
Supplementary Document for Fast Proximal Gradient Descent for A Class of Non-convex and Non-smooth Sparse Learning Problems

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1 ALGORITHMS IN THE PAPER

1.1 Proximal Gradient Descent

The optimization problem studied in this paper is

$$\min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n} F(\mathbf{x}) = g(\mathbf{x}) + h(\mathbf{x}), \quad (1)$$

where $h(\mathbf{x}) \triangleq \lambda \|\mathbf{x}\|_0$, $\lambda > 0$ is a weighting parameter.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} &= \text{prox}_{sh}(\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - s\nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})) \\ &= \arg \min_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{2s} \|\mathbf{v} - (\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - s\nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}))\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{v}\|_0 \\ &= T_{\sqrt{2\lambda s}}(\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - s\nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})), \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Algorithm 1 Proximal Gradient Descent for the ℓ^0 Regularization Problem (1)

Input:

The weighting parameter λ , the initialization $\mathbf{x}^{(0)}$.

- 1: **for** $k = 0, \dots$, **do**
- 2: Update $\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}$ according to (2)
- 3: **end for**

Output: Obtain the sparse solution $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ upon the termination of the iterations.

1.2 Nonmonotone Accelerated Proximal Gradient Descent with Support Projection

$$\mathbf{u}^{(k)} = \mathbf{x}^{(k)} + \frac{t_{k-1} - 1}{t_k} (\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k-1)}), \quad (3)$$

$$\mathbf{w}^{(k)} = \mathbf{P}_{\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})}(\mathbf{u}^{(k)}), \quad (4)$$

$$\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} = \text{prox}_{sh}(\mathbf{w}^{(k)} - s\nabla g(\mathbf{w}^{(k)})), \quad (5)$$

$$t_{k+1} = \frac{\sqrt{1 + 4t_k^2} + 1}{2}, \quad (6)$$

Algorithm 2 Nonmonotone Accelerated Proximal Gradient Descent with Support Projection for the ℓ^0 Regularization Problem (1)

Input:

The weighting parameter λ , the initialization $\mathbf{x}^{(0)}$, $\mathbf{z}^{(1)} = \mathbf{x}^{(1)} = \mathbf{x}^{(0)}$, $t_0 = 0$.

- 1: **for** $k = 1, \dots$, **do**
- 2: Update $\mathbf{u}^{(k)}$, $\mathbf{w}^{(k)}$, $\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}$, t_{k+1} according to (3), (4), (5), (6) respectively.
- 3: **end for**

Output: Obtain the sparse solution $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ upon the termination of the iterations.

1.3 Monotone Accelerated Proximal Gradient Descent with Support Projection

$$\mathbf{u}^{(k)} = \mathbf{x}^{(k)} + \frac{t_{k-1}}{t_k} (\mathbf{z}^{(k)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)}) + \frac{t_{k-1} - 1}{t_k} (\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k-1)}), \quad (7)$$

$$\mathbf{w}^{(k)} = \mathbf{P}_{\text{supp}(\mathbf{z}^{(k)})}(\mathbf{u}^{(k)}), \quad (8)$$

$$\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} = \text{prox}_{sh}(\mathbf{w}^{(k)} - s\nabla g(\mathbf{w}^{(k)})), \quad (9)$$

$$t_{k+1} = \frac{\sqrt{1 + 4t_k^2} + 1}{2}, \quad (10)$$

$$\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} = \begin{cases} \mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} & \text{if } F(\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)}) \leq F(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) \\ \mathbf{x}^{(k)} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

2 PROOFS

Lemma 1. (Support shrinkage for proximal gradient descent in Algorithm 1 and sufficient decrease of the objective function) *If $s \leq \min\{\frac{2\lambda}{G^2}, \frac{1}{L}\}$, then*

$$\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) \subseteq \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}), k \geq 0, \quad (12)$$

namely the support of the sequence $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_k$ shrinks. Moreover, the sequence of the objective $\{F(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})\}_k$ is

Algorithm 3 Monotone Accelerated Proximal Gradient Descent with Support Projection for the ℓ^0 Regularization Problem (1)

Input:

The weighting parameter λ , the initialization $\mathbf{x}^{(0)}$, $\mathbf{z}^{(1)} = \mathbf{x}^{(1)} = \mathbf{x}^{(0)}$, $t_0 = 0$.

- 1: **for** $k = 1, \dots$, **do**
- 2: Update $\mathbf{u}^{(k)}$, $\mathbf{w}^{(k)}$, $\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)}$, t_{k+1} , $\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}$ according to (7), (8), (9), (10), and (11) respectively.
- 3: **end for**

Output: Obtain the sparse solution $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ upon the termination of the iterations.

nonincreasing, and the following inequality holds for $k \geq 0$:

$$F(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) \leq F(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) - \left(\frac{1}{2s} - \frac{L}{2}\right) \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)}\|_2^2. \quad (13)$$

Proof of Lemma 1. We prove this Lemma by mathematical induction.

With $k \geq 0$, we first show that $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) \subseteq \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})$, i.e. the support of the sequence shrinks. To see this, let $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}^{(k+1)} = \mathbf{x}^{(k)} - s\nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})$.

Since $\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\|_2^2 = x_0$, let $\mathbf{q}^{(k)} = -s\nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) = -2s(\mathbf{D}^\top \mathbf{D}\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - \mathbf{D}^\top \mathbf{y})$, then

$$|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_j^{(k+1)}| \leq \|\mathbf{q}^{(k)}\|_\infty \leq sG,$$

where j is the index for any zero element of $\mathbf{x}^{(k)}$, namely $1 \leq j \leq d, j \notin \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})$. Now $|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_j^{(k+1)}| < \sqrt{2\lambda s}$, and it follows that $\mathbf{x}_j^{(k+1)} = 0$ due to the update rule (2). Therefore, the zero elements of $\mathbf{x}^{(k)}$ remain unchanged in $\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}$, and $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) \subseteq \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})$ for $k \geq 0$.

