

A General Method for
Calculating Complex-Valued and Quaternionic
Minimum Mean-Squared Error Estimators
to be Used in (Vector) Approximate Message Passing

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Introduction

Problem Statement:

- observation model

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{n}$$

measurement matrix $\in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$ zero-mean Gaussian random vector $\in \mathbb{R}^M$, variance σ_n^2 , independent from \mathbf{x}

measurement vector $\in \mathbb{R}^M$ signal vector $\in \mathbb{R}^N$, i.i.d. elements, marginal pdf $f_x(x)$

- task: given \mathbf{y} , find an estimate for \mathbf{x}
- problem: huge complexity if N and M are large

Solution:

- resort to suboptimal approaches — here: *message passing principle*
- in particular, we are interested in *approximate message passing (AMP)* and *vector approximate message passing (VAMP)*

Notation: random variables are written in sans-serif font, e.g., x , realizations in conventional italic font, e.g., x .

Introduction (II)

A-posteriori pdf: (inference, conditional pdf)

$$\begin{aligned} f_{\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{x}) &= \frac{1}{f_{\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{y})} f_{\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{y}) f_{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{x}) \\ &= \text{const} \cdot f_n(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x}) f_{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{x}) \\ &= \text{const} \cdot \prod_{j=1}^M f_n(y_j - \mathbf{h}_j^T \mathbf{x}) \cdot \prod_{i=1}^N f_x(x_i) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{with } \mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{h}_1^T \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{h}_M^T \end{bmatrix}$$

Bayes' rule

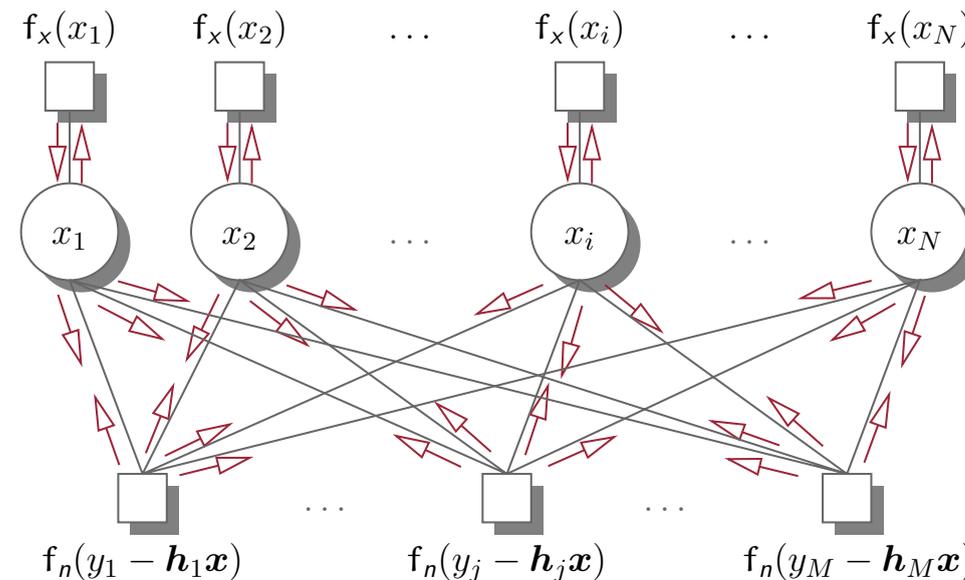
additive noise,
independent of the data

i.i.d. data, i.i.d. noise

Factor Graph and Message Passing:

[KFL'01], [LDH'07]

- *edge-dependent* messages are exchanged



Introduction (II)

A-posteriori pdf: (inference, conditional pdf)

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_{\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{x}) &= \frac{1}{f_{\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{y})} f_{\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{y}) f_{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{x}) \\
 &= \text{const} \cdot f_n(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x}) f_{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{x}) \\
 &= \text{const} \cdot \prod_{j=1}^M f_n(y_j - \mathbf{h}_j^\top \mathbf{x}) \cdot \prod_{i=1}^N f_{\mathbf{x}}(x_i)
 \end{aligned}$$

with $\mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{h}_1^\top \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{h}_M^\top \end{bmatrix}$

Bayes' rule

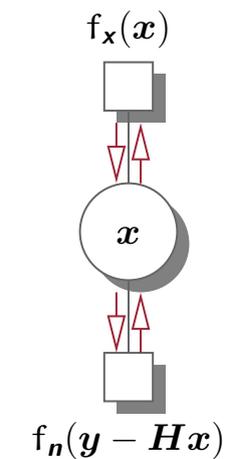
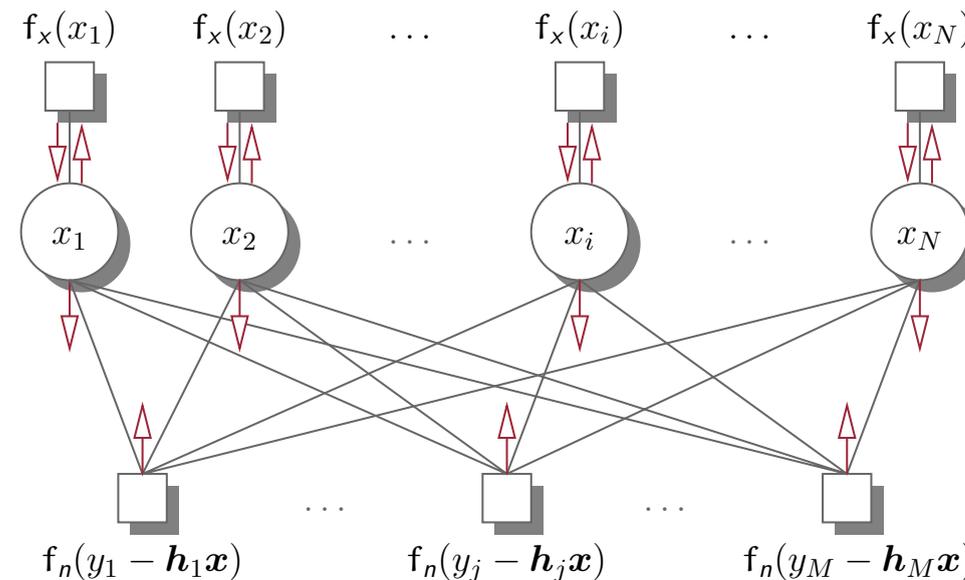
additive noise,
independent of the data

i.i.d. data, i.i.d. noise

Factor Graph and Message Passing:

[KFL'01], [LDH'07]

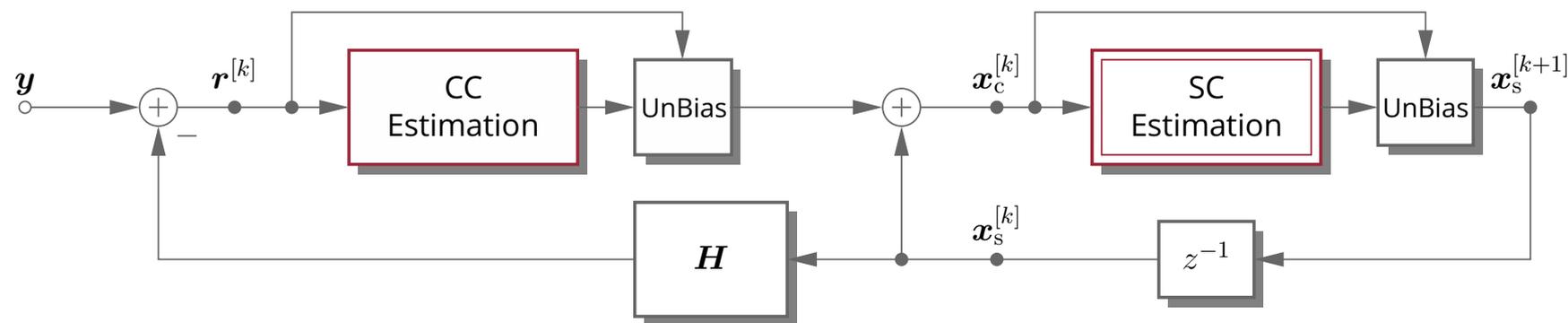
- *edge-dependent* messages are exchanged
- approximation: *state-dependent* messages are exchanged



Vector Approximate Message Passing (VAMP): (or Orthogonal AMP (OAMP))

[RSF'19], [MP'17]

- two estimation problems
 - “channel-constrained (CC)” — consider \mathbf{H} , ignore $f_x(x)$
 - “signal-constrained (SC)” — consider $f_x(x)$, ignore \mathbf{H}
- *bias* has to be removed / calculation of *extrinsics*



Minimum Mean-Squared Error (MMSE) Estimation:

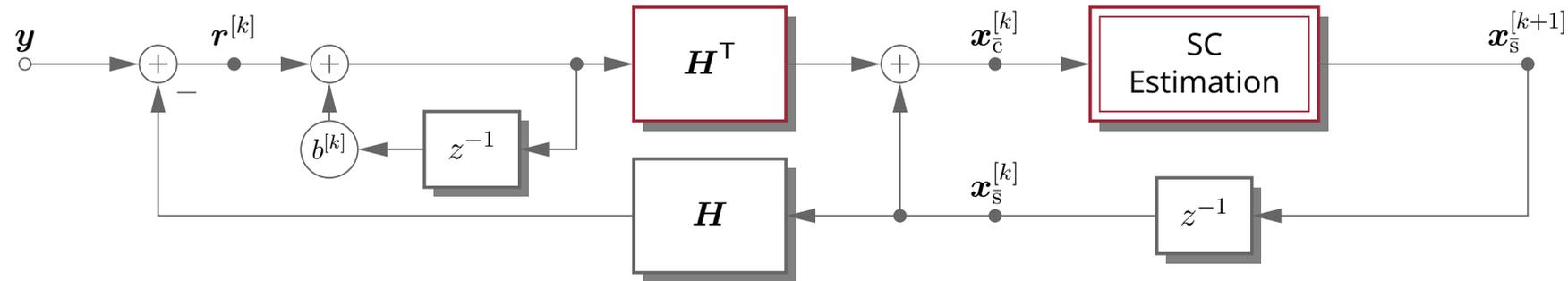
- given the observation y , find the estimate \hat{x} such that $E\{(x - \hat{x})^2\} \rightarrow \min$
- solution: *conditional mean estimator* $\hat{x} = E\{x | y\}$

Introduction (III)

[DMM'10]

Approximate Message Passing (AMP):

- simplification
 - matched filter (MF) and
 - “signal-constrained (SC)” MMSE estimation (BAMP) or soft thresholding (“denoising”)
- Onsager correction



Introduction (IV)

Usual Setting:

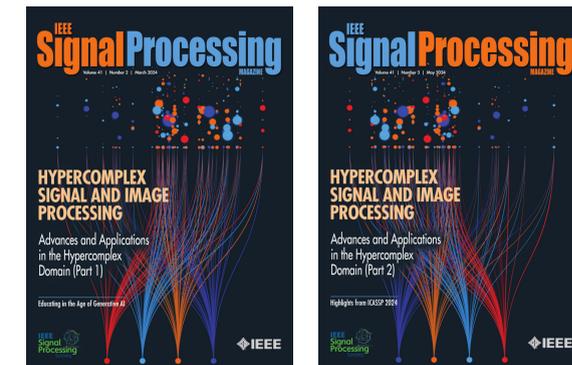
- the algorithms are designed for *real-valued* signals

Complex Signals:

- most signals in communications / radar signal processing are I/Q signals
- some extensions to *complex-valued* signals exist

Hypercomplex Signal Processing:

- has received increasing interest over the last years
cf. the two special issues of the *IEEE Signal Processing Magazine*

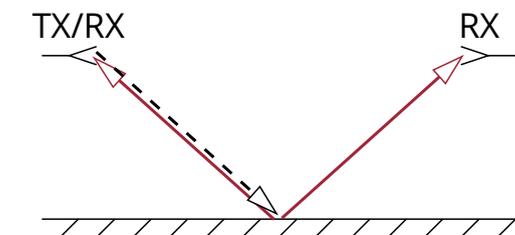
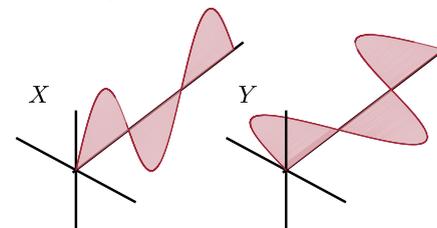


[AMO'13], [SF'25]

[SPMag'24]

- four-dimensional signal processing employing *quaternions* is very popular whenever two complex signals are treated jointly

