



# **A Compact Survey of Compressed Sensing**

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# Compressed Sensing In the News



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## One pixel is plenty for pictures

Forget millions of pixels - two American researchers are working on a digital camera that has just one

**Economist.com**  
Tuesday December 12th 2006  
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**Science & Technology**

**Photography**  
**A pixel worth a thousand words**  
Oct 26th 2006  
From *The Economist* print edition

**A new type of camera that could detect explosives and other hidden items**

SALESMEN flogging digital cameras boast of the number of pixels in the images captured as an indicator of quality. The more pixels, there are—and they are



# Compressed Sensing on the Web

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## Discovery and Initial Papers

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- Emmanuel Candès, Justin Romberg and Terence Tao, **Robust Uncertainty Principles: Exact Signal Reconstruction from Highly Incomplete Frequency Information**. (IEEE Trans. on Information Theory, 52(2) pp. 489 - 509, Feb. 2006)
- Emmanuel Candès and Justin Romberg, **Quantitative Robust Uncertainty Principles and Optimally Sparse Decompositions**. (To appear in Foundations of Computational Mathematics)
- Emmanuel Candès and Terence Tao, **Near Optimal Signal Recovery From Random Projections: Universal Encoding Strategies?** (To appear in IEEE Trans. on Information Theory)
- David Donoho, **Compressed Sensing**. (IEEE Trans. on Information Theory, 52(4), pp. 1289-1306, April 2006)

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## Compressed Sensing in Practice

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### Practical Signal Recovery

- Emmanuel Candès and Justin Romberg, **Practical Signal Recovery from Random Projections**. (Preprint, Jan. 2005)
- David Donoho and Yaakov Tsaig, **Extensions of Compressed Sensing**. (Signal Processing, 86(3), pp. 533-548, March 2006.)
- Joel Tropp and Anna Gilbert, **Signal Recovery From Partial Information Via Orthogonal Matching Pursuit**. (Preprint, 2005)
- Marco Duarte, Michael Wakin and Richard Baraniuk, **Fast Reconstruction of Piecewise Smooth Signals from Random Projections**. (Proc. SPARS Workshop, Nov. 2005)
- Chinh La and Minh Do, **Signal Reconstruction using Sparse Tree Representations**. (Proc. SPIE Wavelets XI, Sep. 2005)
- Gabriel Peyré, **Best Basis Compressed Sensing**. (Preprint, 2006) [See also related conference publication: **NeuroComp 2006**]
- Michael Elad, **Optimized Projections for Compressed Sensing**. (Preprint, 2006)

### Compressed Sensing in Noise

- Jarvis Haupt and Rob Nowak, **Signal Reconstruction from Noisy Random Projections**. (IEEE Trans. on Information Theory, 52(9), pp. 4036-4048, Sep. 2006)
- Emmanuel Candès, Justin Romberg and Terence Tao, **Stable Signal Recovery from Incomplete and Inaccurate Measurements**. (Communications on Pure and Applied Mathematics, 59(8), pp. 1207-1223, Aug. 2006)
- Emmanuel Candès and Terence Tao, **The Dantzig Selector: Statistical Estimation When  $p$  is Much Larger Than  $n$**  (To appear in Annals of Statistics)
- Shriram Sarvotham, Dror Baron and Richard Baraniuk, **Measurements vs. Bits: Compressed Sensing Meets Information Theory**. (Proc. Forty-Fourth Annual Allerton Conference on Communication, Control, and Computing, Monticello, IL, Sep. 2006)
- Martin J. Wainwright, **Sharp Thresholds for High-Dimensional and Noisy Recovery of Sparsity** (Proc. Forty-Fourth Annual Allerton Conference on Communication, Control, and Computing, Monticello, IL, Sep. 2006)

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## Foundations and Connections

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### Coding and Information Theory

- Emmanuel Candès and Terence Tao, **Decoding by Linear Programming**. (IEEE Trans. on Information Theory, 51(12), pp. 4203-4215, Dec. 2005)
- Emmanuel Candès and Terence Tao, **Error Correction via Linear Programming**. (Preprint, 2005)

[www.dsp.ece.rice.edu/CS/](http://www.dsp.ece.rice.edu/CS/)  
lists over 60 papers  
on “Compressed  
Sensing”...