Since

$$\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{2s} \|\mathbf{v} - \tilde{\mathbf{x}}^{(k+1)}\|_2^2 + h(\mathbf{v}),$$

let $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{x}^{(k)}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2s} \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \tilde{\mathbf{x}}^{(k+1)}\|_2^2 + h(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2s} \|s\nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})\|_2^2 + h(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}), \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

which is equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}), \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)} \rangle + \frac{1}{2s} \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)}\|_2^2 + h(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) \\ & \leq h(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}). \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

In addition, since L is the Lipschitz constant for ∇g ,

$$g(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) \leq g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) + \langle \nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}), \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)} \rangle$$

$$+ \frac{L}{2} \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)}\|_2^2. \quad (16)$$

Combining (15) and (16), we have

$$\begin{aligned} g(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) + h(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) & \leq g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) + h(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) \\ & - \left(\frac{1}{2s} - \frac{L}{2}\right) \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)}\|_2^2. \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

Now (12) and (13) hold for $k \geq 0$. Since the sequence $\{F(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})\}_k$ is decreasing with lower bound 0, it must converge. \square

Lemma A. (Lemma 1 in Laurent and Massart (2000)) Let Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_D be i.i.d. Gaussian random variables with 0 mean and unit variance, and a_1, a_2, \dots, a_D be D positive numbers. Define $Z = \sum_{i=1}^D a_i(Y_i^2 - 1)$ and $\mathbf{a} = [a_1, a_2, \dots, a_D]^\top$, then for any $t > 0$,

$$\Pr[Z \geq 2\|\mathbf{a}\|_2\sqrt{t} + 2\|\mathbf{a}\|_\infty t] \leq e^{-t}. \quad (18)$$

Lemma B. (Spectrum bound for Gaussian random matrix, Theorem II.13 in Davidson and Szarek (2001)) Suppose $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ($m \geq n$) is a random matrix whose entries are i.i.d. samples generated from the standard Gaussian distribution $\mathcal{N}(0, \frac{1}{m})$. Then

$$1 - \sqrt{\frac{n}{m}} \leq \mathbb{E}[\sigma_n(\mathbf{A})] \leq \mathbb{E}[\sigma_1(\mathbf{A})] \leq 1 + \sqrt{\frac{n}{m}}. \quad (19)$$

Also, for any $t > 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[\sigma_n(\mathbf{A}) \leq 1 - \sqrt{\frac{n}{m}} - t] & < e^{-\frac{mt^2}{2}}, \\ \Pr[\sigma_1(\mathbf{A}) \geq 1 + \sqrt{\frac{n}{m}} + t] & < e^{-\frac{mt^2}{2}}. \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

Theorem 1. Suppose $\mathbf{D} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times n}$ ($n \geq d$) is a random matrix whose elements are i.i.d. samples from the standard Gaussian distribution $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$. Then with probability at least $1 - e^{-\frac{nt^2}{2}} - ne^{-t}$,

$$\frac{2\lambda}{G^2} \geq \frac{1}{L} \quad (21)$$

if

$$n \geq (\sqrt{d} + t + \sqrt{\frac{(d + 2\sqrt{dt} + 2t)(x_0 + \lambda|\mathbf{S}|)}{\lambda}})^2, \quad (22)$$

and t can be chosen as $t_0 \log n$ for $t_0 > 0$ to ensure that (22) holds and (21) holds with high probability.

Proof of Theorem 1. According to Lemma B, for any $t > 0$, with probability at least $1 - e^{-\frac{nt^2}{2}}$,

$$\sigma_{\max}(\mathbf{D}) > \sqrt{n} - \sqrt{d} - t. \quad (23)$$

Also, by Lemma A, for any $1 \leq i \leq n$ and $t > 0$, with probability at least $1 - e^{-t}$,

$$\|\mathbf{D}^i\|_2 \leq \sqrt{d + 2\sqrt{dt} + 2t}. \quad (24)$$

It then can be verified by union bound that with probability at least $1 - e^{-\frac{nt^2}{2}} - ne^{-t}$,

$$\frac{2D^2(x_0 + \lambda|\mathbf{S}|)}{\lambda} \leq 2\sigma_{\max}^2(\mathbf{D}) \quad (25)$$

if

$$n \geq (\sqrt{d} + t + \sqrt{\frac{(d + 2\sqrt{dt} + 2t)(x_0 + \lambda|\mathbf{S}|)}{\lambda}})^2,$$

according to (23) and (24). \square

Lemma 2. (Properties of the subsequences with shrinking support)

- (i) All the elements of each subsequence \mathcal{X}_t ($t = 1, \dots, T$) in the subsequences with shrinking support have the same support. In addition, for any $1 \leq t_1 < t_2 \leq T$ and any $\mathbf{x}^{(k_1)} \in \mathcal{X}_{t_1}$ and $\mathbf{x}^{(k_2)} \in \mathcal{X}_{t_2}$, we have $k_1 < k_2$, $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_2)}) \subseteq \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_1)})$.
- (ii) All the subsequence except for the last one, namely \mathcal{X}_t ($t = 1, \dots, T-1$), have finite size. Moreover, \mathcal{X}_T has infinite number of elements, and there exists $k_0 \geq 0$ such that $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_{k=k_0}^\infty \subseteq \mathcal{X}_T$.

Proof of Lemma 2. (i) For any $1 \leq t \leq T$, let $\mathbf{x}^{(k_1)}, \mathbf{x}^{(k_2)} \in \mathcal{X}_t$ and $k_1 \neq k_2$. If $k_1 < k_2$, then $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_2)}) \subseteq \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_1)})$ according to the support shrinkage property (12). If $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_2)}) \subset \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_1)})$, then $|\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_2)})| < |\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_1)})|$ which contradicts with the definition of \mathcal{X}_t whose elements has the same support size. Similar argument holds if $k_1 > k_2$. Therefore, all the elements of each subsequence \mathcal{X}_t ($t = 1, \dots, T$) have the same support.

For any $1 \leq t_1 < t_2 \leq T$ and any $\mathbf{x}^{(k_1)} \in \mathcal{X}_{t_1}$ and $\mathbf{x}^{(k_2)} \in \mathcal{X}_{t_2}$, note that $k_1 \neq k_2$ and $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_2)}) \neq \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_1)})$ since \mathcal{X}_{t_1} and \mathcal{X}_{t_2} have different support size. Suppose $k_1 > k_2$. According to the support shrinkage property (12), we must have $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_1)}) \subset \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_2)})$ and it follows that $|\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_1)})| < |\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_2)})|$, which contradicts with the definition of subsequences with shrinking support. Therefore, we must have $k_1 < k_2$, and it follows that $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_2)}) \subseteq \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_1)})$.

(ii) Suppose \mathcal{X}_t is an infinite sequence for some $1 \leq t \leq T-1$. We can then obtain an infinite sequence from \mathcal{X}_t in the way described as follows. We first have some $\mathbf{x}^{(k_0)} \in \mathcal{X}_t$ for some $k_0 \geq 0$ as \mathcal{X}_t is nonempty.