- most prominent examples:
 - fiber-optical communications
 - bistatic radar



[KA'16]

[GMW'23]

Introduction (V)

Calculating MMSE Solutions:

- let the a-posteriori pdf $f_{\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\lambda}}(\mathbf{x})$ be member of an **exponential family**, i.e.,

[Efr'23]

natural parameters; $\boldsymbol{\lambda} = \text{fct}(\mathbf{y})$ sufficient statistics

$$f_{\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\lambda}}(\mathbf{x}) = \underbrace{h(\mathbf{x})}_{\text{carrying density}} \cdot e^{\boldsymbol{\lambda}^\top \underbrace{g(\mathbf{x})}_{\text{sufficient statistics}} - \underbrace{A(\boldsymbol{\lambda})}_{\text{log-partition function}}}$$

- well-known result for **real-valued signals** ($\mathbf{e} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{x} - \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{x} | \boldsymbol{\lambda}\}$)

[Efr'23]

$$\mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{x} | \boldsymbol{\lambda}\} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{\lambda}} A(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) = \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda_i} A(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) \right]$$

$$\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{\mathbf{ee}} = \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{ee}^\top\} = \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda_i} \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda_j} A(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) \right]$$

Generalization / Question:

Do similar expressions hold for complex-valued and quaternionic signals?

Complex Numbers

Complex Numbers:

- set \mathbb{C} of numbers of the form

$$z = a + bi$$

- with
- components $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$
 - *imaginary unit* i
 - basic relation $i^2 = -1$

	1	i
1	1	i
i	i	-1

- most algebraic operations can be carried out like those for real numbers (e.g., addition is done component-wise)

- the *conjugate* is defined as

$$z^* \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} a - bi$$

Quaternions

[CS'03], [Zha'97]

Quaternions:

- set \mathbb{H} of numbers of the form

$$q = a + bi + cj + dk$$

- with
- components $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R}$
 - three *imaginary units* i, j , and k
 - basic relations $i^2 = j^2 = k^2 = -1$ and $ijk = -1$

	1	i	j	k
1	1	i	j	k
i	i	-1	k	-j
j	j	-k	-1	i
k	k	j	-i	-1

- most algebraic operations can be carried out like those for complex numbers (e.g., addition is done component-wise)
- however, the multiplication of two quaternions does not commute, i.e., $q_1q_2 \neq q_2q_1$ in general (this results in a number of peculiarities)
- $pq = qp$ holds for all $q \in \mathbb{H}$, if and only if $p \in \mathbb{R}$
- the *conjugate* is defined as

$$q^* \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} a - bi - cj - dk$$

Real-Valued

- real-valued function of the real-valued variable x

$$f(x)$$

Complex-Valued

- complex-valued function of the complex-valued variable $z = a + bi$

$$f(z) = f(a, b)$$

with $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$

Quaternionic

- quaternionic function of the quaternionic variable $q = a + bi + cj + dk$

$$f(q) = f(a, b, c, d)$$

with $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R}$

Functions and Derivatives (II)

Derivatives:

- in a number of situations *derivatives* are required
e.g., for optimization
- the derivative of real-valued functions of real-valued variables is well known

Complex-Valued Functions:

- the derivative of complex-valued functions of complex-valued variables exists if the function is *holomorphic*
- cost functions (mean-squared error) are real-valued;
real-valued functions of complex-valued variables are *not* holomorphic
- one may resort to the *Wirtinger derivatives*

[Fis'02]

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial a} - \frac{\partial f}{\partial b} i \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z^*} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial a} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial b} i \right)$$

Functions and Derivatives (II)

Derivatives:

- in a number of situations *derivatives* are required
e.g., for optimization
- the derivative of real-valued functions of real-valued variables is well known

Quaternionic Functions:

- the concept of Wirtinger derivatives can be generalized to quaternions
- thereby, due to non-commutativity, *left* and *right* derivatives have to be distinguished
- *generalized (left) Wirtinger derivatives* (w.r.t. to q and q^*)

[XJT'15], [MJT'11], [XM'15]

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial q} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial a} - \frac{\partial f}{\partial b} i - \frac{\partial f}{\partial c} j - \frac{\partial f}{\partial d} k \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial q^*} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial a} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial b} i + \frac{\partial f}{\partial c} j + \frac{\partial f}{\partial d} k \right)$$

(eight different derivatives exist; we only require these two)

Functions and Derivatives (III)

Real-Valued

for $C \in \mathbb{R}$

- $$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} Cx = C$$

- $$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} x^2 = 2x$$

Complex-Valued

for $C = C_a + C_b i \in \mathbb{C}$

- $$\frac{\partial}{\partial z} Cz = C$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial z^*} Cz = 0$$

- $$\frac{\partial}{\partial z} (z^*C + C^*z) = C^*$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial z^*} (z^*C + C^*z) = C$$

- $$\frac{\partial}{\partial z} zz^* = z^*$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial z^*} zz^* = z$$

Quaternionic

for $C = C_a + C_b i + C_c j + C_d k \in \mathbb{H}$

- $$\frac{\partial}{\partial q} Cq = C$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial q^*} Cq = -\frac{1}{2}C$$

- $$\frac{\partial}{\partial q} (q^*C + C^*q) = \frac{1}{2}C^*$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial q^*} (q^*C + C^*q) = \frac{1}{2}C$$

- $$\frac{\partial}{\partial q} qq^* = \frac{1}{2}q^*$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial q^*} qq^* = \frac{1}{2}q$$

Functions and Derivatives (IV)

Gradients:

- for functions $f(q_1, \dots, q_m) = f(\mathbf{q})$ we define the *gradients* (\mathbb{R}), *Wirtinger gradients* (\mathbb{C}), and *generalized Wirtinger gradients* (\mathbb{H}) as

row vector $\frac{\partial f(\mathbf{q})}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left[\frac{\partial f}{\partial q_1} \quad \dots \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial q_m} \right]$

column vector $\frac{\partial f(\mathbf{q})}{\partial \mathbf{q}^H} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial q_1^*} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial q_m^*} \end{bmatrix}$

- similar for vector-valued functions $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{q}) = [f_1(\mathbf{q}) \cdots f_n(\mathbf{q})]^T$
- for real-valued functions, $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{q}) \in \mathbb{R}^n$, we have