# So... what is Compressed Sensing?

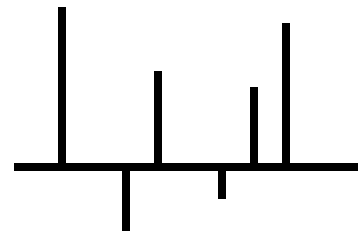
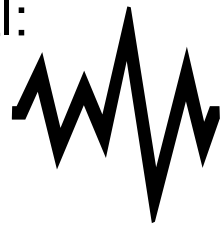
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- Will introduce the CS problem and initial results
- Outline the (pre)history of Compressed Sensing
- Algorithmic/Combinatorial perspectives and new results
- Whither Compressed Sensing?

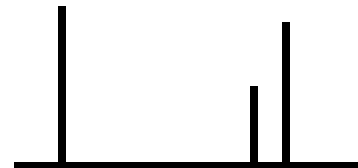
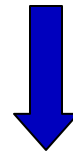
# Signal Processing Background

- Digital Signal Processing / Capture:

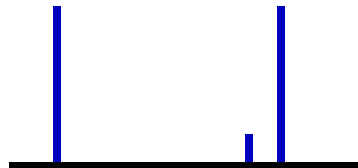
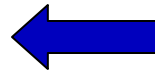
Digitize signal:  
capture  $n$   
samples



Losslessly  
transform into  
appropriate basis  
(eg FFT, DCT)



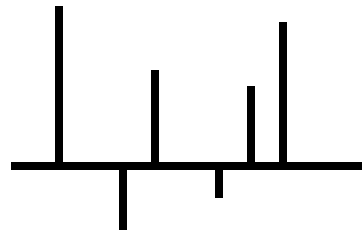
Pick  $k \ll n$   
coefficients to  
represent signal



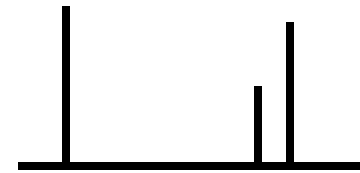
Quantize coefficients,  
encode and store

# DSP Simplified

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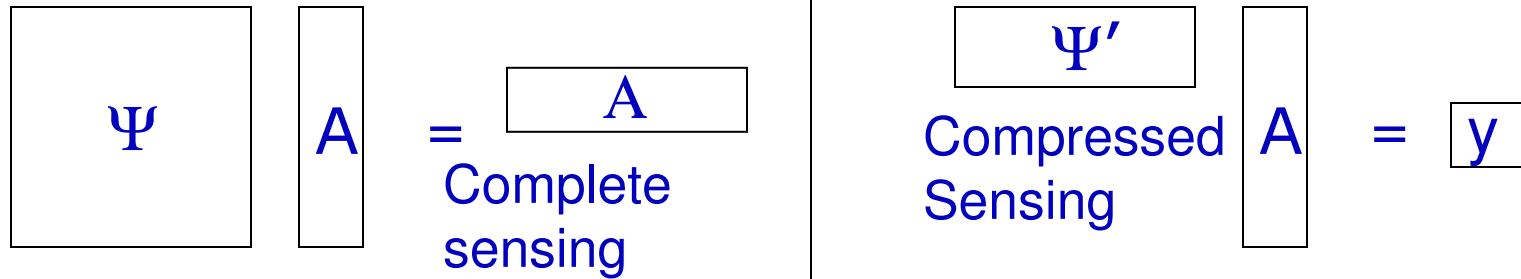
Discrete signal  $A$   
of dimension  $n$



Select  $k \ll n$  coefficients  
to represent signal

- Observation: we make  $n$  measurements, but only end up storing  $k$  pieces of information
- What if measurements are very costly,
  - E.g. each one requires a separate hardware sensor
  - E.g. Medical imaging, patient is moved through scanner
- (Also, why do whole transform?, sometimes expensive)

# The Compressed Sensing Credo



- Only measure (approximately) as much as is stored
- Measurement cost model:
  - Each measurement is a vector  $\psi_i$  of dimension  $n$
  - Given  $\psi_i$  and signal (vector)  $A$ , measurement =  $\psi_i \cdot A = y_i$
  - Only access to signal is by measuring
  - Cost is **number** of measurements
- Trivial solution:  $\psi_i = 1$  at location  $i$ , 0 elsewhere
  - Gives exact recovery but needs  $n$  measurements

