

# Statistical Physics of Compressed Sensing

Song Nam Hong

Ming Hsieh Department of EE, University of Southern California, Los Angeles CA

April, 2012, Los Angeles, CA

# Contents

---

- What's the compressed sensing and applications? (See Lectures 25 and 26)
- Focusing on asymptotic analysis of compressed sensing algorithm (e.g.,  $L_1$ -minimization) using Replica Method

# Problem Definition

---

Reconstruction Problem with linear measurements:

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{F}\mathbf{x}^0$$

where

- Original vector:  $\mathbf{x}^0 = (x_1, \dots, x_N) \in \mathbb{R}^N$
- Measurement (or compression) matrix:  $\mathbf{F} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times P}$
- Observations:  $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_P) \in \mathbb{R}^P$

⇒ For a given  $\mathbf{y}$  and  $\mathbf{F}$ , we want to reconstruct  $\mathbf{x}^0$ ?

# Problem Definition

---

- If  $P = N$ , we can find an unique solution using matrix inversion:

$$\mathbf{x}^0 = \mathbf{F}^{-1}\mathbf{y}$$

- If  $P < N$ , it is under-constrained system

$$\mathcal{S} = \{\mathbf{x} : \mathbf{F}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}\} \text{ with } |\mathcal{S}| \gg 1$$

## [Fundamental Questions]

- If we can employ a **priori knowledge on  $\mathbf{x}^0$**  (e.g.,  $P(\mathbf{x}^0)$ , **sparsity, etc**), can we recover  $\mathbf{x}^0$  with smaller number of measurements (e.g.,  $P < N$ ) ?
- If so, what is the **minimum** number of measurements?

# Priori Knowledge

---

- Bernoulli-Gaussian Distribution:

$$P(x) = (1 - \rho)\delta(x) + \rho\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$

- Bernoulli-Uniform Distribution:

$$P(x) = (1 - \rho)\delta(x) + \rho\text{Unif}(-\sqrt{3}, \sqrt{3})$$

- Sparsity:

Both distributions give that the number of non-zero elements of  $\mathbf{x}^0$  converges to  $\rho N$  as  $N \rightarrow \infty$

# Reconstruction (or Estimation) Methods

---

- MAP Estimation (Using the full-knowledge  $P(x)$ )

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\mathbf{x}} &= \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N} -\ln P(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}) \\ &= -\ln \delta(\mathbf{F}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) - \ln P(\mathbf{x}).\end{aligned}$$

In an optimization form, we have

$$\begin{array}{ll}\operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{x}} & -\ln P(\mathbf{x}) \\ \text{subject to} & \mathbf{F}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y}\end{array}$$

This problem is in general NP-Hard!

# Reconstruction (or Estimation) Methods

---

- $L_1$ -Minimization (Using the partial-knowledge, **sparsity**)

$$\begin{array}{ll} \operatorname{argmin} & \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \\ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N & \\ \text{subject to} & \mathbf{F}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y} \end{array}$$

- This relaxation is based on the fact that  $L_1$ -minimization gives a sparse solution
- Convex optimization problem

# Model for Asymptotic Analysis

---

- Random measurement matrix and random input signal

$$\mathbf{F} \in \mathbb{R}^{P \times N} \text{ and } \mathbf{x}^0 = (x_1, \dots, x_N) \text{ with } x_i \sim P(x)$$

- $P(x)$  with  $\frac{1}{N}|\mathbf{x}^0|^2 = \rho$  as  $N \rightarrow \infty$  (sparsity,  $\rho$ )

- Asymptotic case

$$N, P \rightarrow \infty \text{ with } \frac{P}{N} = \alpha$$

- $L_p$ -reconstruction ( $p = 1, 2$ )



# Statistical Physics Model

---

- Hamiltonian

$$H(\mathbf{x}) = -\log(\delta(\mathbf{F}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y})) + \|\mathbf{x}\|_p$$

- Gibbs distribution with temperature  $\beta$

$$P_\beta(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}) = \frac{1}{Z} \exp(-\beta H(\mathbf{x})) = \frac{1}{Z} \exp(-\beta \|\mathbf{x}\|_p) \delta(\mathbf{F}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y})$$

where  $Z$  denotes a partition function

$$Z = \int d\mathbf{x} \exp(-\beta \|\mathbf{x}\|_p) \delta(\mathbf{F}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}).$$