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{q})}{\partial \mathbf{q}} = \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{q})}{\partial \mathbf{q}^H} \right)^H$$

Functions and Derivatives (V)

Real-Valued

for $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times 1}$

- $$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \mathbf{c}^\top \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{c}^\top$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}^\top} \mathbf{c}^\top \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{c}$$

- $$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}} (\mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{c}^\top \mathbf{x})$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}} 2\mathbf{c}^\top \mathbf{x} = 2\mathbf{c}^\top$$

for $\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{M}^\top \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$

- $$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{M} \mathbf{x} = 2\mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{M}$$

Complex-Valued

for $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times 1}$

- $$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{z}} \mathbf{c}^\mathbf{H} \mathbf{z} = \mathbf{c}^\mathbf{H}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{z}^\mathbf{H}} \mathbf{c}^\mathbf{H} \mathbf{z} = \mathbf{0}$$

- $$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{z}} (\mathbf{z}^\mathbf{H} \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{c}^\mathbf{H} \mathbf{z})$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{z}} 2\text{Re}\{\mathbf{c}^\mathbf{H} \mathbf{z}\} = \mathbf{c}^\mathbf{H}$$

for $\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{M}^\mathbf{H} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$

- $$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{z}} \mathbf{z}^\mathbf{H} \mathbf{M} \mathbf{z} = \mathbf{z}^\mathbf{H} \mathbf{M}$$

Quaternionic

for $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{H}^{m \times 1}$

- $$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \mathbf{c}^\mathbf{H} \mathbf{q} = \mathbf{c}^\mathbf{H}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{q}^\mathbf{H}} \mathbf{c}^\mathbf{H} \mathbf{q} = -\frac{1}{2}\mathbf{c}^*$$

- $$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{q}} (\mathbf{q}^\mathbf{H} \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{c}^\mathbf{H} \mathbf{q})$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{q}} 2\text{Re}\{\mathbf{c}^\mathbf{H} \mathbf{q}\} = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{c}^\mathbf{H}$$

for $\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{M}^\mathbf{H} \in \mathbb{H}^{m \times m}$

- $$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \mathbf{q}^\mathbf{H} \mathbf{M} \mathbf{q} = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{q}^\mathbf{H} \mathbf{M}$$

Functions and Derivatives (V)

Real-Valued

for $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times 1}$

- $$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \mathbf{c}^\top \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{c}^\top$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}^\top} \mathbf{c}^\top \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{c}$$

- $$D = 1$$

for $\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{M}^\top \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$

Complex-Valued

for $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times 1}$

- $$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{z}} \mathbf{c}^\mathbf{H} \mathbf{z} = \mathbf{c}^\mathbf{H}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{z}^\mathbf{H}} \mathbf{c}^\mathbf{H} \mathbf{z} = \mathbf{0}$$

- $$D = 2$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{z}} \operatorname{Re}\{\mathbf{c}^\mathbf{H} \mathbf{z}\} = \frac{1}{D} \mathbf{c}^\mathbf{H}$$

for $\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{M}^\mathbf{H} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{z}} \mathbf{z}^\mathbf{H} \mathbf{M} \mathbf{z} = \frac{2}{D} \mathbf{z}^\mathbf{H} \mathbf{M}$$

Quaternionic

for $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{H}^{m \times 1}$

- $$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \mathbf{c}^\mathbf{H} \mathbf{q} = \mathbf{c}^\mathbf{H}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{q}^\mathbf{H}} \mathbf{c}^\mathbf{H} \mathbf{q} = -\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{c}^*$$

- $$D = 4$$

for $\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{M}^\mathbf{H} \in \mathbb{H}^{m \times m}$

Functions and Derivatives (VI)

Arithmetics Rules:

- product and chain rule are much more intricate over \mathbb{C} and \mathbb{H} than over \mathbb{R}
- however, if the function is real-valued, simpler expressions are obtained

Product Rule:

- let $\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) \in \mathbb{H}^n$ and $h(\mathbf{q}) \in \mathbb{R}$
- it can be shown that

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{q}}(h \cdot \mathbf{g}) = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) \cdot \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{q}} h(\mathbf{q}) \right) + \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) \right) \cdot h(\mathbf{q})$$

Chain Rule:

- let $\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q}) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $h(\mathbf{w}) \in \mathbb{R}$
- it can be shown that

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{q}} h(\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q})) = \left. \frac{\partial h(\mathbf{w})}{\partial \mathbf{w}} \right|_{\mathbf{w}=\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q})} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{q})}{\partial \mathbf{q}}$$

Random Vectors

Real-Valued Gaussian Random Vector:

- real-valued Gaussian random vector \mathbf{n} of dimension M
- the Gaussian random vector is completely characterized by its *mean* and *covariance matrix*

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}_n = \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{n}\}, \quad \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{nn} = \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^T\}$$

- the probability density function (pdf) of \mathbf{n} is given by

$$f_n(\mathbf{n}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^M |\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{nn}|}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{n}-\boldsymbol{\mu}_n)^T \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{nn}^{-1} (\mathbf{n}-\boldsymbol{\mu}_n)}$$

Random Vectors (II)

Complex-Valued Gaussian Random Vector:

- complex-valued Gaussian random vector $\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}i$ of dimension M
- the Gaussian random vector is completely characterized by the *mean* and *covariance matrix* of the stacked vector $\bar{\mathbf{n}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a} \\ \mathbf{b} \end{bmatrix}$

$$\mu_{\bar{\mathbf{n}}} = \mathbb{E} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a} \\ \mathbf{b} \end{bmatrix} \right\}, \quad \Phi_{\bar{\mathbf{n}}\bar{\mathbf{n}}} = \mathbb{E} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a} \\ \mathbf{b} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}^\top & \mathbf{b}^\top \end{bmatrix} \right\} = \begin{bmatrix} \Phi_{aa} & \Phi_{ab} \\ \Phi_{ba} & \Phi_{bb} \end{bmatrix}$$

or using the augmented vector $\underline{\mathbf{n}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{n} \\ \mathbf{n}^* \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}i \\ \mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}i \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I & Ii \\ I & -Ii \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a} \\ \mathbf{b} \end{bmatrix}$ by

$$\mu_{\underline{\mathbf{n}}} = \mathbb{E} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{n} \\ \mathbf{n}^* \end{bmatrix} \right\}, \quad \Phi_{\underline{\mathbf{n}}\underline{\mathbf{n}}} = \mathbb{E} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{n} \\ \mathbf{n}^* \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{n}^\text{H} & \mathbf{n}^\top \end{bmatrix} \right\} = \begin{bmatrix} \Phi_{nn} & \Psi_{nn} \\ \Psi_{nn}^* & \Phi_{nn}^* \end{bmatrix}$$

with *covariance matrix* and *pseudo covariance matrix*

$$\Phi_{nn} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^\text{H}\}, \quad \Psi_{nn} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^\top\}$$