# Error Metric

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- Let  $R^k$  be a representation of  $A$  with  $k$  coefficients
- Define “error” of representation  $R^k$  as sum squared difference between  $R^k$  and  $A$ :  $\|R^k - A\|_2^2$
- Picking  $k$  *largest* values minimizes error
  - Hence, goal is to find the “top- $k$ ”
- Denote this by  $R_{\text{opt}}^k$  and aim for error  $\|R_{\text{opt}}^k - A\|_2^2$



# “The” Compressed Sensing Result

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Recover  $A$  “well” if  $A$  is “sparse” in few measurements

- “well” and “sparse” to be defined later

Only need  $O(k \log n/k)$  measurements

- Each  $\psi_i[j]$  is drawn randomly from iid Gaussian
- Set of solutions is all  $x$  such that  $\psi x = y$
- Output  $A' = \operatorname{argmin} \|x\|_1$  such that  $\psi x = y$ 
  - Can solve by linear programming

# Why does it work?

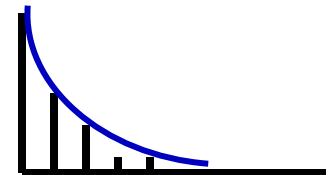
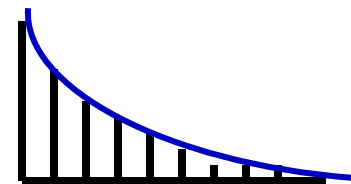
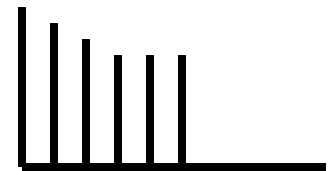
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[Donoho 04, Candes-Tao 04, Rudelson-Vershynin 04...]

- Short answer: randomly chosen values ensure a set of properties of measurements  $\psi$  will work
  - The unexpected part: working in the  $L_1$  metric optimizes error under  $L_2^2$  with small support (“ $L_0$  metric”).
  - $\psi$  works for any vector  $A$  (with high probability)
  - Other measurement regimes (eg Bernoulli  $\pm 1$ )
- Long answer: read the papers for in-depth proofs that  $\psi$  has required properties (whp) and why they suffice
  - E.g. bounds on minimal singular value of each submatrix of  $\psi$  up to certain size

# Sparse signals

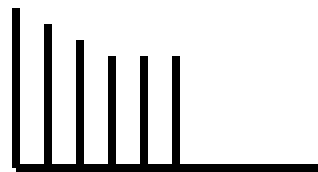
- How to model signals well-represented by  $k$  terms?
  - **k-support**: signals that have  $k$  non-zero coefficients under  $\Psi$ . So  $\|R_{\text{opt}}^k - A\|_2^2 = 0$
  - **p-compressible**: sorted coefficients have a power-law like decay:  $|\theta_i| = O(i^{-1/p})$ . So  $\|R_{\text{opt}}^k - A\|_2^2 = O(k^{1-2/p}) = \|C_k^{\text{opt}}\|_2^2$
  - **$\alpha$ -exponentially decaying**: even faster decay  $|\theta_i| = O(2^{-\alpha i})$ .
  - **general**: no assumptions on  $\|R_{\text{opt}}^k - A\|_2^2$ .
- (After an appropriate transform) many real signals are p-compressible or exponentially decaying. k-support is a simplification of this model.



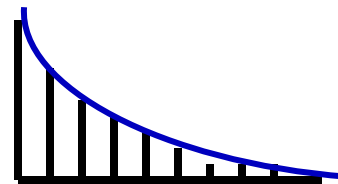
# Sparse Signals

Original CS results apply principally to k-support and p-compressible signals.

- They guarantee exact recovery of k-support signals
- They guarantee “class-optimal” error on p-compressible
  - $\|R_{\text{opt}}^k - A\|_2^2 = O(k^{1-2/p}) = \|C_k^{\text{opt}}\|_2^2$
  - May not relate to the best possible error for that signal
  - (Algorithm does not take  $p$  as a parameter)



k-support

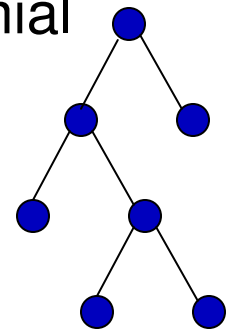


p-compressible

# Prehistory of Compressed Sensing

Related ideas have been around for longer than 2 years...