# Statistical Physics Model

---

- In the **low-temperature limit** (e.g.,  $\beta \rightarrow \infty$ ),
  - Gibbs distribution converges to a uniform distribution of the ground states

$$\lim_{\beta \rightarrow \infty} P_{\beta}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}) \rightarrow \begin{cases} \frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}|}, & \text{if } \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{S} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

where  $\mathcal{S}$  denotes the set of ground states (e.g., solutions of our optimization problem).

- ♣ In  $L_p$ -reconstruction ( $p = 1, 2$ ), we have **an unique solution** since the objective function is convex.

# Performance Measure Metric

---

**Definition 1.** *Mean Squared Error (MSE) per element:*

$$\begin{aligned}MSE(\mathbf{x}^0, \mathbf{F}) &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{S}} \frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}|} |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^0|^2 \\&= \frac{1}{N} \langle |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^0|^2 \rangle \\&= \frac{1}{N} \langle |\hat{\mathbf{x}}|^2 \rangle - \frac{2}{N} \langle \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{x}^0 \rangle + \frac{1}{N} |\mathbf{x}^0|^2 \\&= \frac{1}{N} \langle |\hat{\mathbf{x}}|^2 \rangle - \frac{2}{N} \langle \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{x}^0 \rangle + \rho\end{aligned}$$

where  $\langle \cdot \rangle$  denotes the averaging with respect to Gibbs distribution.

# Order Parameters

---

- Parameters to determine the MSE

$$Q = \frac{1}{N}|\hat{\mathbf{x}}|^2, \quad m = \frac{1}{N}\hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{x}^0, \quad \text{and} \quad \rho = \frac{1}{N}|\mathbf{x}^0|^2$$

- Mean squared error is computed as

$$MSE(\mathbf{x}^0, \mathbf{F}) = Q - 2m + \rho$$

- If  $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{x}^0$ , then  $Q = m = \rho$  and

$$MSE(\mathbf{x}^0, \mathbf{F}) = 0$$

# Reconstruction Limit $\alpha_c(\rho)$

---

**Definition 2.** For a given  $\rho$ , a reconstruction limit (e.g., threshold)  $\alpha_c(\rho)$  is defined as

- If  $\alpha \geq \alpha_c(\rho)$ ,

$$\mathbb{E}[MSE(\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{x}^0)]_{\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{x}^0} = 0 \Leftrightarrow Q = m = \rho$$

- If  $\alpha < \alpha_c(\rho)$ ,

$$\mathbb{E}[MSE(\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{x}^0)]_{\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{x}^0} = \text{constant} \Leftrightarrow Q \neq m \neq \rho$$

- We want find an  $\alpha_c(\rho)$  using **Replica Method**
  - Replica Method  $\Rightarrow Q$  and  $m$

# Replica Method

---

Replica Method is a standard technique to study the free energy of disordered system.

$$\mathcal{F} = - \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{1}{\beta N} \log Z \right]$$

Essentially, it takes the following steps:

1. Using Replica Trick ( $\mathbb{E}[\log Z] = \lim_{n \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{n} \log(\mathbb{E}[Z^n])$ ), we can rewrite:

$$\mathcal{F} = - \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\beta N} \lim_{n \rightarrow 0} \frac{\partial}{\partial n} \log \mathbb{E}[Z^n]$$

2. For an arbitrary positive integer  $n$ , calculate

$$\mathcal{C} = - \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \mathbb{E}[Z^n]$$

3. **Assuming** the resulting expression in the above to be valid for all  $n \in \mathbb{R}$  at the vicinity of  $n = 0$ , takes its derivative at  $n = 0$  to obtain  $\mathcal{F}$  as

$$\mathcal{F} = \lim_{n \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\beta} \frac{\partial \mathcal{C}}{\partial n}$$

**[Main Observation]** By Replica Method under replica symmetry,

$$\mathcal{F}_{\{\beta \rightarrow \infty\}} = \text{extr}_{Q, m, q, \hat{Q}, \hat{m}, \hat{q}} f(Q, q, m, \hat{Q}, \hat{q}, \hat{m})$$

where  $\text{extr} f(x)$  denotes extremization of a function  $f(x)$  with respect to  $x$ .