Random Vectors (II)

Complex-Valued Gaussian Random Vector:

- complex-valued Gaussian random vector $\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}i$ of dimension M
- the random vector is called *proper* if the pseudo covariance matrix vanishes

[NM'93]

$$\Psi_{nn} = \mathbf{0}$$

- a zero-mean Gaussian random vector is then *rotationally invariant* (\mathbf{n} and $\mathbf{n}e^{i\phi}$, $\phi \in \mathbb{R}$, have the same statistics)
- the proper Gaussian random vector is completely characterized by its *mean* and *covariance matrix*

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}_n = \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{n}\}, \quad \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{nn} = \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^H\}$$

- the probability density function (pdf) of \mathbf{n} is then formally given by

$$f_n(\mathbf{n}) = \frac{1}{\pi^M |\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{nn}|} e^{- (\mathbf{n} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_n)^H \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{nn}^{-1} (\mathbf{n} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_n)}$$

Random Vectors (III)

Quaternionic Gaussian Random Vector:

- quaternionic Gaussian random vector $\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}i + \mathbf{c}j + \mathbf{d}k$ of dimension M
- the Gaussian random vector is completely characterized by the *mean* and *covariance matrix* of the augmented vector $(\mathbf{n}^{(i)} = -i\mathbf{n}i, \text{ similar for } j \text{ and } k)$

$$\underline{\mathbf{n}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{n} \\ \mathbf{n}^{(i)} \\ \mathbf{n}^{(j)} \\ \mathbf{n}^{(k)} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}i + \mathbf{c}j + \mathbf{d}k \\ \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}i - \mathbf{c}j - \mathbf{d}k \\ \mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}i + \mathbf{c}j - \mathbf{d}k \\ \mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}i - \mathbf{c}j + \mathbf{d}k \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I & Ii & Ij & Ik \\ I & Ii & -Ij & -Ik \\ I & -Ii & Ij & -Ik \\ I & -Ii & -Ij & Ik \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a} \\ \mathbf{b} \\ \mathbf{c} \\ \mathbf{d} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\underline{\boldsymbol{\mu}}_{\underline{\mathbf{n}}} = \mathbb{E} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{n} \\ \mathbf{n}^{(i)} \\ \mathbf{n}^{(j)} \\ \mathbf{n}^{(k)} \end{bmatrix} \right\}, \quad \underline{\boldsymbol{\Phi}}_{\underline{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}}} = \mathbb{E} \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{n} \\ \mathbf{n}^{(i)} \\ \mathbf{n}^{(j)} \\ \mathbf{n}^{(k)} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{n}^H & \mathbf{n}^{(i)H} & \mathbf{n}^{(j)H} & \mathbf{n}^{(k)H} \end{bmatrix} \right\} = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}} & \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^{(i)}} & \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^{(j)}} & \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^{(k)}} \\ \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^{(i)}}^{(i)} & \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}}^{(i)} & \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^{(k)}}^{(i)} & \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^{(j)}}^{(i)} \\ \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^{(j)}}^{(j)} & \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^{(k)}}^{(j)} & \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}}^{(j)} & \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^{(i)}}^{(j)} \\ \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^{(k)}}^{(k)} & \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^{(i)}}^{(k)} & \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^{(j)}}^{(k)} & \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}}^{(k)} \end{bmatrix}$$

with *covariance matrix* and *three pseudo covariance matrices*

$$\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^H\}, \quad \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^{(i)}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^{(i)H}\}, \quad \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^{(j)}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^{(j)H}\}, \quad \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^{(k)}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^{(k)H}\}$$

Random Vectors (III)

Quaternionic Gaussian Random Vector:

- quaternionic Gaussian random vector $\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}i + \mathbf{c}j + \mathbf{d}k$ of dimension M
- the random vector is called **\mathbb{Q} -proper** if all pseudo covariance matrices vanish

[VRS'10]

$$\mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{n}(-i\mathbf{n}^H i)\} = \mathbf{0}, \quad \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{n}(-j\mathbf{n}^H j)\} = \mathbf{0}, \quad \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{n}(-k\mathbf{n}^H k)\} = \mathbf{0}$$

- a zero-mean Gaussian random vector is then **right rotationally invariant** (\mathbf{n} and $\mathbf{n}e^{\eta\phi}$, $\phi \in \mathbb{R}$, $\eta = \eta_i i + \eta_j j + \eta_k k$, $|\eta| = 1$, $\eta^2 = -1$, have the same statistics)
- the Gaussian random vector is completely characterized by its **mean** and **covariance matrix**

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}_n = \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{n}\}, \quad \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{nn} = \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^H\}$$

- the probability density function (pdf) of \mathbf{n} is formally given by

[VRS'10]

$$f_n(\mathbf{n}) = \frac{1}{(\pi/2)^{2M} |\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{nn}|^2} e^{-2(\mathbf{n}-\boldsymbol{\mu}_n)^H \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{nn}^{-1} (\mathbf{n}-\boldsymbol{\mu}_n)}$$

(the determinant of the quaternionic covariance matrix has to be understood as that of the equivalent complex-valued matrix of doubled dimensions)

[Zha'97], [SLF'22]

Random Vectors (IV)

Real-Valued

real-valued Gaussian random vector \mathbf{n}

- *mean* and *covariance matrix*

$$\begin{aligned}\boldsymbol{\mu}_n &= \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{n}\} \\ \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{nn} &= \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^T\}\end{aligned}$$

- pdf $D = 1$

Complex-Valued

complex-valued Gaussian random vector $\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}i$

- *mean* and *covariance matrix*

$$\begin{aligned}\boldsymbol{\mu}_n &= \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{n}\} \\ \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{nn} &= \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^H\}\end{aligned}$$

- proper if

$$\mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^T\} = \mathbf{0}$$

- pdf $D = 2$

Quaternionic

quaternionic Gaussian random vector $\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}i + \mathbf{c}j + \mathbf{d}k$