- Main results evolved through a series of papers on “a generalized uncertainty theorem” ([Donoho/Candes-Tao...](#))
- [Mansour 1992](#): “Randomized approximation and interpolation of sparse polynomials” by few evaluations of polynomial.
  - Evaluating a polynomial is dual of making a measurement
  - Algorithmic Idea: divide and conquer for the largest coefficient, remove it and recurse on new polynomial
  - Can be thought of as ‘adaptive [group testing](#)’, but scheme is actually [non-adaptive](#)

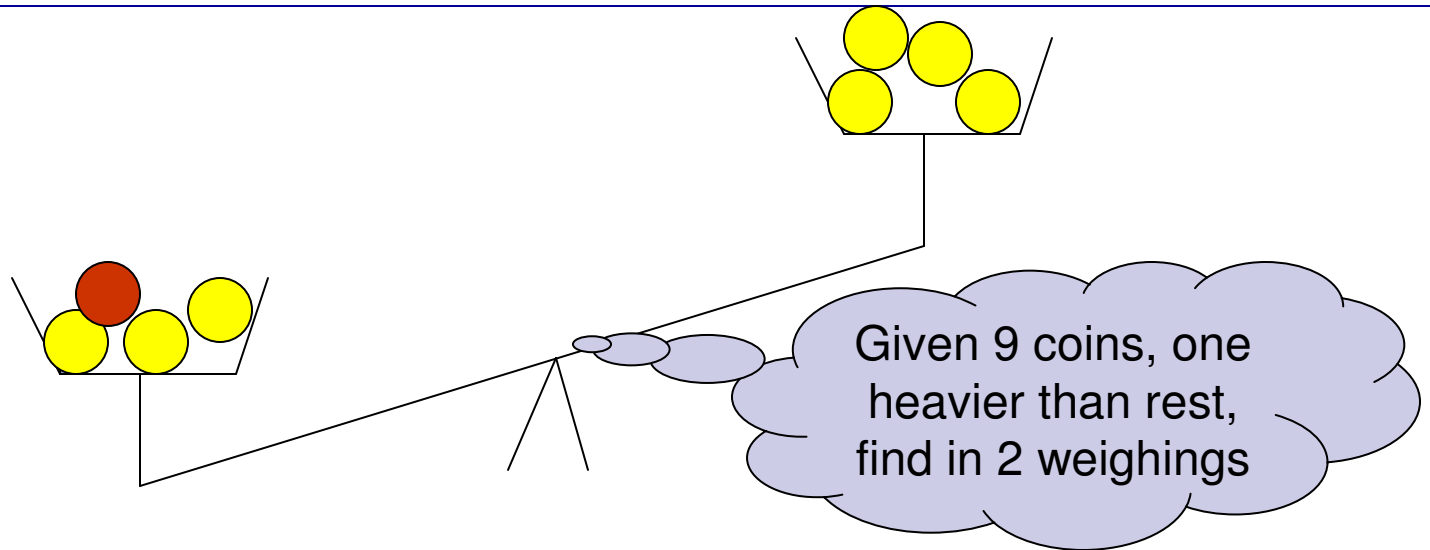


# More Prehistory

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- Gilbert, Guha, Indyk, Kotidis, Muthukrishnan, Strauss (and subsets thereof) worked on various fourier and wavelet representation problems in *data streams*
- Underlying problems closely related to Compressed Sensing: with restricted access to data, recover  $k$  out of  $n$  representatives to accurately recover signal (under  $L_2$ )
- Results are stronger (guarantees are instance-optimal) but also weaker (probabilistic guarantee per signal)
- Underlying technique is (non-adaptive) group testing.

# Group Testing



- Break items (signal values) into groups
- Measure information on groups using binary vectors
  - Interpret results as positive or negative
- Recover identity of “heavy” items, and their values
- Continue (somehow) until all coefficients are found
  - General benefit: decoding tends to be much faster than LP