Suppose we obtain $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k'_j)}\}_{j'=0}^j$ in the first $j \geq 0$ steps with increasing indices $\{k'_j\}$, i.e. $k'_j < k'_{j'}$ if $j' < j''$. Since \mathcal{X}_t is an infinite sequence, $\mathcal{X}_t \setminus \{\mathbf{x}^{(k'_j)}\}_{j'=0}^j$ is still an infinite sequence. At the $(j+1)$ -th step, we can find $\mathbf{x}^{(k_{j+1})} \in \mathcal{X}_t \setminus \{\mathbf{x}^{(k'_j)}\}_{j'=0}^j$ with $k_{j+1} > k_j$. Therefore, we obtain an infinite sequence $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)}\}_{j=0}^\infty \subseteq \mathcal{X}_t$ with increasing increasing indices $\{k_j\}$. The fact that $\{k_j\}$ is increasing, i.e. $k'_j < k'_{j'}$ if $j' < j''$, indicates that $\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} k_j = \infty$. Now we consider an arbitrary element $\mathbf{x}^{(\tilde{k})} \in \mathcal{X}_{t+1}$. Because there must exists some $j \geq 0$ such that $\tilde{k} \leq k_j$, according to the support shrinkage property (12), we must have $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)}) \subseteq \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(\tilde{k})})$ which indicates that $|\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)})| \leq |\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(\tilde{k})})|$. On the other hand, as $\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)} \in \mathcal{X}_t$, the definition of the subsequences with shrinking support indicates that $|\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(\tilde{k})})| < |\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)})|$. This contradiction shows that each \mathcal{X}_t must have finite size for $t = 1, \dots, T-1$. As $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_{k=0}^\infty$ is an infinite sequence and $\{\mathcal{X}_t\}_{t=1}^T$ form a disjoint cover of $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_{k=0}^\infty$, \mathcal{X}_T has infinite number of elements.

According to (i), \mathcal{X}_T is an infinite sequence. By the argument in the proof of (i), there exists an infinite sequence $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)}\}_{j=0}^\infty \subseteq \mathcal{X}_T$, $\{k_j\}$ is increasing, and $\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} k_j = \infty$. For any $k > k_0$, there must exist k'_j with $j' \geq 1$ such that $k'_{j'-1} \leq k \leq k'_{j'}$. According to the support shrinkage property (12),

$$\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k'_{j'})}) = \mathbf{S}^* \subseteq \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) \subseteq \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k'_{j'-1})}) = \mathbf{S}^*$$

Therefore, $|\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})| = |\mathbf{S}^*|$ and it follows that $\mathbf{x}^{(k)} \in \mathcal{X}_T$ for any $k \geq k_0$, namely $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_{k=k_0}^\infty \subseteq \mathcal{X}_T$. \square

Denote by \mathbf{S}^* the support of any element in \mathcal{X}_T . If $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_{k=0}^\infty$ generated by Algorithm 1 has a limit point \mathbf{x}^* , then the following theorem shows that the sequence $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_{k=0}^\infty$ converges to \mathbf{x}^* , and \mathbf{x}^* is a critical point of $F(\cdot)$ whose support is \mathbf{S}^* .

Theorem 2. (Convergence of PGD for the ℓ^0 regularization problem (1)) Suppose $s \leq \min\{\frac{2\lambda}{C^2}, \frac{1}{L}\}$, and \mathbf{x}^* is a limit point of $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_{k=0}^\infty$. Then the sequence $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_{k=0}^\infty$ generated by Algorithm 1 converges to \mathbf{x}^* , and \mathbf{x}^* is a critical point of $F(\cdot)$. Moreover, there exists $k_0 \geq 0$ such that for all $m \geq k_0$,

$$F(\mathbf{x}^{(m+1)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*) \leq \frac{1}{2s(m - k_0 + 1)} \|\mathbf{x}^{(k_0)} - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2. \quad (26)$$

Proof of Theorem 2. Because \mathbf{x}^* is a limit point of $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_{k=0}^\infty$, there must have a subsequence $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)}\}$ such that $\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)} \rightarrow \mathbf{x}^*$ as $j \rightarrow \infty$. In addition, \mathbf{x}^* is a limit point of $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_{k=k_0}^\infty$ and $F(\mathbf{x}^*) = \inf_{k \geq 0} \{F(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})\}$. We now show that $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{S}^*$. To see this, we

first have $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^*) \subseteq \mathbf{S}^*$. Otherwise, pick arbitrary $i \in \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^*) \setminus \mathbf{S}^*$, then $\|\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)} - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2 \geq |\mathbf{x}_i^*|$, contradicting with fact that $\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)} \rightarrow \mathbf{x}^*$.

Moreover, suppose $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^*) \subset \mathbf{S}^*$, we then pick arbitrary $i \in \mathbf{S}^* \setminus \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^*)$. It can be shown that $\mathbf{x}_i^{(k_j)} \rightarrow 0$. Otherwise, there exists $\varepsilon > 0$, for any j , there exists $j' \geq j$ such that $|\mathbf{x}_i^{(k_{j'})}| \geq \varepsilon$. It follows that $\|\mathbf{x}^{(k_{j'})} - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2 \geq |\mathbf{x}_i^{(k_{j'})}| \geq \varepsilon$, contradicting with the fact that $\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)} \rightarrow \mathbf{x}^*$.

Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be a sufficiently small positive number such that $sG + \varepsilon < \sqrt{2\lambda s}$. Since $\mathbf{x}_i^{(k_j)} \rightarrow 0$, there exists sufficiently large j such that $|\mathbf{x}_i^{(k_j)}| < \varepsilon$. Let $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}^{(k_j+1)} = \mathbf{x}^{(k_j)} - s\nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)})$, then

$$\begin{aligned} |\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_i^{(k_j+1)}| &\leq |\mathbf{x}_i^{(k_j)}| + sG \\ &< \varepsilon + sG \leq \sqrt{2\lambda s}. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that $\mathbf{x}_i^{(k_j+1)} = 0$ according to the update rule (2), so that $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_j+1)}) \subseteq \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)}) \setminus \{i\}$. On the other hand, note that $\mathbf{x}^{(k_j+1)} \in \mathcal{X}_i$, so we have $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_j+1)}) = \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)})$ by Lemma 2. This contradiction shows that $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^*) \subset \mathbf{S}^*$ cannot hold. Therefore, $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{S}^*$.

According to Lemma 2, there exists $k_0 \geq 0$ such that $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_{k=k_0}^\infty \subseteq \mathcal{X}_T$. We will prove that $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_{k=k_0}^\infty$ converges to \mathbf{x}^* in the sequel.

