

# Handout

## Examination on Mathematics of Information

### August 4, 2025

**Definition H1.** The spark of the matrix  $D \in \mathbb{C}^{M \times N}$ , denoted by  $\text{spark}(D)$ , is defined as the cardinality of the smallest set of linearly dependent columns of  $D$ .

**Definition H2.** The 1-operator norm of the matrix  $D \in \mathbb{C}^{M \times N}$  is defined as

$$\|D\|_{1,1} = \max_{v \in \mathbb{C}^N} \frac{\|Dv\|_1}{\|v\|_1}.$$

**Lemma H3.** For  $D \in \mathbb{C}^{M \times N}$  and  $v \in \mathbb{C}^N$ , we have

$$\|Dv\|_1 \leq \|D\|_{1,1} \|v\|_1.$$

**Lemma H4.** For the matrix  $D \in \mathbb{C}^{M \times N}$ , we have

$$\|D\|_{1,1} = \max_{\ell \in \{1, \dots, N\}} \sum_{j=1}^M |D_{j,\ell}| = \max_{\ell \in \{1, \dots, N\}} \|d_\ell\|_1,$$

with  $d_\ell$  denoting the  $\ell$ -th column of  $D$ .

**Lemma H5.** Let  $G \in \mathbb{C}^{M \times M}$  be such that  $\|G\|_{1,1} < 1$ . Then, we have

$$\|(\mathbb{I} + G)^{-1}\|_{1,1} \leq \frac{1}{1 - \|G\|_{1,1}},$$

where  $\mathbb{I}$  denotes the identity matrix of size  $M \times M$ .

**Definition H6.** The recovery problem (P1) for the matrix  $D \in \mathbb{C}^{M \times N}$  and the vector  $x \in \mathbb{C}^N$  is defined by

$$\arg \min_{\hat{x}} \|\hat{x}\|_1 \quad \text{subject to } D\hat{x} = Dx. \quad (\text{P1})$$

We say that (P1) uniquely recovers  $x$  iff the minimizer of (P1) is unique and equal to  $x$ .

**Theorem H7** (Homework sheet 5, Problem 3b). Consider (P1) for the matrix  $D \in \mathbb{C}^{M \times N}$  and the vector  $x \in \mathbb{C}^N$  and let  $S \subset \{1, \dots, N\}$  be the support set of  $x$ . (P1) uniquely recovers  $x$  if the following sufficient condition holds:

$$\mathcal{N}(D_S) = \{0\} \quad \text{and} \quad |\langle (D_S)^\dagger d_k, \text{sgn}(x_S) \rangle| < 1, \quad \forall k \in S^c,$$

where  $d_j$  denotes the  $j$ -th column of  $D$  and  $(D_S)^\dagger := ((D_S)^H D_S)^{-1} (D_S)^H$  is the pseudo-inverse of the matrix  $D_S$ , which is obtained from  $D$  by keeping only the columns indexed by  $S$ . Furthermore,  $\text{sgn}(x_S)$  is the vector obtained from  $x$  by collecting  $\text{sgn}(x_j) := \frac{x_j}{|x_j|}$ ,  $j \in S$ , in a  $|S|$ -dimensional vector.

**Lemma H8.** Let  $d \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\mathbb{K} \in \{\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}\}$ . It holds that

$$|\langle x, y \rangle| \leq \|x\|_1 \|y\|_\infty, \quad x, y \in \mathbb{K}^d.$$

**Definition H9 (Covering number).** Let  $(X, \rho)$  be a metric space and let  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq X$  be compact. The set  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N\} \subseteq \mathcal{C}$  is an  $\epsilon$ -covering for  $(\mathcal{C}, \rho)$  if, for each  $x \in \mathcal{C}$ , there exists an  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$  so that  $\rho(x, x_i) \leq \epsilon$ . The  $\epsilon$ -covering number  $N(\epsilon; \mathcal{C}, \rho)$  is the cardinality of a smallest  $\epsilon$ -covering for  $(\mathcal{C}, \rho)$ .

**Definition H10 (Packing number).** Let  $(X, \rho)$  be a metric space and let  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq X$  be compact. The set  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_M\} \subseteq \mathcal{C}$  is an  $\epsilon$ -packing for  $(\mathcal{C}, \rho)$  if, for every pair  $i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, M\}$  with  $i \neq j$ , we have  $\rho(x_i, x_j) > \epsilon$ . The  $\epsilon$ -packing number  $M(\epsilon; \mathcal{C}, \rho)$  is the cardinality of a largest  $\epsilon$ -packing for  $(\mathcal{C}, \rho)$ .

**Definition H11 (Isometric isomorphism).** Let  $(X, \|\cdot\|_X)$  and  $(Y, \|\cdot\|_Y)$  be normed vector spaces and let  $T : X \rightarrow Y$  be a linear mapping. We say that  $T$  is an isometric isomorphism if and only if  $T$  is bijective and an isometry, i.e., for every  $x \in X$ , we have  $\|x\|_X = \|T(x)\|_Y$ .