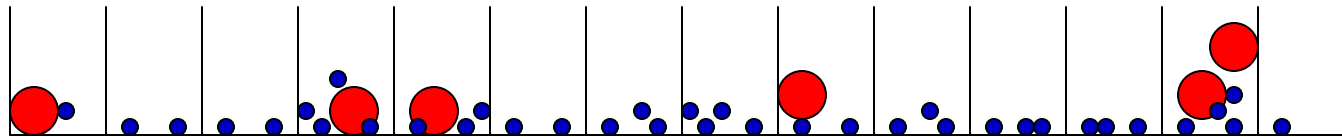
# Trivial Group Testing

- Suppose  $A$  is 1-support signal (i.e. zero but for one place)
- Adaptive group testing: measure first half and second half, recurse on whichever is non-zero
- Non-adaptive: do in one pass using Hamming matrix  $H$ 
  - $\log 2n \times n$  matrix:  $\log 2n$  measurements
  - The  $i$ 'th column encodes  $i$  in binary
  - Measure  $A$  with  $H$ , read off location of the non-zero position, and its value
- Hamming matrix often used in group testing for CS
  - if a group has one large value and the rest “noise”, using  $H$  on the group recovers item

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0



# Group Testing



From [C, Muthukrishnan 05], which specifically applies group testing to Compressed Sensing:

- From  $O(c k/\varepsilon^2 \log^3 n)$  measurements, with probability at least  $1 - n^{-c}$ , and in time  $O(c^2 k/\varepsilon^2 \log^3 n)$  we find a representation  $R^k$  of  $A$  so  $\|R^k - A\|_2^2 \leq (1+\varepsilon) \|R^k_{\text{opt}} - A\|_2^2$  (instance optimal) and  $R$  has support  $k$ .
- Randomly break into groups so not too many items fall in each group, encode as binary measurements using  $H$
- Show good probability for recovering  $k$  largest values
- Repeat independently several times to improve probability

# More Group Testing Results

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- [Gilbert, Strauss, Tropp, Vershynin 06] develop new approaches with iterative recovery from measurements
  - Aiming for stronger “one set of measurements for all”
  - Must restate bounds on quality of representation
  - See next talk for full details!
- [Savotham, Baron, Baraniuk 06] use a more heuristic group testing approach, “sudocodes”
  - Make groups based on random divisions, no  $H$
  - Use a greedy inference algorithm to recover
  - Seems to work pretty well in practice, needs strong assumptions on non-adversarial signals to analyze

# Combinatorial Approaches

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- A natural TCS question: if measurement sets exist which are good for all signals, can we construct them explicitly?
- Randomized Gaussian approach are expensive to verify – check complex spectral properties of all  $\binom{N}{k}$  submatrices
- Do there exist combinatorial construction algorithms that explicitly generate measurement matrices for CS?
  - In  $n \text{ poly}(\log n, k)$  time, with efficient decoding algs.

# K-support algorithms

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- Achieve  $O(k^2 \text{ poly}(\log n))$  measurements for k-support based on defining groups using residues modulo  $k \log n$  primes  $> k$  [Muthukrishnan, Gasieniec 05]
  - Chinese remainder theorem ensures each non-zero value isolated in some group
  - Decode using Hamming matrix
- Apply k-set structure [Ganguly, Majumdar 06]
  - Leads to  $O(k^2 \text{ poly}(\log n))$  measurements
  - Use matrix operations to recover
  - Decoding cost somewhat high,  $O(k^3)$

# More k-support algorithms

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- Using “k-strongly separating sets” (from explicit constructions of expanders) [C, Muthukrishnan 06]
  - Similar isolation guarantees yield  $O(k^2 \log^2 n)$  measurements
- [Indyk'06] More directly uses expanders to get  $O(k2^{O(\log \log n)^2}) = O(kn^\alpha)$  for  $\alpha > 0$  measurements
  - Bug Piotr to write up the full details...

**Open question:** seems closely related to coding theory on non-binary vectors, how can one area help the other

- Problem seems easier if restricted to non-negative signals

# p-Compressible Signals

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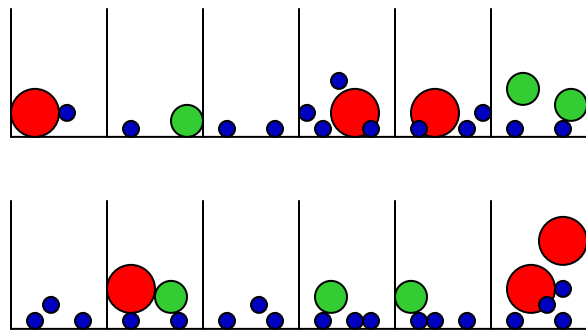
Explicit construction for p-compressible signals based on group testing [C, Muthukrishnan 06]

**Approach:** use two **parallel** rounds of group testing to find  $k' > k$  large coefficients, and separate these to allow accurate estimation.