- Let  $Q^*$  and  $m^*$  be the solution of the above optimization.

$$Q^* = \frac{1}{N} \langle |\hat{\mathbf{x}}|^2 \rangle \quad \text{and} \quad m^* = \frac{1}{N} \langle \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{x}^0 \rangle$$

# Replica Method

---

- Step 2 in Replica Method

$$\mathcal{C} = - \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \mathbb{E}[Z^n]_{\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{x}^0}$$

where

$$\mathbb{E}[Z^n]_{\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{x}^0} = \left[ \int \prod_{a=1}^n d\mathbf{x}^a e^{-\beta \|\mathbf{x}^a\|_p} \left[ \prod_{a=1}^n \delta(\mathbf{F}\mathbf{x}^a - \mathbf{F}\mathbf{x}^0) \right]_{\mathbf{F}} \right]_{\mathbf{x}^0}$$



# Replica Method

---

◇ Replica Symmetry (RS) Assumption:

$$\mathbb{E}[Z^n]_{\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{x}^0} = \left[ \int_{Q, q, m} \partial Q \partial q \partial m \int \prod_{a=1}^n d\mathbf{x}^a \mathcal{I}(\{\mathbf{x}^a\}_{a=1}^n, \mathbf{x}^0; Q, q, m) \right. \\ \left. e^{-\beta \|\mathbf{x}^a\|_p} \left[ \prod_{a=1}^n \delta(\mathbf{F}\mathbf{x}^a - \mathbf{F}\mathbf{x}^0) \right]_{\mathbf{F}} \right]_{\mathbf{x}^0}.$$

where

$$\mathbf{x}^0 \cdot \mathbf{x}^a = Nm$$

$$\mathbf{x}^a \cdot \mathbf{x}^b = Nq \text{ for } a \neq b$$

$$\mathbf{x}^a \cdot \mathbf{x}^a = NQ$$

⇒ Integration is dominated by  $\{\mathbf{x}^a : a = 1, \dots, n\}$  satisfying the above equations

⇒ This assumption is not always valid, which will be checked later

# Replica Method

---

◇ Based on the results in [1],[2]:

$$\left[ \delta(\mathbf{F}\mathbf{x}^a - \mathbf{F}\mathbf{x}^0) \middle| Q, q, m \right]_{\mathbf{F}} = \exp(N\mathcal{T}_n(Q, q, m))$$

where

$$\mathcal{T}_n(Q, q, m) = -\frac{\alpha}{2} \ln \left( \left( 1 - \frac{n(Q - 2m + \rho)}{Q - q} \right) (Q - q)^{2n} (2\pi)^n \right)$$

[1] K. Takeda, A. Hatabu, and Y. Kabashima, "Statistical mechanical analysis of the linear vector channel in digital communication"

[2] K. Takeda, S. Uda, and Y. Kabashima, "Analysis of CDMA systems that are characterized by eigenvalue spectrum"

# Replica Method

---

◇ We can rewrite:

$$\mathbb{E}[Z^n]_{\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{x}^0} = \int_{Q, q, m} \partial Q \partial q \partial m e^{(N\mathcal{T}_n(Q, q, m))} \underbrace{\left[ \int \prod_{a=1}^n d\mathbf{x}^a \mathcal{I}(\{\mathbf{x}^a\}_{a=1}^n, \mathbf{x}^0; Q, q, m) e^{-\beta \|\mathbf{x}^a\|_p} \right]_{\mathbf{x}^0}}_{(*)}$$

where  $(*)$  captures the **volume of configuration** of  $\{\mathbf{x}^a\}$  to satisfy the condition given by  $Q, q, m$ .