It follows that for any \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} ,

$$g(\mathbf{v}) \leq g(\mathbf{u}) + \langle \nabla g(\mathbf{u}), \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{u} \rangle + \frac{L}{2} \|\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{u}\|_2^2. \quad (27)$$

Due to the convexity of g , for any $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $k \geq 0$,

$$g(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) + \langle \nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}), \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} \rangle \leq g(\mathbf{v}). \quad (28)$$

In addition, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} &= \text{prox}_{s_h}(\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - s\nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})) \\ &= \arg \min_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{2s} \|\mathbf{v} - (\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - s\nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}))\|_2^2 + h(\mathbf{v}). \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

It follows from (29) that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{s}(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - (\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - s\nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}))) + \partial h(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow -\nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) - \frac{1}{s}(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)}) &\in \partial h(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}). \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

Since $\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} = T_{\sqrt{2\lambda s}}(\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - s\nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}))$, we have $[\partial h(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)})]_j = 0$ for any $j \in \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)})$. It follows that for any vector $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ such that $\text{supp}(\mathbf{v}) = \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)})$, the following equality holds:

$$h(\mathbf{v}) = h(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) + \langle -\nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) - \frac{1}{s}(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)}), \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} \rangle.$$

$$\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}. \quad (31)$$

Based on (27) and (28), for any $k \geq k_0$ and arbitrary $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} F(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) &= g(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) + h(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) \\ &\leq g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) + \langle \nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}), \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)} \rangle \\ &\quad + \frac{L}{2} \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)}\|_2^2 + h(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) \\ &\leq g(\mathbf{v}) + \langle \nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}), \mathbf{x}^{(k)} - \mathbf{v} \rangle + \langle \nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}), \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)} \rangle \\ &\quad + \frac{L}{2} \|\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}\|_2^2 + h(\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)}) \\ &= g(\mathbf{v}) + \langle \nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}), \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{v} \rangle + \frac{L}{2} \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)}\|_2^2 \\ &\quad + h(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}). \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

When $\text{supp}(\mathbf{v}) = \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)})$, according to (31) and (32),

$$\begin{aligned} F(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) &\leq g(\mathbf{v}) + \langle \nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}), \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{v} \rangle \\ &\quad + \frac{L}{2} \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)}\|_2^2 + h(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) \\ &= g(\mathbf{v}) + \langle \nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}), \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{v} \rangle \\ &\quad + \frac{L}{2} \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)}\|_2^2 + h(\mathbf{v}) \\ &\quad + \langle \nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) + \frac{1}{s}(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)}), \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} \rangle \\ &= F(\mathbf{v}) + \frac{1}{s} \langle \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)}, \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} \rangle \\ &\quad + \frac{L}{2} \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)}\|_2^2 \\ &= F(\mathbf{v}) + \frac{1}{s} \langle \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)}, \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)} \rangle \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{s} \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)}\|_2^2 + \frac{L}{2} \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)}\|_2^2 \\ &= F(\mathbf{v}) + \frac{1}{s} \langle \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)}, \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)} \rangle \\ &\quad - \left(\frac{1}{s} - \frac{L}{2}\right) \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)}\|_2^2 \\ &\leq F(\mathbf{v}) + \frac{1}{s} \langle \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)}, \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)} \rangle \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2s} \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)}\|_2^2. \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

Now $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^*) = \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) = \mathbf{S}^*$, we can let $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{x}^*$ in (33), leading to

$$\begin{aligned} F(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*) &\leq \frac{1}{s} \langle \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)}, \mathbf{x}^* - \mathbf{x}^{(k)} \rangle - \frac{1}{2s} \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k)}\|_2^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2s} (\|\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2 - \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2). \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

Summing (34) over $k = k_0, \dots, m$ with $m \geq k_0$,

$$\sum_{k=k_0}^m F(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\leq \sum_{k=k_0}^m \frac{1}{2s} (\|\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2 - \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2) \\
&= \frac{1}{2s} (\|\mathbf{x}^{(k_0)} - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2 - \|\mathbf{x}^{(m+1)} - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2). \quad (35)
\end{aligned}$$

Since $\{F(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})\}_k$ is non-increasing, we have $\sum_{k=k_0}^m F(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*) > (m - k_0 + 1)F(\mathbf{x}^{(m+1)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*)$. It follows from (35) that

$$\begin{aligned}
&F(\mathbf{x}^{(m+1)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*) \\
&\leq \frac{1}{2s(m - k_0 + 1)} (\|\mathbf{x}^{(k_0)} - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2 - \|\mathbf{x}^{(m+1)} - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2) \\
&\leq \frac{1}{2s(m - k_0 + 1)} \|\mathbf{x}^{(k_0)} - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2. \quad (36)
\end{aligned}$$

Now we show that \mathbf{x}^* is a critical point of $F(\cdot)$. It follows from (30) that $-\nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k_j-1)}) - \frac{1}{s}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k_j-1)}) \in \partial h(\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)})$ for $k_j \geq 1$. In addition, since $\partial F(\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)}) = \nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)}) + \partial h(\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)})$, we have

$$\nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)}) - \nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k_j-1)}) - \frac{1}{s}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k_j-1)}) \in \partial F(\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)}). \quad (37)$$

Due to the fact that $\|\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k-1)}\|_2 \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$, when $j \rightarrow \infty$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&\|\nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)}) - \nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k_j-1)}) - \frac{1}{s}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k_j-1)})\|_2 \\
&\leq L\|\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k_j-1)}\|_2 + \frac{1}{s}\|\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)} - \mathbf{x}^{(k_j-1)}\|_2 \\
&\rightarrow 0. \quad (38)
\end{aligned}$$

Also, as $j \rightarrow \infty$,

$$\begin{aligned}
&F(\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)}) = g(\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)}) + h(\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)}) = g(\mathbf{x}^{(k_j)}) + \lambda|\mathbf{S}^*| \\
&\rightarrow g(\mathbf{x}^*) + \lambda|\mathbf{S}^*| = g(\mathbf{x}^*) + h(\mathbf{x}^*) = F(\mathbf{x}^*). \quad (39)
\end{aligned}$$

Based on (37), (38) and (39), $\mathbf{0} \in \partial F(\mathbf{x}^*)$ and \mathbf{x}^* is a critical point of $F(\cdot)$.