- *mean* and *covariance matrix*

$$\begin{aligned}\boldsymbol{\mu}_n &= \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{n}\} \\ \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{nn} &= \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^H\}\end{aligned}$$

- proper if

$$\mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^{(i)H}\} = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^{(j)H}\} = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{n}^{(k)H}\} = \mathbf{0}$$

- pdf $D = 4$

$$f_n(\mathbf{n}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi/D)^{MD/2} |\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{nn}|^{D/2}} e^{-\frac{D}{2} (\mathbf{n} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_n)^H \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{nn}^{-1} (\mathbf{n} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_n)}$$

Exponential Family

Observation Model:

- vector-valued observation model ($\mathbb{X} \in \{\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{H}\}$)

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{n}$$

measurement matrix $\in \mathbb{X}^{M \times N}$ zero-mean proper Gaussian random vector $\in \mathbb{X}^M$,
independent from \mathbf{x}

measurement vector $\in \mathbb{X}^M$ signal vector, i.i.d. elements, marginal pdf $f_x(x)$

- via Bayes' rule, the a-posteriori pdf of \mathbf{x} given \mathbf{y} reads

$$f_{\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{f_{\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{y})} f_{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{x}) f_{\mathbf{n}}(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x})$$

- noise pdf (\mathbb{R} : $D = 1$; \mathbb{C} : $D = 2$; \mathbb{H} : $D = 4$)

$$f_{\mathbf{n}}(\mathbf{n}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi/D)^{MD/2} |\Phi_{nn}|^{D/2}} e^{-\frac{D}{2} \mathbf{n}^H \Phi_{nn}^{-1} \mathbf{n}}$$

Exponential Family (II)

A-posteriori pdf:

- write the a-posteriori pdf in the form of an *exponential family*

natural parameters; $\lambda = \text{fct}(\mathbf{y})$ sufficient statistics

$$f_{\mathbf{x}|\lambda}(\mathbf{x}) = \underbrace{h(\mathbf{x})}_{\text{carrying density}} \cdot e^{\underbrace{\text{Re}\{\lambda^H \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})\} - A(\lambda)}_{\text{log-partition function}}}$$

- natural parameter* $\lambda \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{H}^H \Phi_{nn}^{-1} \mathbf{y}$

- sufficient statistics* $\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}$

- a-posteriori pdf (\mathbb{R} : $D = 1$; \mathbb{C} : $D = 2$; \mathbb{H} : $D = 4$)

$$f_{\mathbf{x}|\lambda}(\mathbf{x}) = \underbrace{f_{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{x}) e^{-\frac{D}{2} \mathbf{x}^H \mathbf{H}^H \Phi_{nn}^{-1} \mathbf{H} \mathbf{x}}}_{h(\mathbf{x})} \cdot e^{D \text{Re}\{\lambda^H \mathbf{x}\}} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{1}{(2\pi/D)^{MD/2} |\Phi_{nn}|^{D/2}} \frac{1}{f_{\mathbf{y}}(\Phi_{nn} \mathbf{H}^{-H} \lambda)} e^{-\frac{D}{2} \lambda^H \mathbf{H}^{-1} \Phi_{nn} \mathbf{H}^{-H} \lambda}}_{e^{-A(\lambda)}}$$

MMSE Estimators

Sketch of Proof: (\mathbb{R} : $D = 1$; \mathbb{C} : $D = 2$; \mathbb{H} : $D = 4$)

- $f_{\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\lambda}}(\mathbf{x})$ is a valid pdf, i.e.,

$$1 = \int f_{\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\lambda}}(\mathbf{x}) \, d\mathbf{x} = \int h(\mathbf{x}) e^{D \operatorname{Re}\{\boldsymbol{\lambda}^H \mathbf{x}\} - A(\boldsymbol{\lambda})} \, d\mathbf{x}$$

(integration w.r.t. $\mathbf{x} = [x_1, \dots, x_N]^T$ means integration over all elements x_i and all components of each element)

- taking the *(generalized) Wirtinger gradient* w.r.t. $\boldsymbol{\lambda}^H$ on both sides leads to

$$\mathbf{0} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{\lambda}^H} \int h(\mathbf{x}) e^{D \operatorname{Re}\{\boldsymbol{\lambda}^H \mathbf{x}\} - A(\boldsymbol{\lambda})} \, d\mathbf{x} = \dots = \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\lambda}\} - \frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{\lambda}^H} A(\boldsymbol{\lambda})$$

- hence, the *conditional mean estimator* can be written as

$$\mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\lambda}\} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{\lambda}^H} A(\boldsymbol{\lambda})$$

MMSE Estimators

Sketch of Proof: (\mathbb{R} : $D = 1$; \mathbb{C} : $D = 2$; \mathbb{H} : $D = 4$)

- $f_{\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\lambda}}(\mathbf{x})$ is a valid pdf, i.e.,

$$1 = \int f_{\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\lambda}}(\mathbf{x}) \, d\mathbf{x} = \int h(\mathbf{x}) e^{D \operatorname{Re}\{\boldsymbol{\lambda}^H \mathbf{x}\} - A(\boldsymbol{\lambda})} \, d\mathbf{x}$$

(integration w.r.t. $\mathbf{x} = [x_1, \dots, x_N]^T$ means integration over all elements x_i and all components of each element)

- taking again the *(generalized) Wirtinger gradient* now w.r.t. $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$ on both sides leads to

$$\mathbf{0} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{\lambda}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{\lambda}^H} \int h(\mathbf{x}) e^{D \operatorname{Re}\{\boldsymbol{\lambda}^H \mathbf{x}\} - A(\boldsymbol{\lambda})} \, d\mathbf{x} = \dots = \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{e}\mathbf{e}^H\} - \frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{\lambda}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{\lambda}^H} A(\boldsymbol{\lambda})$$

- hence, the *error covariance matrix* can be written as

$$\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{\mathbf{e}\mathbf{e}} = \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{e}\mathbf{e}^H\} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{\lambda}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{\lambda}^H} A(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{\lambda}} \mathbb{E}\{\mathbf{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\lambda}\}$$

- Formally, we have the same results for the real, the complex, and the quaternionic case! [Efr'23], [SF'25], [FS'26]