# Replica Method

---

- By **large-deviation principle** (See [1]-[2]), we can have:

$$(\star) = \exp(N\mathcal{S}_n(Q, q, m))$$

where

■

$$\mathcal{S}_n(Q, q, m) = \text{extr}_{\hat{Q}, \hat{m}, \hat{q}} \left\{ \frac{n\hat{Q}Q}{2} - \frac{n(n-1)\hat{q}q}{2} - n\hat{m}m + \ln G(\hat{Q}, \hat{q}, \hat{m}) \right\}$$

■

$$G(\hat{Q}, \hat{q}, \hat{m}) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} dz \left[ \left( \int dx \exp(-(\hat{Q} + \hat{q})x^2/2 + (\sqrt{\hat{q}}z + \hat{m}x^0)x - \beta|x|^{p+\epsilon}) \right)^n \right]_{x^0}$$

# Replica Method

---

- Finally, we can obtain:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[Z^n]_{\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{x}^0} &= \int_{Q, q, m} \partial Q \partial q \partial m \exp(N\mathcal{T}_n(Q, q, m)) \exp(N\mathcal{S}_n(Q, q, m)) \\ &\approx \text{extr}_{Q, q, m} \exp(N(\mathcal{T}_n(Q, q, m) + \mathcal{S}_n(Q, q, m)))\end{aligned}$$

when  $N \rightarrow \infty$ .

This is based on the well-known fact that

$$e^{v_1} + \dots + e^{v_N} \approx e^{v^*} \text{ when } v^* \text{ is sufficiently large}$$

where  $v^* = \max\{v_1, \dots, v_N\}$ .

# Replica Method

$$\mathcal{C} = - \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \ln \mathbb{E}[Z^n]_{\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{x}^0} \approx \mathcal{T}_n(Q, q, m) + \mathcal{S}_n(Q, q, m)$$

- Free Energy Density ( $\beta = \infty$ )

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}_{\{\beta=\infty\}} &= \lim_{\beta \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\beta} \frac{\partial \mathcal{C}}{\partial n} \\ &= \text{extr}_{Q, \chi, m, \hat{Q}, \hat{\chi}, \hat{m}} \left[ \frac{\alpha(Q - 2m + \rho)}{2\chi} + \hat{m}m - \frac{\hat{Q}Q}{2} + \frac{\hat{\chi}\chi}{2} + \right. \\ &\quad \left. \int dx^0 P(x^0) \int Dz \phi_p(\hat{m}x^0 + \sqrt{\hat{\chi}}z; \hat{Q}) \right] \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\phi_p(h; \hat{Q}) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \left\{ \min_x \left\{ \frac{\hat{Q}}{2} x^2 - hx + |x|^{p+\epsilon} \right\} \right\}$$

◇ Valid for any priori distribution with  $|\mathbf{x}^0|^2 = \rho N$

# Bernoulli-Gaussian Distribution

---

- Free Energy Density:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{F}_{\{\beta=\infty\}} &= \lim_{\beta \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\beta} \frac{\partial \mathcal{C}}{\partial n} \\ &= \text{extr}_{Q, \chi, m, \hat{Q}, \hat{\chi}, \hat{m}} \left[ \frac{\alpha(Q - 2m + \rho)}{2\chi} + \hat{m}m - \frac{\hat{Q}Q}{2} + \frac{\hat{\chi}\chi}{2} + \right. \\ &\quad \left. (1 - \rho) \int Dz \phi_p(\sqrt{\hat{\chi}}z; \hat{Q}) + \rho \int Dz \phi_p(\sqrt{\hat{\chi} + \hat{m}^2}z; \hat{Q}) \right]\end{aligned}$$

where

$$\phi_p(h; \hat{Q}) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \left\{ \min_x \left\{ \frac{\hat{Q}}{2} x^2 - hx + |x|^{p+\epsilon} \right\} \right\}$$