In addition, k_0 is upper bounded. Note that the sequence experiences only a finite number (at most $|\mathbf{S}|$) of strict support shrinkages. The iterations of PGD between two consecutive strict support shrinkages are equivalent to those of regular gradient descent on g . Suppose the last support shrinkage happens in k_1 -th iteration with $k_1 \geq 0$, and let $\mathbf{S}_1 = \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k_1)})$. Let \mathbf{x}' be the solution to the problem $\min_{\mathbf{x}, \text{supp}(\mathbf{x})=\mathbf{S}_1} g(\mathbf{x})$. Let the q -th ($q \in \mathbf{S}_1$) element of the variable incurs support shrinkage, and $\{\mathbf{x}'^{(t)}\}$ be the sequence generated by performing gradient descent on g starting with $\mathbf{x}^{(k_1)}$. We can always choose s such that $\sqrt{2\lambda s} \neq |\mathbf{x}'_q|$. Because $\{\mathbf{x}'^{(t)}\}$

converges to \mathbf{x}' , the support shrinkage at the q -th element of the variable must happen within finite iterations. To see this, since $\sqrt{2\lambda s} \neq \mathbf{x}'_q$, there exists a small $\delta > 0$ such that $(\mathbf{x}'_q - \delta, \mathbf{x}'_q + \delta) \subset (-\sqrt{2\lambda s}, \sqrt{2\lambda s})$ or $(\mathbf{x}'_q - \delta, \mathbf{x}'_q + \delta) \subset [-\sqrt{2\lambda s}, \sqrt{2\lambda s}]^c$, where \mathbf{A}^c is the complement set of \mathbf{A} . Since $\{\mathbf{x}'^{(t)}\}$ converges to \mathbf{x}' , after T iterations $\{\mathbf{x}'^{(t)}\}_{t>T}$ must fall in $(\mathbf{x}'_q - \delta, \mathbf{x}'_q + \delta)$. If $(\mathbf{x}'_q - \delta, \mathbf{x}'_q + \delta) \subset (-\sqrt{2\lambda s}, \sqrt{2\lambda s})$, then support shrinkage happens after T iterations. If $(\mathbf{x}'_q - \delta, \mathbf{x}'_q + \delta) \subset [-\sqrt{2\lambda s}, \sqrt{2\lambda s}]^c$, support shrinkage must happen within T iterations, otherwise $|\mathbf{x}'^{(t)}| > \sqrt{2\lambda s}$ for $t > T$ and support shrinkage never happens at the q -th element of the variable, contradicting with the given fact. Therefore, each support shrinkage happens with finite iterations. Because shrinkage can happen at most $|\mathbf{S}|$ times, k_0 is upper bounded by a finite number. \square

Lemma C. For any two vectors $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $\|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{R}}(\mathbf{v})\|_2 \leq \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}\|_2$ where $\text{supp}(\mathbf{u}) \subseteq \mathbf{R}$.

Proof. We have

$$\begin{aligned}
&\|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}\|_2^2 \\
&= \|\mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{R}}(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v})\|_2^2 + \|\mathbf{P}_{\{1, \dots, d\} \setminus \mathbf{R}}(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v})\|_2^2 \\
&\geq \|\mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{R}}(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v})\|_2^2 = \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{R}}(\mathbf{v})\|_2^2. \quad (40)
\end{aligned}$$

It follows that $\|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{R}}(\mathbf{v})\|_2 \leq \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}\|_2$. \square

Lemma 3. (Support shrinkage for nonmonotone accelerated proximal gradient descent with support projection in Algorithm 2) *The sequence $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_k$ generated by Algorithm 2 satisfies*

$$\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) \subseteq \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}), k \geq 1, \quad (41)$$

namely the support of the sequence $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_{k=1}^\infty$ shrinks.

Proof of Lemma 3. We prove this Lemma by mathematical induction, and we will prove that

$$\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(\bar{k}+1)}) \subseteq \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(\bar{k})}), \bar{k} \geq 1. \quad (42)$$

When $\bar{k} = 1$, using argument similar to the proof of Lemma 1 we can show that $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(2)}) \subseteq \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(1)})$, i.e. the support of \mathbf{x} shrinks after the first iteration.

Now (42) are verified for $\bar{k} = 1$. Suppose (42) holds for all $\bar{k} \leq k'$ with $k' \geq 1$. We now consider the case that $\bar{k} = k' + 1$.

Note the support projection operation in the update rule (4) for $\mathbf{w}^{(k)}$, and $\text{supp}(\mathbf{w}^{(k'+1)}) \subseteq \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k'+1)})$. Let $\mathbf{q}^{(k'+1)} = -s\nabla g(\mathbf{w}^{(k'+1)})$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_j^{(k'+2)} = \mathbf{w}^{(k'+1)} -$

$s\nabla g(\mathbf{w}^{(k'+1)})$. Then $\mathbf{x}_j^{(k'+2)} = 0$ due to the update rule (5) for any $j \notin \text{supp}(\mathbf{w}^{(k'+1)})$ and

$$|\bar{\mathbf{x}}_j^{(k'+2)}| \leq \|\mathbf{q}^{(k'+1)}\|_\infty \leq sG \leq \sqrt{2\lambda s}. \quad (43)$$

Because $s \leq \frac{2\lambda}{G^2}$, the zero elements of $\mathbf{w}^{(k'+1)}$ remain unchanged in $\mathbf{x}^{(k'+2)}$, and it follows that $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k'+2)}) \subseteq \text{supp}(\mathbf{w}^{(k'+1)}) \subseteq \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k'+1)})$. Therefore, (42) holds for $\bar{k} = k' + 1$. It follows that (42) holds for all $\bar{k} \geq 1$. \square

Theorem 3. (Convergence of Nonmonotone Accelerated Proximal Gradient Descent for the ℓ^0 regularization problem (1)) *Suppose $s \leq \min\{\frac{2\lambda}{G^2}, \frac{1}{L}\}$, and \mathbf{x}^* is a limit point of $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_{k=0}^\infty$ generated by Algorithm 2. There exists $k_0 \geq 1$ such that*

$$F(\mathbf{x}^{(m+1)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*) \leq \frac{4}{(m+1)^2} V^{(k_0)} \quad (44)$$

for all $m \geq k_0$, where

$$V^{(k_0)} \triangleq \left(\frac{1}{2s} \|(t_{k_0-1} - 1)\mathbf{x}^{(k_0-1)} - t_{k_0-1}\mathbf{x}^{(k_0)} + \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2 + t_{k_0-1}^2 (F(\mathbf{x}^{(k_0)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*)) \right). \quad (45)$$

Proof of Theorem 3. According to Lemma 3, there exists $k_0 \geq 0$ such that $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_{k=k_0}^\infty \subseteq \mathcal{X}_T$. It follows that $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{S}^*$.