- Make use of  $K$ -strongly separating sets:
  - $S = \{S_1 \dots S_m\}$   $m = O(k^2 \log^2 n)$   
For  $X \subset [n]$ ,  $|X| \leq k$ ,  $\forall x \in X. \exists S_i \in S. S_i \cap X = \{x\}$
  - Any subset of  $k$  items has each member isolated from  $k-1$  others in some set

# First Round

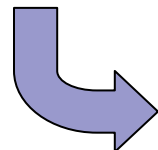
- Use  $k'$  strongly separating sets to identify superset of  $k'$  largest coefficients.
- $k'$  chosen based on  $p$  to ensure total “weight” of tail is so small that we can identify the  $k$  largest
- Combine groups with matrix  $H$  to find candidates



● top-k item ( $k=3$ )

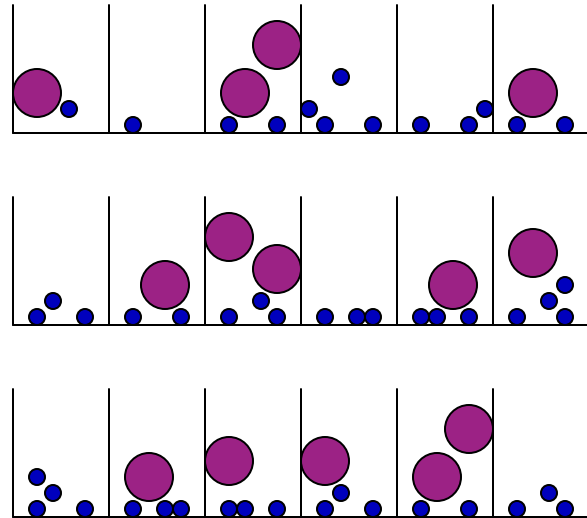
● top- $k'$  item ( $k'=6$ )

●  $k'$ -tail item



At most  $\text{poly}(k', \log n)$  candidates ●

# Second Round



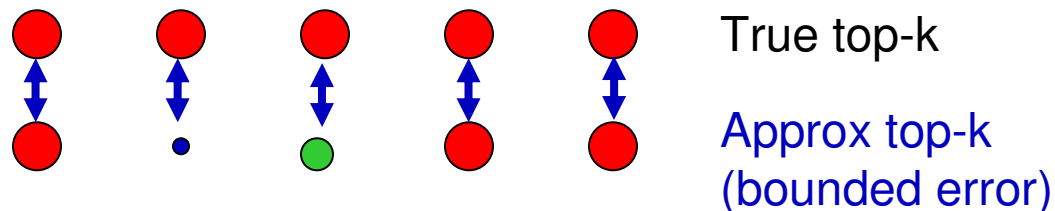
● At most  $C = \text{poly}(k', \log n)$  candidates

- Use more strongly separating sets to separate out the candidates. (only need to know bound on  $C$  in advance)
- Get a good estimate for each coefficient: find a group it is isolated in, and use measurement of that group
  - can bound error in terms of  $\epsilon, k, \|C_k^{\text{opt}}\|_2^2$



# Picking k largest

- Pick approximate  $k$  largest, and argue that coefficients we pick are good enough even if not the true  $k$  largest.
- Set up a bijection between the true top- $k$  and the approx top- $k$ , argue that the error cannot be too large.



- Careful choice of  $k'$  and  $k''$  gives error that is
 
$$\|R^k - A\|_2^2 < \|R_{\text{opt}}^k - A\|_2^2 + \varepsilon \|C_k^{\text{opt}}\|_2^2$$
- Thus, explicit construction using  $O((k\varepsilon^p)^{4/(1-p)^2} \log^4 n)$  ( $\text{poly}(k, \log n)$  for constant  $0 < p < 1$ ) measurements.