Application to Quaternionic Compressed Sensing

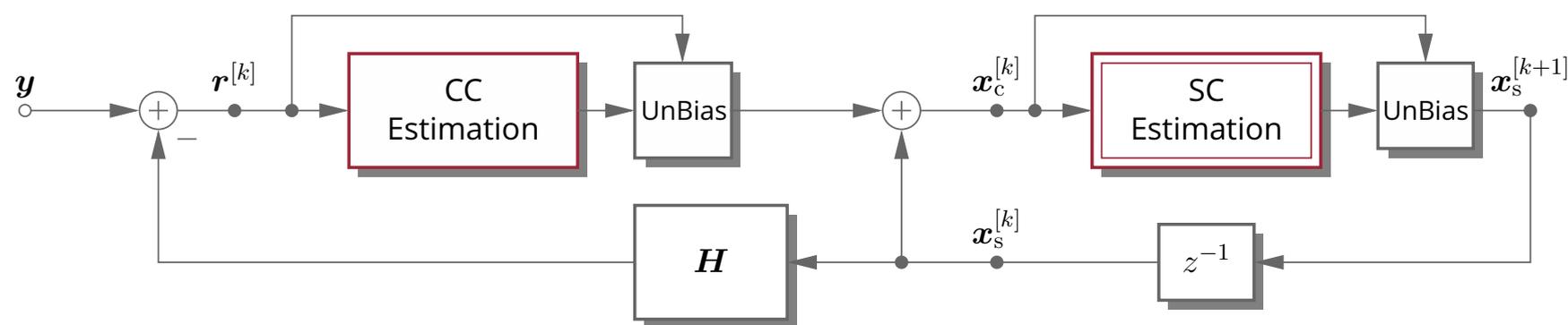
Problem and Algorithms:

- quaternionic compressed sensing problem

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{sensing matrix } \in \mathbb{H}^{M \times N} \\
 \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{n} \\
 \text{measurement vector } \in \mathbb{H}^M \quad \text{sparse signal vector } \in \mathbb{H}^N, \text{ i.i.d. elements} \\
 \text{zero-mean quaternionic proper Gaussian random vector } \in \mathbb{H}^M, \\
 \text{variance } \sigma_n^2, \text{ independent from } \mathbf{x} \\
 \text{marginal pdf } f_x(x) \text{ with Dirac component at } x = 0
 \end{array}$$

- Vector Approximate Message Passing (VAMP) / Orthogonal AMP (OAMP) [RSF'19], [MP'17]

- “channel-constrained (CC)” (consider \mathbf{H} , ignore $f_x(x)$) and
- “signal-constrained (SC)” (consider $f_x(x)$, ignore \mathbf{H}) MMSE estimation problems
- *bias* has to be removed / calculation of *extrinsics*



Application to Quaternionic Compressed Sensing

Problem and Algorithms:

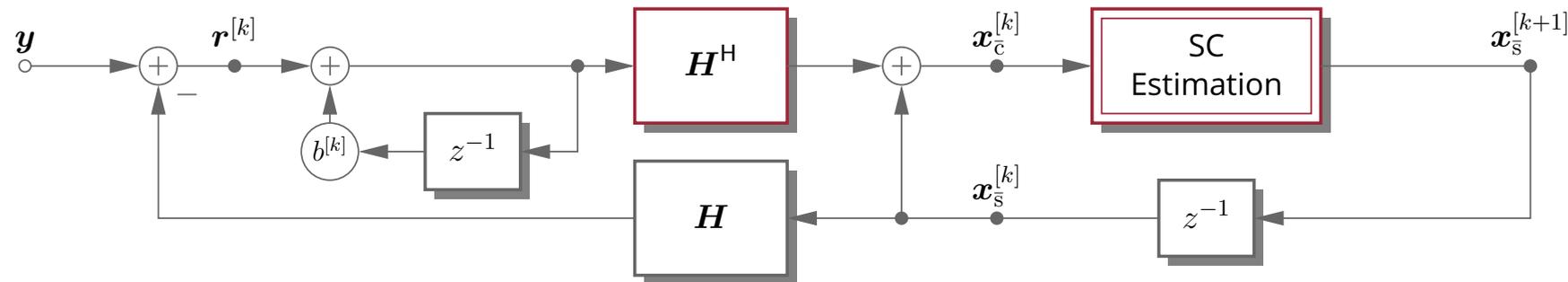
- quaternionic compressed sensing problem

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{sensing matrix } \in \mathbb{H}^{M \times N} \\
 \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{n} \\
 \text{measurement vector } \in \mathbb{H}^M \quad \quad \quad \text{sparse signal vector } \in \mathbb{H}^N, \text{ i.i.d. elements} \\
 \quad \text{marginal pdf } f_x(x) \text{ with Dirac component at } x = 0 \\
 \text{zero-mean quaternionic proper Gaussian random vector } \in \mathbb{H}^M, \\
 \text{variance } \sigma_n^2, \text{ independent from } \mathbf{x}
 \end{array}$$

- Approximate Message Passing (AMP)

[DMM'10]

- Matched filter (MF) and “signal-constrained (SC)” MMSE estimation (BAMP) or soft thresholding (“denoising”)
- Onsager correction

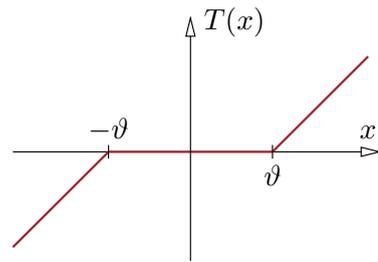


Application to Quaternionic Compressed Sensing (II)

Real-Valued

- soft thresholding

$$T(x) = \begin{cases} x - \vartheta \frac{x}{|x|}, & |x| > \vartheta \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases}$$



- variance calculation using

$$\left| \frac{d}{dx} T(x) \right| = 1, \quad |x| > \vartheta$$

- adjustment of threshold

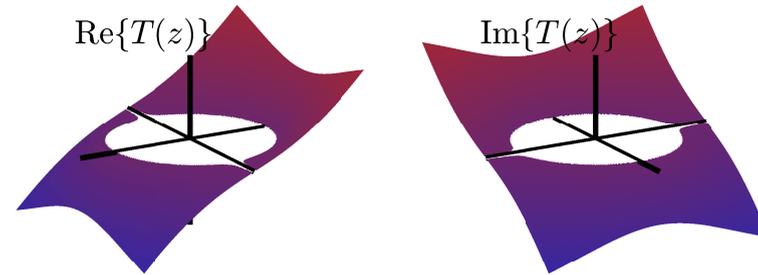
$$\vartheta = \frac{\text{median}(|\mathbf{x}_{\bar{c}}|)}{\sqrt{2} \text{erf}^{-1}(1/2)}$$