# Bernoulli-Gaussian Distribution

---

- Let  $x^*(h; \hat{Q})$  be the optimal solution of  $\phi_p(h; \hat{Q})$
- Performing saddle point derivative with respect to  $Q, m, \chi, \hat{Q}, \hat{m}, \hat{\chi}$ :

$$\hat{Q} = \hat{m} = \frac{\alpha}{\chi}$$

$$\hat{\chi} = \frac{\alpha(Q - 2m + \rho)}{\chi^2}$$

$$Q = (1 - \rho) \int x^*(\sqrt{\hat{\chi}}z; \hat{Q})^2 Dz + \rho \int x^*(\sqrt{\hat{\chi} + \hat{m}^2}z; \hat{Q})^2 Dz$$

$$m = \rho \frac{\hat{m}}{\sqrt{\hat{\chi} + \hat{m}^2}} \int x^*(\sqrt{\hat{\chi} + \hat{m}^2}z; \hat{Q}) z Dz$$

$$\chi = (1 - \rho) \frac{1}{\sqrt{\hat{\chi}}} \int x^*(\sqrt{\hat{\chi}}z; \hat{Q}) z Dz + \rho \frac{1}{\sqrt{\hat{\chi} + \hat{m}^2}} \int x^*(\sqrt{\hat{\chi} + \hat{m}^2}z; \hat{Q}) z Dz$$



## $L_2$ -minimization

---

$$x^*(h; \hat{Q}) = \frac{h}{\hat{Q} + 2}$$

The above equations are simplified as

$$\hat{Q} = \hat{m} = \frac{\alpha}{\chi}$$

$$\hat{\chi} = \frac{\alpha(Q - 2m + \rho)}{\chi^2}$$

$$Q = \frac{\hat{\chi} + \rho\hat{Q}^2}{(\hat{Q} + 2)^2}$$

$$m = \rho \frac{\hat{Q}}{\hat{Q} + 2}$$

$$\chi = \frac{1}{\hat{Q} + 2}$$

## $L_2$ -minimization

---

- A successful solution implies the solution with  $Q = m = \rho$ , no restriction on other variables
- Set  $\hat{Q} = \hat{m} = \infty$  and accordingly, we have  $\chi = 0$
- $\hat{\chi}$  exists?

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\chi} &= \alpha \frac{\hat{m}^2}{\alpha^2} \left( \frac{\hat{\chi} + \rho \hat{m}^2}{(\hat{Q} + 2)^2} - 2\rho \frac{\hat{m}}{\hat{Q} + 2} + \rho \right) \\ &= \alpha^{-1} \frac{\hat{Q}^2}{(\hat{Q} + 2)^2} (\hat{\chi} + 4\rho) \\ &= \alpha^{-1} (\hat{\chi} + 4\rho)\end{aligned}$$

Based on this, we can see that  $\alpha_c(\rho) > 1$  for any  $\rho > 0$ .

# $L_1$ -minimization

---

- Similarly, we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
 Q &= \frac{2(1-\rho)}{\hat{Q}^2} \left( Q(\hat{\chi}^{-1/2}) - 2\sqrt{\hat{\chi}} \frac{\exp(-1/(2\hat{\chi}))}{\sqrt{2\pi}} + \int_{\hat{\chi}^{-1/2}}^{\infty} \hat{\chi} z^2 Dz \right) \\
 &\quad + \frac{\rho}{\hat{Q}^2} \int_{|z| > 1/\sqrt{\hat{\chi} + \hat{m}^2}} (\sqrt{\hat{\chi} + \hat{m}^2} z - \frac{z}{|z|})^2 Dz \\
 m &= \rho \frac{\hat{m}}{\sqrt{\hat{\chi} + \hat{m}^2}} \int_{|z| > 1/\sqrt{\hat{\chi} + \hat{m}^2}} (\sqrt{\hat{\chi} + \hat{m}^2} z - \frac{z}{|z|}) z Dz
 \end{aligned}$$

- $\hat{\chi}$  exist?

$$\hat{\chi} = \alpha^{-1} \left[ 2(1-\rho) \left( Q(\hat{\chi}^{-1/2}) - 2\sqrt{\hat{\chi}} \frac{\exp(-1/(2\hat{\chi}))}{\sqrt{2\pi}} + \hat{\chi} \int_{\hat{\chi}^{-1/2}}^{\infty} z^2 Dz \right) + \rho(\hat{\chi} + 1) \right]$$

where  $Q(x)$  is a conventional  $Q$ -function with  $Q(x) = \int_x^{\infty} Dz$ .