**Open problem:** Improve bounds, remove dependency on  $p$

# New Directions

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- Universality
- Error Resilience
- Distributed Compressed Sensing
- Continuous Distributed CS
- Functional Compressed Sensing
- Links to Dimensionality Reduction
- Lower Bounds

# Universality

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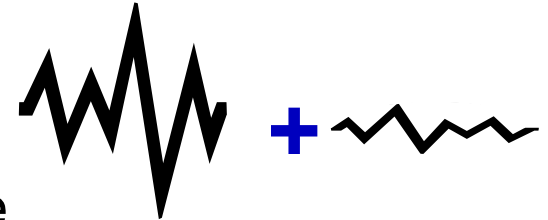
- Often want to first transform the signal with  $T$
- So we compute  $(\psi^T)A = \psi(TA)$
- What if we don't know  $T$  till after measuring?
- If  $\psi$  is all Gaussians, we can write  $\psi = \psi' T$ , where  $\psi'$  is also distributed Gaussian
- We can solve to find  $\psi'$  and hence decode (probably)
- Only works for LP-based methods with Gaussians.

**Open question:** is there any way to use the group testing approach and obtain (weaker) universality?

# Error Resilience

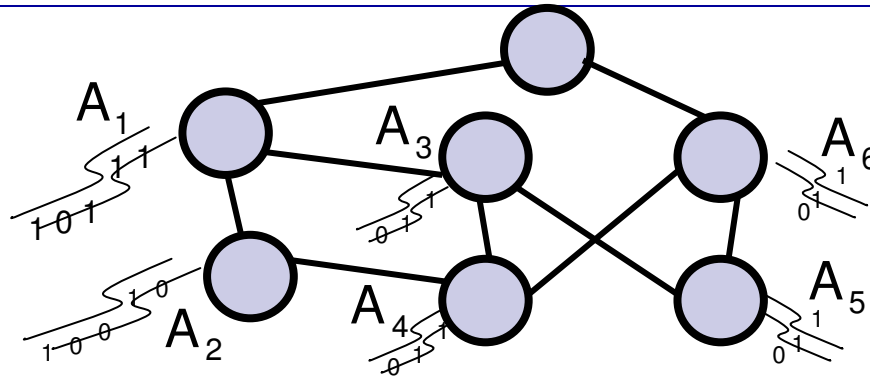
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- Various models of (random) errors:
  - signal is distorted by additive noise
  - certain measurements distorted by noise
  - certain measurements lost (erased) entirely
- LP techniques and group testing techniques both naturally and easily incorporate various error models