When $\text{supp}(\mathbf{v}) = \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)})$ for $k \geq k_0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} F(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) &\leq g(\mathbf{v}) + \langle \nabla g(\mathbf{w}^{(k)}), \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{v} \rangle \\ &+ \frac{L}{2} \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}\|_2^2 + h(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) \\ &= g(\mathbf{v}) + \langle \nabla g(\mathbf{w}^{(k)}), \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{v} \rangle \\ &+ \frac{L}{2} \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}\|_2^2 + h(\mathbf{v}) \\ &+ \langle \nabla g(\mathbf{w}^{(k)}) + \frac{1}{s}(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}), \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} \rangle \\ &= F(\mathbf{v}) + \frac{1}{s} \langle \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}, \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} \rangle \\ &+ \frac{L}{2} \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}\|_2^2 \\ &\leq F(\mathbf{v}) + \frac{1}{s} \langle \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}, \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)} \rangle \\ &- \frac{1}{s} \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}\|_2^2 + \frac{L}{2} \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}\|_2^2 \\ &= F(\mathbf{v}) + \frac{1}{s} \langle \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}, \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)} \rangle \\ &- \left(\frac{1}{s} - \frac{L}{2} \right) \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}\|_2^2. \end{aligned} \quad (46)$$

Now using similar arguments in the proof of Lemma 3, let $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{x}^{(k)}$ and $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{x}^*$ in in (46), we have

$$F(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) \leq F(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) + \frac{1}{s} \langle \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)},$$

$$\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)} \rangle - \left(\frac{1}{s} - \frac{L}{2} \right) \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}\|_2^2, \quad (47)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} F(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) &\leq F(\mathbf{x}^*) + \frac{1}{s} \langle \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}, \\ \mathbf{x}^* - \mathbf{w}^{(k)} \rangle - \left(\frac{1}{s} - \frac{L}{2} \right) \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}\|_2^2. \end{aligned} \quad (48)$$

(47) \times $(t_k - 1)$ + (48), we have

$$\begin{aligned} &t_k F(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) - (t_k - 1)F(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{s} \langle \mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}, (t_k - 1)(\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}) + \mathbf{x}^* - \mathbf{w}^{(k)} \rangle \\ &- t_k \left(\frac{1}{s} - \frac{L}{2} \right) \|\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}\|_2^2. \end{aligned} \quad (49)$$

Multiplying both sides of (49) by t_k , since $t_k^2 - t_k = t_{k-1}^2$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &t_k^2 (F(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*)) - t_{k-1}^2 (F(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*)) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{s} \langle t_k(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}), (t_k - 1)(\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}) + \\ &\mathbf{x}^* - \mathbf{w}^{(k)} \rangle - \left(\frac{1}{s} - \frac{L}{2} \right) \|t_k(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)})\|_2^2 \\ &\leq \frac{1}{s} \langle t_k(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}), (t_k - 1)(\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}) \\ &+ \mathbf{x}^* - \mathbf{w}^{(k)} \rangle - \frac{1}{2s} \|t_k(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)})\|_2^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2s} (\|(t_k - 1)\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - t_k\mathbf{w}^{(k)} + \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2 \\ &- \|(t_k - 1)\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - t_k\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} + \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2). \end{aligned} \quad (50)$$

Since $\mathbf{w}^{(k)} = \mathbf{P}_{\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})}(\mathbf{u}^{(k)})$, it follows that $(t_k - 1)\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - t_k\mathbf{P}_{\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})}(\mathbf{u}^{(k)}) + \mathbf{x}^* = (t_k - 1)\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - t_k\mathbf{w}^{(k)} + \mathbf{x}^*$. By Lemma C and (50), we have

$$\begin{aligned} &t_k^2 (F(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*)) - t_{k-1}^2 (F(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*)) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2s} (\|(t_k - 1)\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - t_k\mathbf{u}^{(k)} + \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2 \\ &- \|(t_k - 1)\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - t_k\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} + \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2). \end{aligned} \quad (51)$$

Define $\mathbf{U}^{(k+1)} = (t_k - 1)\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - t_k\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} + \mathbf{x}^*$, then $\mathbf{U}^{(k)} = (t_{k-1} - 1)\mathbf{x}^{(k-1)} - t_{k-1}\mathbf{x}^{(k)} + \mathbf{x}^*$. It can be verified that $\mathbf{U}^{(k)} = (t_k - 1)\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - t_k\mathbf{u}^{(k)} + \mathbf{x}^*$ according to the update rule (3) for $\mathbf{u}^{(k)}$. Then according to (51), we have

$$\begin{aligned} &t_k^2 (F(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*)) - t_{k-1}^2 (F(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*)) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2s} (\|\mathbf{U}^{(k)}\|_2^2 - \|\mathbf{U}^{(k+1)}\|_2^2). \end{aligned} \quad (52)$$

Summing (52) over $k = k_0, k_0 + 1, \dots, m$ for $m \geq k_0$, we have

$$t_m^2 (F(\mathbf{x}^{(m+1)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*)) - t_{k_0-1}^2 (F(\mathbf{x}^{(k_0)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*))$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\leq \frac{1}{2s} (\|\mathbf{U}^{(k_0)}\|_2^2 - \|\mathbf{U}^{(m+1)}\|_2^2) \\
&\leq \frac{1}{2s} \|\mathbf{U}^{(k_0)}\|_2^2 \\
&= \frac{1}{2s} \|(t_{k_0-1} - 1)\mathbf{x}^{(k_0-1)} - t_{k_0-1}\mathbf{x}^{(k_0)} + \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2. \quad (53)
\end{aligned}$$

It follows from (53) that

$$\begin{aligned}
&F(\mathbf{x}^{(m+1)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*) \\
&\leq \frac{1}{2st_m^2} \|(t_{k_0-1} - 1)\mathbf{x}^{(k_0-1)} - t_{k_0-1}\mathbf{x}^{(k_0)} + \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2 \\
&+ \frac{t_{k_0-1}^2}{t_m^2} (F(\mathbf{x}^{(k_0)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*)) \\
&< \frac{1}{t_m^2} \left(\frac{1}{2s} \|(t_{k_0-1} - 1)\mathbf{x}^{(k_0-1)} - t_{k_0-1}\mathbf{x}^{(k_0)} + \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2 \right. \\
&+ \left. t_{k_0-1}^2 (F(\mathbf{x}^{(k_0)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*)) \right) \\
&\leq \frac{4}{(m+1)^2} \left(\frac{1}{2s} \|(t_{k_0-1} - 1)\mathbf{x}^{(k_0-1)} - t_{k_0-1}\mathbf{x}^{(k_0)} + \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2 \right. \\
&+ \left. t_{k_0-1}^2 (F(\mathbf{x}^{(k_0)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*)) \right) \\
&\triangleq \frac{4}{(m+1)^2} W^{(k_0)}, \quad (54)
\end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality is due to the fact that $t_k \geq \frac{k+1}{2}$ for $k \geq 1$. \square

Lemma 4. (Support shrinkage for accelerated proximal gradient descent with support projection in Algorithm 3) *The sequence $\{\mathbf{z}^{(k)}\}_{k=1}^\infty$ and $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_{k=1}^\infty$ generated by Algorithm 3 satisfy*

$$\text{supp}(\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)}) \subseteq \text{supp}(\mathbf{z}^{(k)}), \quad (55)$$

$$\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) \subseteq \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}), \quad (56)$$

namely the support of both sequences shrinks.