# Replica Symmetry Breaking

---

- RS assumption is not necessarily guaranteed to be correct
- Local stability of the RS saddle point is lost against perturbations that **break the RS** if the following holds:

$$\frac{\alpha}{\chi^2} \left( (1 - \rho) \int \left( \frac{\partial x_p^*(\sqrt{\hat{\chi}}z; \hat{Q})}{\partial(\sqrt{\hat{\chi}}z)} \right)^2 Dz + \rho \int \left( \frac{\partial x_p^*(\sqrt{\hat{\chi} + \hat{m}^2}z; \hat{Q})}{\partial(\sqrt{\hat{\chi} + \hat{m}^2}z)} \right)^2 Dz \right) > 1$$

- ♣ When the above condition holds for the extremum solutions, the RS is not valid
- ♣ Consider more general solutions taking into account the effect of **replica symmetry breaking (RSB)**.

# Numerical Results: $L_1$ -minimization

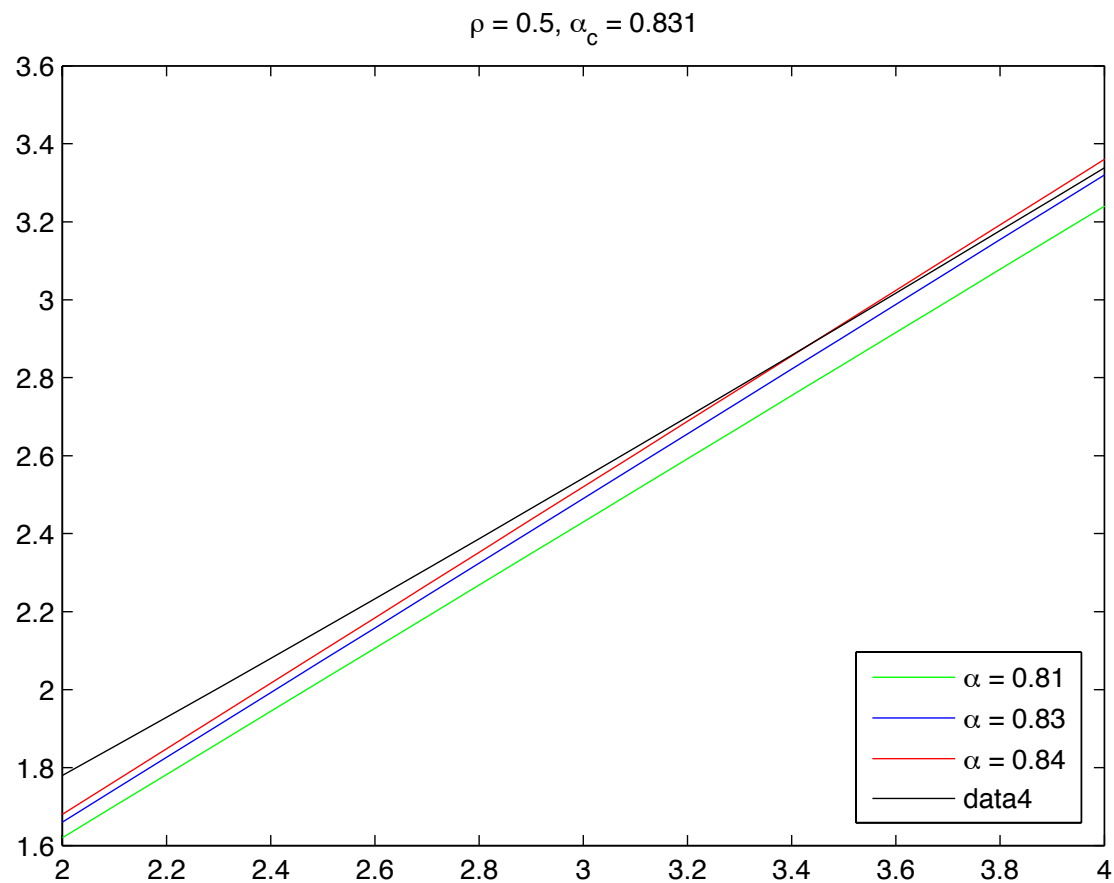


Figure 1: Fixed Point Equations:  $\rho = 0.5$  and  $\alpha_c(\rho) \approx 0.831$