**Lemma H12.** Let  $(X, \rho_X)$  and  $(Y, \rho_Y)$  be metric spaces and consider the compact sets  $\mathcal{C}_X \subseteq X$  and  $\mathcal{C}_Y \subseteq Y$ . Assume that there exists an isometric isomorphism  $f : \mathcal{C}_X \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_Y$ , i.e.,  $f$  is bijective and for every pair  $a, b \in \mathcal{C}_X$ , one has  $\rho_Y(f(a), f(b)) = \rho_X(a, b)$ . Then,

$$N(\epsilon; \mathcal{C}_X, \rho_X) = N(\epsilon; \mathcal{C}_Y, \rho_Y) \quad \text{and} \quad M(\epsilon; \mathcal{C}_X, \rho_X) = M(\epsilon; \mathcal{C}_Y, \rho_Y). \quad (1)$$

**Lemma H13.** Let  $(X, \rho_1)$  be a metric space and consider a compact set  $\mathcal{C}_X \subseteq X$ . Assume that for another metric  $\rho_2$  on  $X$ , there exist constants  $C_1 \geq C_2 > 0$  such that for all  $a, b \in \mathcal{C}_X$ ,

$$C_2 \rho_1(a, b) \leq \rho_2(a, b) \leq C_1 \rho_1(a, b), \quad (2)$$

then  $\mathcal{C}_X$  is also compact under  $\rho_2$ . Moreover, we have

$$N(\epsilon/C_2; \mathcal{C}_X, \rho_1) \leq N(\epsilon; \mathcal{C}_X, \rho_2) \leq N(\epsilon/C_1; \mathcal{C}_X, \rho_1). \quad (3)$$

**Definition H14.** Let  $\mathbb{N}$  be the set of positive integers and fix  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . The empirical Rademacher complexity of the class  $\mathcal{F}$  of functions  $f : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is defined as

$$\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{F}(\{x_i\}_{i=1}^n)/n) := \frac{1}{n} \mathbb{E}_\varepsilon \left[ \sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \left| \sum_{i=1}^n \varepsilon_i f(x_i) \right| \right],$$

where  $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^n \subseteq \mathcal{X}$  is fixed and  $\{\varepsilon_i\}_{i=1}^n$  is a sequence of Rademacher random variables, i.e.,  $\varepsilon_i$  takes the values  $+1$  and  $-1$ , each with probability  $1/2$ , for  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ . Given a collection of random variables  $\{X_i\}_{i=1}^n$ , the Rademacher complexity of  $\mathcal{F}$  is given by

$$\mathcal{R}_n(\mathcal{F}) = \mathbb{E} [\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{F}(\{X_i\}_{i=1}^n) / n)].$$

**Lemma H15** (Jensen's inequality). *Let  $X$  be an integrable real-valued random variable, and suppose that  $\varphi: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is convex. Then,*

$$\varphi(\mathbb{E}[X]) \leq \mathbb{E}[\varphi(X)].$$

**Lemma H16.** *Let  $\phi: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be an  $L$ -Lipschitz function and  $\mathcal{F}$  a class of functions. Let  $\phi \circ \mathcal{F} := \{\phi \circ f \mid f \in \mathcal{F}\}$ . Then, we have*

$$\mathcal{R}((\phi \circ \mathcal{F})(\{x_i\}_{i=1}^n) / n) \leq L \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{F}(\{x_i\}_{i=1}^n) / n).$$

**Theorem H17.** *Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a class of real-valued functions on the non-empty set  $\mathcal{Z}$  taking values in  $[0, 1]$ , and let  $\{Z_i\}_{i=1}^n$  be i.i.d. random variables taking values in  $\mathcal{Z}$ . For  $\delta' > 0$ , with probability  $\geq 1 - \delta'$ ,*

$$\sup_{g \in \mathcal{G}} \left( \mathbb{E}[g(Z)] - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n g(Z_i) \right) \leq 2\mathcal{R}_n(\mathcal{G}) + \sqrt{\frac{2 \log(1/\delta')}{n}}.$$

Here,  $\log(\cdot)$  denotes the logarithm to base  $e$ .

**Lemma H18** (One-sided bounded difference inequality). *Let  $\mathcal{Z}$  be a non-empty set, and suppose that  $f: \mathcal{Z}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is such that*

$$|f(z_1, \dots, z_{i-1}, z_i, z_{i+1}, \dots, z_n) - f(z_1, \dots, z_{i-1}, y, z_{i+1}, \dots, z_n)| \leq L, \quad (4)$$

*for every  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ , every  $(z_1, \dots, z_n) \in \mathcal{Z}^n$ , and every  $y \in \mathcal{Z}$ . Also suppose that the random vector  $Z = (Z_1, \dots, Z_n)$  has i.i.d. components. Then, we have*

$$\mathbb{P}[\mathbb{E}[f(Z)] - f(Z) > \epsilon] \leq e^{-\frac{2\epsilon^2}{nL^2}}, \quad \forall \epsilon \geq 0.$$