Proof of Lemma 4. We prove this Lemma by mathematical induction, and we will prove that for all $\bar{k} \geq 1$,

$$\text{supp}(\mathbf{z}^{(\bar{k}+1)}) \subseteq \text{supp}(\mathbf{z}^{(\bar{k})}). \quad (57)$$

When $\bar{k} = 1$, we first show that $\text{supp}(\mathbf{z}^{(2)}) \subseteq \text{supp}(\mathbf{z}^{(1)})$, i.e. the support of $\mathbf{z}^{(k)}$ shrinks after the first iteration.

It is now verified that (57) hold for $\bar{k} = 1$. Suppose (57) holds for all $\bar{k} \leq k'$ with $k' \geq 1$. We now consider the case that $\bar{k} = k' + 1$.

Let $\mathbf{q}^{(k'+1)} = -s\nabla g(\mathbf{w}^{(k'+1)})$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_j^{(k'+2)} = \mathbf{w}^{(k'+1)} - s\nabla g(\mathbf{w}^{(k'+1)})$. Then $\mathbf{x}_j^{(k'+2)} = 0$ due to the update rule (9) for any $j \notin \text{supp}(\mathbf{w}^{(k'+1)})$ and

$$|\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_j^{(k'+2)}| \leq sG \leq \sqrt{2\lambda}s. \quad (58)$$

Because $s \leq \frac{2\lambda}{G^2}$, the zero elements of $\mathbf{w}^{(k'+1)}$ remain unchanged in $\mathbf{z}^{(k'+2)}$. According to the support projection operation in (8), $\text{supp}(\mathbf{w}^{(k'+1)}) \subseteq \text{supp}(\mathbf{z}^{(k'+1)}) = \mathbf{S}'$. It follows that $\text{supp}(\mathbf{z}^{(k'+2)}) \subseteq \text{supp}(\mathbf{w}^{(k'+1)}) \subseteq \text{supp}(\mathbf{z}^{(k'+1)})$. Therefore, (57) holds for $\bar{k} = k' + 1$. It follows that (57) holds for all $\bar{k} \geq 1$.

Now we prove (56), i.e. that for all $k \geq 1$, $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) \subseteq \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})$.

We have already shown that for all $k \geq 1$, $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) = \text{supp}(\mathbf{z}^{(\bar{k})})$ for some $\bar{k} \leq k$. Note that $\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} = \mathbf{z}^{(k+1)}$ or $\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} = \mathbf{x}^{(k)}$. In the latter case, we trivially have $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) = \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})$. In the former case, $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) = \text{supp}(\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)}) \subseteq \text{supp}(\mathbf{z}^{(\bar{k})}) = \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})$ because $\bar{k} \leq k < k+1$. Therefore, (56) holds for all $k \geq 1$. \square

Theorem 4. (Convergence of Monotone Accelerated Proximal Gradient Descent for the ℓ^0 regularization problem (1)) *Suppose $s \leq \min\{\frac{2\lambda}{G^2}, \frac{1}{L}\}$, and \mathbf{x}^* is a limit point of $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_{k=0}^\infty$ generated by Algorithm 3. There exists $k_0 \geq 1$ such that*

$$F(\mathbf{x}^{(m+1)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*) \leq \frac{4}{(m+1)^2} W^{(k_0)} \quad (59)$$

for all $m \geq k_0$, where

$$\begin{aligned}
W^{(k_0)} &\triangleq \left(\frac{1}{2s} \|(t_{k_0-1} - 1)\mathbf{x}^{(k_0-1)} - t_{k_0-1}\mathbf{z}^{(k_0)} + \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2 \right. \\
&+ \left. t_{k_0-1}^2 (F(\mathbf{x}^{(k_0)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*)) \right). \quad (60)
\end{aligned}$$

Proof of Theorem 4. According to Lemma 4, it can be verified that $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_{k=0}^\infty$ forms at most $T_1 \leq |\mathbf{S}| + 1$ subsequences with shrinking support $\{\mathcal{X}_t\}_{t=1}^{T_1}$, and $\{\mathbf{z}^{(k)}\}_{k=0}^\infty$ also forms at most $T_2 \leq |\mathbf{S}| + 1$ subsequences with shrinking support, denoted by $\{\mathcal{Z}_t\}_{t=1}^{T_2}$.

Based on Lemma 2, there exists $k_1 \geq 0$ such that $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_{k=k_1}^\infty \subseteq \mathcal{X}_{T_1}$. Similarly, there exists $k_2 \geq 0$ such that $\{\mathbf{z}^{(k)}\}_{k=k_2}^\infty \subseteq \mathcal{Z}_{T_2}$. According to Lemma 2, Let all the elements of \mathcal{X}_{T_1} have support \mathbf{S}_1 , and all the elements of \mathcal{Z}_{T_2} have support \mathbf{S}_2 . We will show that $\mathbf{S}_1 = \mathbf{S}_2$. To see this, let $k_0 = \max\{k_1, k_2\}$, then there exists $k' \geq k_0$ such that $\mathbf{x}^{(k')} = \mathbf{z}^{(k')}$. Due to the fact that $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_{k=k_1}^\infty \subseteq \mathcal{X}_{T_1}$ and $\{\mathbf{z}^{(k)}\}_{k=k_2}^\infty \subseteq \mathcal{Z}_{T_2}$, $\mathbf{S}_1 = \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k')}) = \text{supp}(\mathbf{z}^{(k')}) = \mathbf{S}_2$.

Let $\mathbf{S}_1 = \mathbf{S}_2 = \mathbf{S}^*$, then all the elements of $\{\mathbf{x}^{(k)}\}_{k=k_0}^\infty$ and $\{\mathbf{z}^{(k)}\}_{k=k_0}^\infty$ have the same support \mathbf{S}^* . It follows that $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{S}^*$.