**Open problem:** extend to other models of error.  
More explicitly link CS with Coding theory.

# Distributed Compressed Sensing

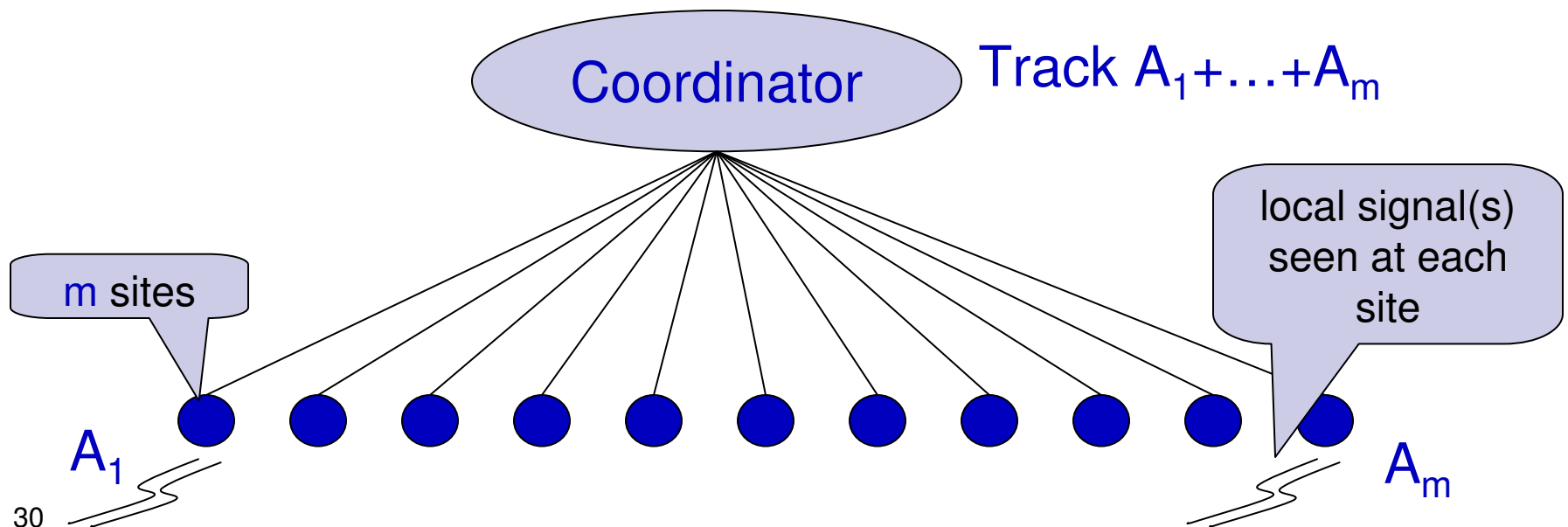


- Slepian-Wolf theorem: two correlated sources can be coded to use a total bandwidth proportional to their joint entropy without direct communication between two
- Apply to CS: consider correlated signals seen by multiple observers, they send measurements to a referee
  - Aim for communication proportional to CS bound
  - Different correlations: sparse common signal plus sparse/dense variations, etc Initial results in [Baraniuk+ 05]

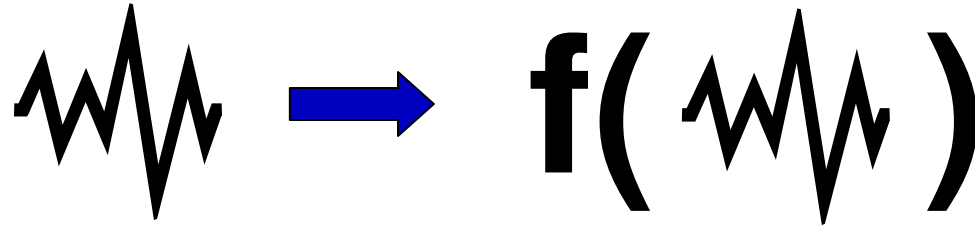
**Open Problem:** other arbitrary network graphs?

# Continuous Distributed CS

- Different setting: each site sees part of a signal, want to compute on sum of the signals
- These signals vary “smoothly” over time, efficiently approximate the signal at coordinator site
- Statement and initial result in [Muthukrishnan 06]



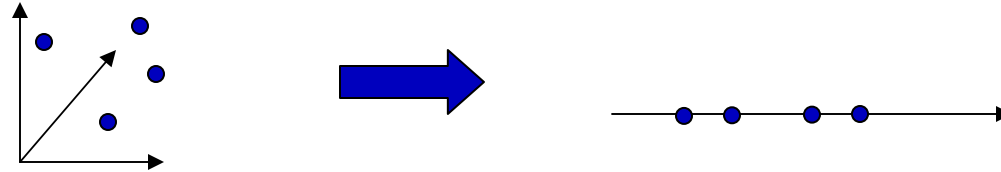
# Functional Compressed Sensing



- In “traditional” CS, goal is accurate reconstruction of  $A$
- Often, this is then used for other purposes
- Remember CS credo: measure for final goal
  - E.g. suppose we want to compute equidepth histograms, why represent  $A$  then compute histogram?
  - Instead, design measurements to directly compute function
- Initial results: quantiles on  $A[i]^2$  [Muthukrishnan 06]
  - Different to previous sublinear work: need “for all” properties
  - Results in [Ganguly, Majumder 06] also apply here

# Links to dimensionality reduction

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- Johnson-Lindenstrauss lemma [JL 84]: Given a set of  $m$  points in  $n$ -dimensional Euclidean space, project to  $O(\log m)$  dimensions and approximately preserve distances
  - Projections often via Gaussian random vectors
  - Intuitively related to CS somehow?
- [Baraniak et al 06] use JL-lemma to prove the “Restricted Isometry Property” needed to show existence of CS measurements

**Open problem:** further simplify CS proofs, use tools such as JL lemma and other embedding-like results



# Lower Bounds

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- Upper bounds are based on precise measurements
- But real measurements are discrete (encoded in bits)

## Open Problems:

- What is true bit complexity needed by these algorithms?
- What is a lower bound on measurements needed?
  - $\Omega(k)$  or  $\Omega(k \log k/n)$ ?
- How to relate to DSP-lower bounds: Nyquist bound etc.?
- LP formulation is over-constrained, can it be solved faster?

# Conclusions

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- A simple problem with a deep mathematical foundation
- Many variations and extensions to study
- Touches on Computer Science, Mathematics, EE, DSP...
- May have practical implications soon (according to the press)