# Numerical Results: $L_1$ -minimization

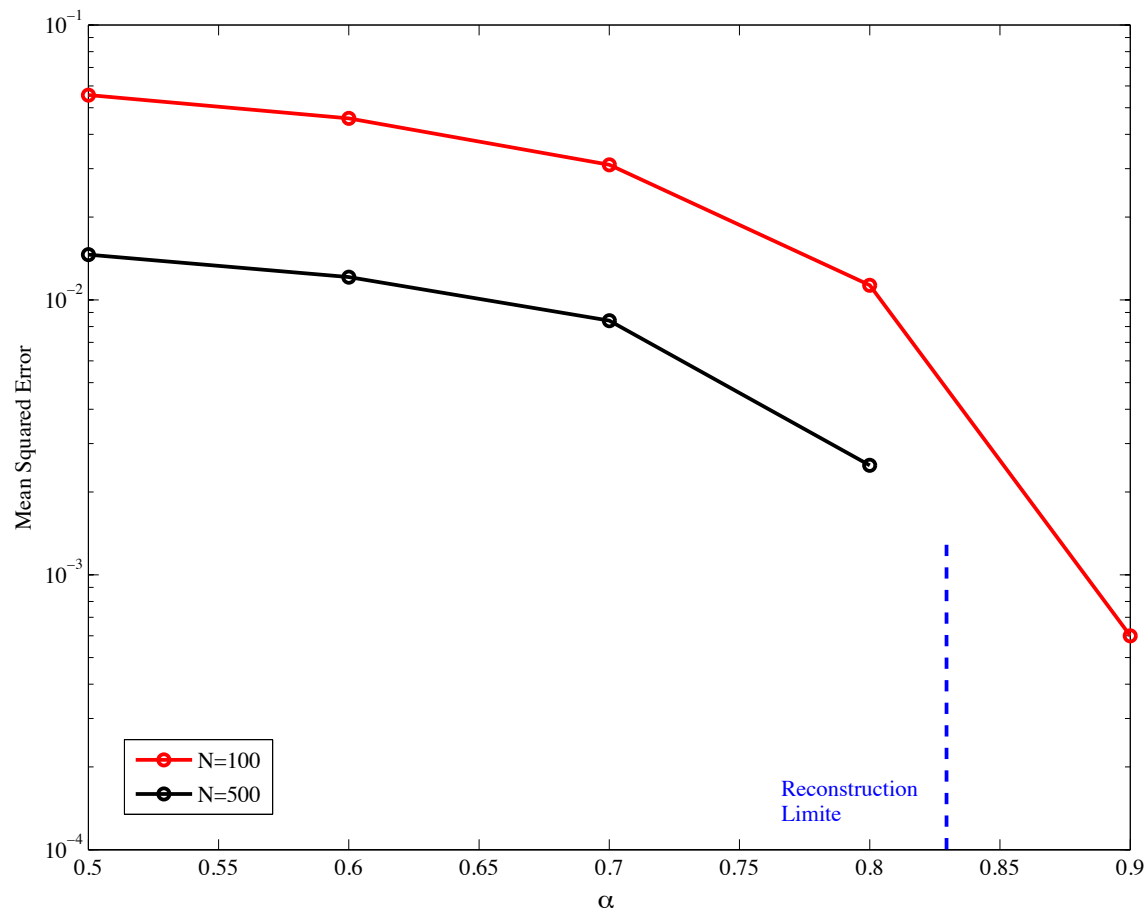


Figure 2: Finite-Length Simulation:  $N = 100$  or  $500$  and  $\rho = 0.5$

## On going work...

---

- Working on the asymptotic analysis with **Bernoulli-Uniform Distribution**
- Want to see if  $L_1$ -minimization gives the same **reconstruction limit** ( $\alpha_c(\rho)$ ) independent of a priori distributions if they have the same sparsity (e.g.,  $\frac{1}{N}|\mathbf{x}^0|^2 = \rho$ )

