{2} \). Dividing by 1/\( \sqrt{\overline{x}} \), we obtain (52).

\section*{Appendix C \hspace{1cm} Proof of Lemma 4}

\subsection*{A. Proof of 1)}

According to (55), \( 0 \in \partial_1 f_1(x^*_i) \) is equivalent to either:
\[ i \in IJ \text{ and } \text{sign}(x^*_i) + \beta \text{sign}(x^*_i - w_i) = 0, \text{ or} \quad (106a) \]
\[ i \in IJ^c \text{ and } \beta \geq 1, \text{ or} \quad (106b) \]
\[ i \in I^cJ \text{ and } \beta \leq 1, \text{ or} \quad (106c) \]
\[ i \in I^cJ^c. \quad (106d) \]

Note that (106a) cannot be satisfied whenever \( \beta \neq 1 \). Hence, conditions (106a)-(106d) can be rewritten as
\[ \beta = 1: \text{sign}(x^*_i) + \text{sign}(x^*_i - w_i) = 0 \text{ for } i \in IJ, \quad (i) \]
\[ i \in I^cJ \text{ or } i \in I^cJ^c. \quad (ii) \]
\[ \beta > 1: i \in I^cJ \text{ or } i \in I^cJ^c. \quad (iii) \]
\[ \beta < 1: i \in I^cJ \text{ or } i \in I^cJ^c. \quad (iv) \]

We consider two scenarios: \( IJ \neq \emptyset \) and \( IJ = \emptyset \).

- Let \( IJ \neq \emptyset \). When \( \beta = 1 \), \( 0 \not\in \partial f_1(x^*_i) \) if and only if there is an \( i \in IJ \) such that \( \text{sign}(x^*_i) + \text{sign}(x^*_i - w_i) \neq 0 \), i.e., there is at least one bad component: \( \overline{h} > 0 \). When \( \beta \neq 1 \), there is at least one \( i \in IJ \) for which (106a) is not satisfied, that is, \( 0 \not\in \partial f_1(x^*_i) \). We thus conclude that part (i) is true whenever \( IJ \neq \emptyset \).

- Let \( IJ = \emptyset \) or, equivalently, \( x^*_i = w_i \), for all \( i \in I \). Recall from (19) that \( |IJ| = h + \overline{h} \). Thus, \( IJ = \emptyset \) implies \( h = 0 \). In this case, if \( \beta = 1 \), then \( 0 \not\in \partial f_1(x^*_i) \). On the other hand, for \( \beta > 1 \), \( 0 \not\in \partial f_1(x^*_i) \) and only if \( I^cJ \neq \emptyset \); similarly, for \( \beta < 1 \), \( 0 \not\in \partial f_1(x^*_i) \) if and only if \( I^cJ^c \neq \emptyset \). We next show that \( IJ = \emptyset \), together with \( I \neq \emptyset \) and \( J \neq \emptyset \), implies that both \( I^cJ \) and \( I^cJ^c \) are nonempty, thus showing that part (i) is also true whenever \( IJ = \emptyset \). In fact, \( I \neq \emptyset \) implies \( I^cJ \neq \emptyset \), because \( I = I \cup I^cJ = I^cJ \). Also, \( J \neq \emptyset \), that is, \( x^*_i \neq w_i \), implies \( I^cJ \neq \emptyset \). This is because \( IJ = \emptyset \) means that \( x^*_i \) and \( w \) coincide on \( I \), and \( I^cJ = \{ i : 0 = x^*_i - w_i \} \) is the set of nonzero components of \( w \) outside \( I \). Since \( x^*_i \) and \( w \) coincide on \( I \), they have to differ outside \( I \), i.e., \( I^cJ \neq \emptyset \).

\subsection*{B. Proof of 2)}

From (56), \( 0 \in \partial_1 f_1(x^*_i) \) is equivalent to either
\[ i \in IJ \text{ and } \beta(w_i - x^*_i) = \text{sign}(x^*_i), \text{ or} \quad (106a) \]
\[ i \in I^cJ, \text{ or} \quad (106b) \]
\[ i \in I^cJ^c, \text{ and } \beta \leq 1/|w_i|. \quad (106d) \]

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