When $\text{supp}(\mathbf{v}) = \text{supp}(\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)})$ with $k \geq k_0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
F(\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)}) &\leq g(\mathbf{v}) + \langle \nabla g(\mathbf{w}^{(k)}), \mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{v} \rangle \\
&+ \frac{L\mathbf{S}'}{2} \|\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}\|_2^2 + h(\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)})
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= g(\mathbf{v}) + \langle \nabla g(\mathbf{w}^{(k)}), \mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{v} \rangle \\
&+ \frac{L\mathbf{S}'}{2} \|\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}\|_2^2 + h(\mathbf{v}) \\
&+ \langle \nabla g(\mathbf{w}^{(k)}) + \frac{1}{s}(\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}), \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} \rangle \\
&= F(\mathbf{v}) + \frac{1}{s} \langle \mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}, \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} \rangle \\
&+ \frac{L\mathbf{S}'}{2} \|\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}\|_2^2 \\
&\leq F(\mathbf{v}) + \frac{1}{s} \langle \mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}, \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)} \rangle \\
&- \frac{1}{s} \|\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}\|_2^2 + \frac{L\mathbf{S}'}{2} \|\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}\|_2^2 \\
&= F(\mathbf{v}) + \frac{1}{s} \langle \mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}, \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)} \rangle \\
&- \left(\frac{1}{s} - \frac{L\mathbf{S}'}{2} \right) \|\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}\|_2^2. \tag{61}
\end{aligned}$$

Note that $\text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) = \text{supp}(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{S}^*$ for $k \geq k_0$. Using similar arguments in the proof of Lemma 3, let $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{x}^{(k)}$ and $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{x}^*$ in (61) in the proof of Lemma 4, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
F(\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)}) &\leq F(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) + \frac{1}{s} \langle \mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}, \mathbf{x}^{(k)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)} \rangle \\
&- \left(\frac{1}{s} - \frac{L}{2} \right) \|\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}\|_2^2, \tag{62}
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
F(\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)}) &\leq F(\mathbf{x}^*) + \frac{1}{s} \langle \mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}, \mathbf{x}^* - \mathbf{w}^{(k)} \rangle \\
&- \left(\frac{1}{s} - \frac{L}{2} \right) \|\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}\|_2^2. \tag{63}
\end{aligned}$$

(62) $\times (t_k - 1)$ + (63), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&t_k F(\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)}) - (t_k - 1)F(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*) \\
&\leq \frac{1}{s} \langle \mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}, (t_k - 1)(\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}) + \mathbf{x}^* - \mathbf{w}^{(k)} \rangle \\
&- t_k \left(\frac{1}{s} - \frac{L}{2} \right) \|\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}\|_2^2. \tag{64}
\end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned}
&t_k (F(\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*)) - (t_k - 1)(F(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*)) \\
&\leq \frac{1}{s} \langle \mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}, (t_k - 1)(\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}) + \mathbf{x}^* - \mathbf{w}^{(k)} \rangle \\
&- t_k \left(\frac{1}{s} - \frac{L}{2} \right) \|\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}\|_2^2. \tag{65}
\end{aligned}$$

Multiplying both sides of (65) by t_k , since $t_k^2 - t_k = t_{k-1}^2$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&t_k^2 (F(\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*)) - t_{k-1}^2 (F(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*)) \\
&\leq \frac{1}{s} \langle t_k(\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}), (t_k - 1)(\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}) + \mathbf{x}^* - \mathbf{w}^{(k)} \rangle \\
&- \left(\frac{1}{s} - \frac{L}{2} \right) t_k \|\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}\|_2^2
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\leq \frac{1}{s} \langle t_k(\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}), (t_k - 1)(\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)}) + \mathbf{x}^* - \mathbf{w}^{(k)} \rangle \\
&- \frac{1}{2s} \|t_k(\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} - \mathbf{w}^{(k)})\|_2^2 \\
&= \frac{1}{2s} (\|(t_k - 1)\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - t_k\mathbf{w}^{(k)} + \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2 \\
&- \|(t_k - 1)\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - t_k\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} + \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2). \tag{66}
\end{aligned}$$

Note that $\text{supp}((t_k - 1)\mathbf{x}^{(k)} + \mathbf{x}^*) \subseteq \mathbf{S}^*$ and $(\mathbf{w}^{(k)}) = \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{S}^*}(\mathbf{u}^{(k)})$, according to Lemma C and (66), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&t_k^2 (F(\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*)) - t_{k-1}^2 (F(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*)) \\
&\leq \frac{1}{2s} (\|(t_k - 1)\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - t_k\mathbf{u}^{(k)} + \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2 \\
&- \|(t_k - 1)\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - t_k\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} + \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2). \tag{67}
\end{aligned}$$

Define $\mathbf{A}^{(k+1)} = (t_k - 1)\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - t_k\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)} + \mathbf{x}^*$, then $\mathbf{A}^{(k)} = (t_{k-1} - 1)\mathbf{x}^{(k-1)} - t_{k-1}\mathbf{z}^{(k)} + \mathbf{x}^*$. It can be verified that $\mathbf{A}^{(k)} = (t_k - 1)\mathbf{x}^{(k)} - t_k\mathbf{u}^{(k)} + \mathbf{x}^*$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
&t_k^2 (F(\mathbf{z}^{(k+1)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*)) - t_{k-1}^2 (F(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*)) \\
&\leq \frac{1}{2s} (\|\mathbf{A}^{(k)}\|_2^2 - \|\mathbf{A}^{(k+1)}\|_2^2). \tag{68}
\end{aligned}$$

Summing (68) over $k = k_0, \dots, m$ for $m \geq k_0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&t_m^2 (F(\mathbf{z}^{(m+1)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*)) - t_{k_0-1}^2 (F(\mathbf{x}^{(k_0)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*)) \\
&\leq \frac{1}{2s} (\|\mathbf{A}^{(k_0)}\|_2^2 - \|\mathbf{A}^{(m+1)}\|_2^2) \leq \frac{1}{2s} \|\mathbf{A}^{(k_0)}\|_2^2 \\
&= \frac{1}{2s} \|(t_{k_0-1} - 1)\mathbf{x}^{(k_0-1)} - t_{k_0-1}\mathbf{z}^{(k_0)} + \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2. \tag{69}
\end{aligned}$$

Since $t_k \geq \frac{k+1}{2}$ for $k \geq 1$, it follows from (69) that

$$\begin{aligned}
&F(\mathbf{z}^{(m+1)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*) \\
&\leq \frac{4}{(m+1)^2} \left(\frac{1}{2s} \|(t_{k_0-1} - 1)\mathbf{x}^{(k_0-1)} - t_{k_0-1}\mathbf{z}^{(k_0)} + \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2 \right. \\
&\left. + t_{k_0-1}^2 (F(\mathbf{x}^{(k_0)}) - F(\mathbf{x}^*)) \right) \\
&\triangleq \frac{4}{(m+1)^2} W^{(k_0)}. \tag{70}
\end{aligned}$$

□

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