(erf^{-1} : inverse of the error function)

Complex-Valued

- soft thresholding

$$T(z) = \begin{cases} z - \vartheta \frac{z}{|z|}, & |z| > \vartheta \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases}$$



- variance calculation using

$$\left| \frac{\partial}{\partial z} T(z) \right| = 1 - \frac{\vartheta}{2|z|}, \quad |z| > \vartheta$$

- adjustment of threshold

$$\vartheta = \frac{\text{median}(|\mathbf{x}_{\bar{c}}|)}{\sqrt{\log(2)}}$$

Quaternionic

- soft thresholding

$$T(q) = \begin{cases} q - \vartheta \frac{q}{|q|}, & |q| > \vartheta \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

- variance calculation using

$$\left| \frac{\partial}{\partial q} T(q) \right| = 1 - \frac{3\vartheta}{4|q|}, \quad |q| > \vartheta$$

- adjustment of threshold

$$\vartheta = \frac{\text{median}(|\mathbf{x}_{\bar{c}}|)}{\sqrt{(-W(-\frac{1}{2e}) - 1)/2}}$$

($W(z)$: branch -1 of Lambert W function)

Application to Quaternionic Compressed Sensing (III)

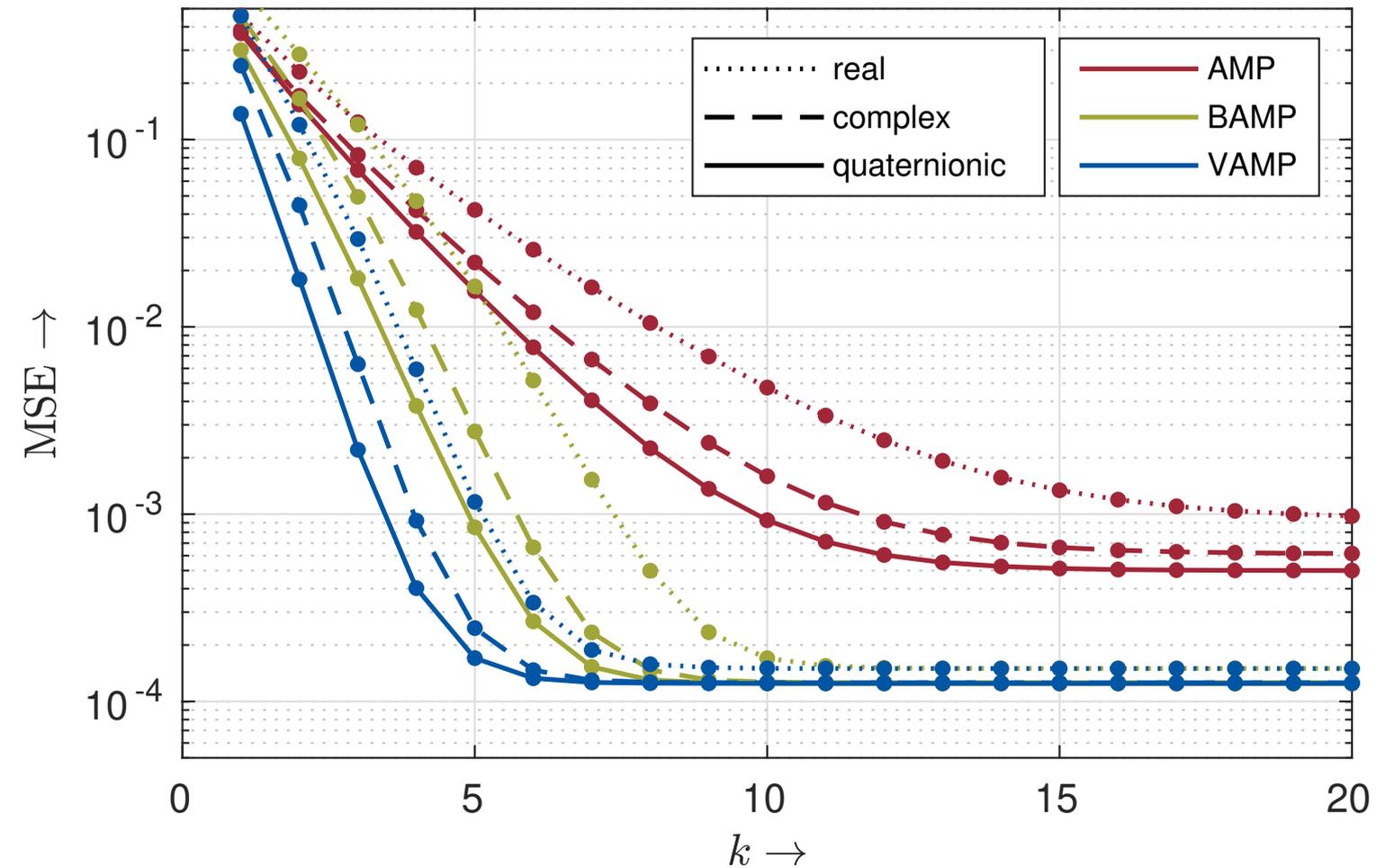
Numerical Results:

■ parameters:

- signal dimension $N = 1024$
- observation dimension $M = 512$
- relative sparsity $\tau = 102/1024 \approx 0.1$
- Bernoulli-Gaussian quaternionic signal
- signal-to-noise ratio 30 dB
- elements of \mathbf{H} i.i.d. quaternionic Gaussian
- performance metric: MSE per element

■ algorithms:

	CC	SC	Correct
AMP	MF	ST	Onsager
BAMP	MF	MMSE	Onsager
VAMP	MMSE	MMSE	unbiasing



Quaternionic MMSE Estimation:

- quaternions are a handy tool whenever two complex signals are treated jointly
- quaternion algebra has some peculiarities
- MMSE estimation of quaternionic signals occurs in various fields

We Have Presented:

- a concise method for calculating complex-valued and quaternionic MMSE estimators
- gradients have to be defined suitably
- formally the same results are obtained in the real, complex, and quaternionic case

Application:

- the derived MMSE estimators can directly be applied in iterative (AMP-type) algorithms
- e.g., for compressed sensing

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