# On going work...

---

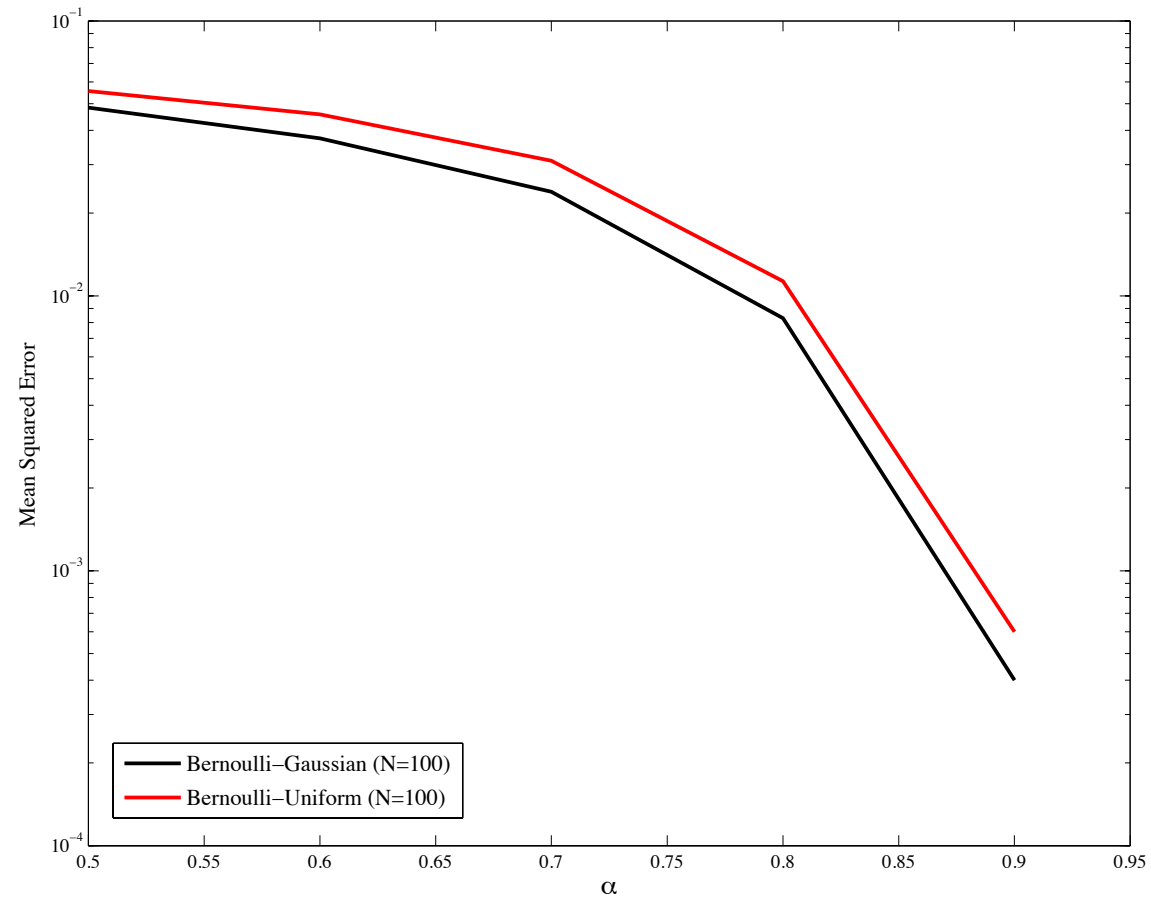


Figure 3: Finite-Length Simulation:  $N = 100$  and  $\rho = 0.5$



# References

---

- [1] K. Takeda, A. Hatabu, and Y. Kabashima, "Statistical mechanical analysis of the linear vector channel in digital communication"
- [2] K. Takeda, S. Uda, and Y. Kabashima, "Analysis of CDMA systems that are characterized by eigenvalue spectrum"
- [3] D. Guo and S. Verdye, "Randomly spread CDMA: Asymptotics via statistical physics"
- [4] S. Rangan, "Asymptotic Analysis of MAP Estimation via the Replica Method and Applications to Compressed Sensing"
- [5] Y. Kabashima, T. Wadayama, and T. Tanaka, "Statistical Mechanical Analysis of a Typical Reconstruction Limit of Compressed Sensing"