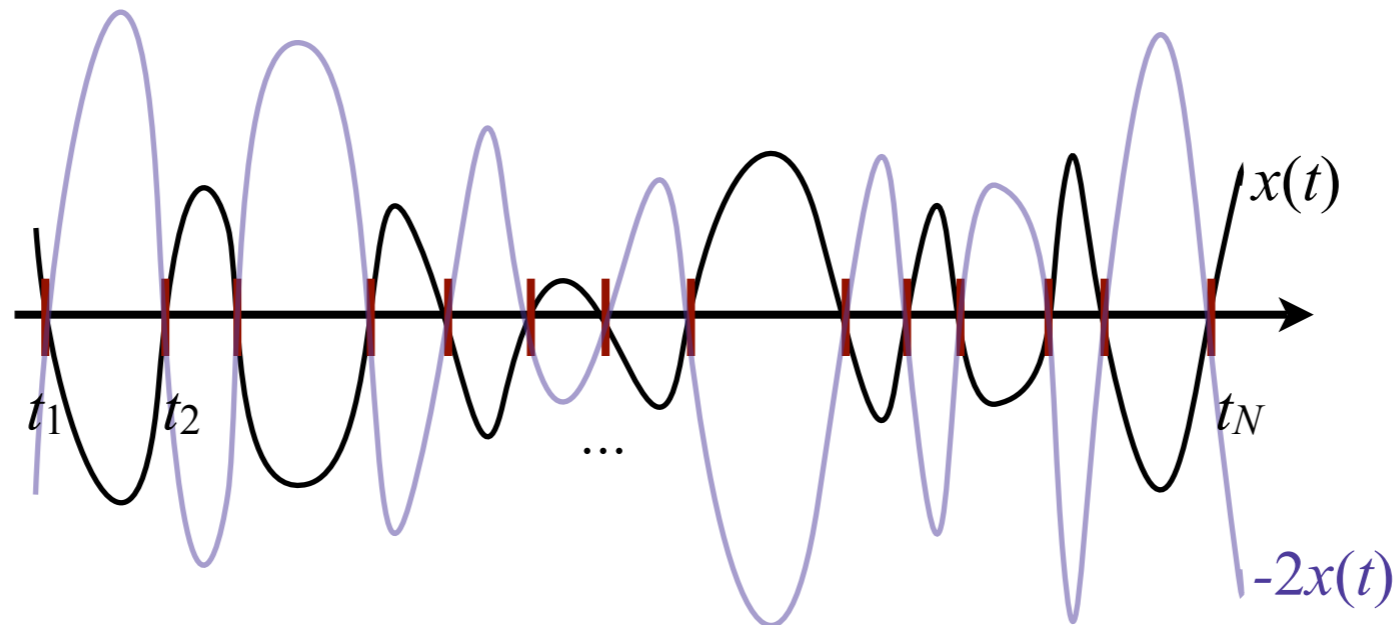


# Sparse Signal Reconstruction from Zero Crossings

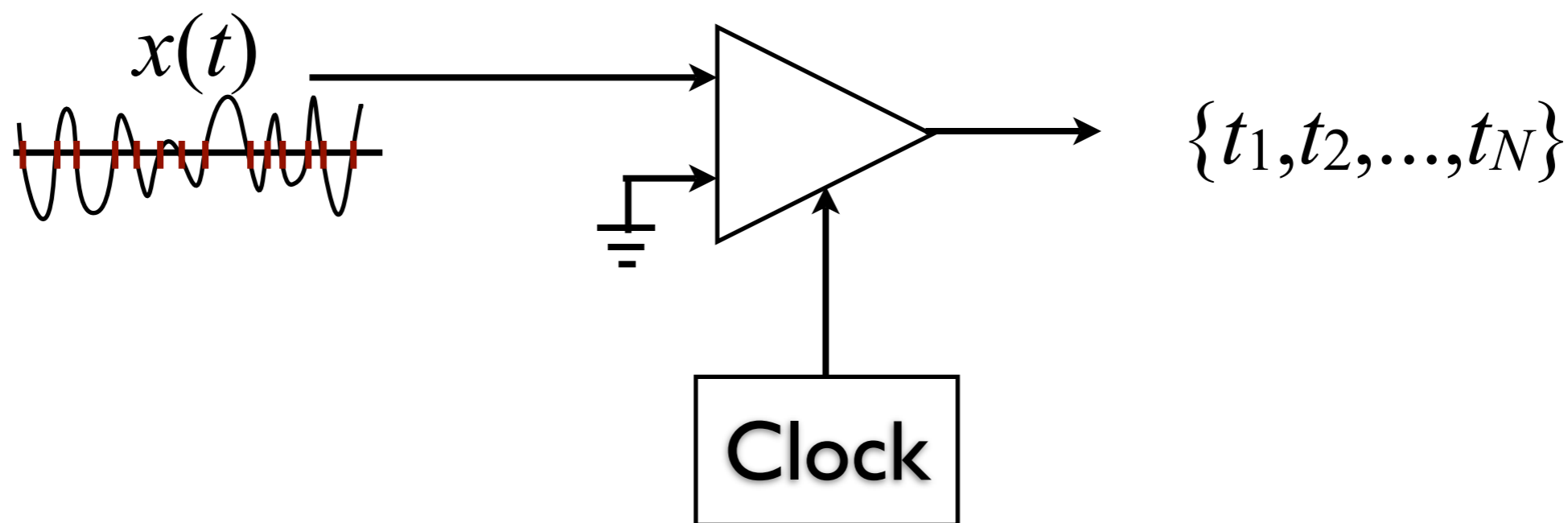
Petros Boufounos  
Richard Baraniuk



# Signal Reconstruction from Zero Crossings

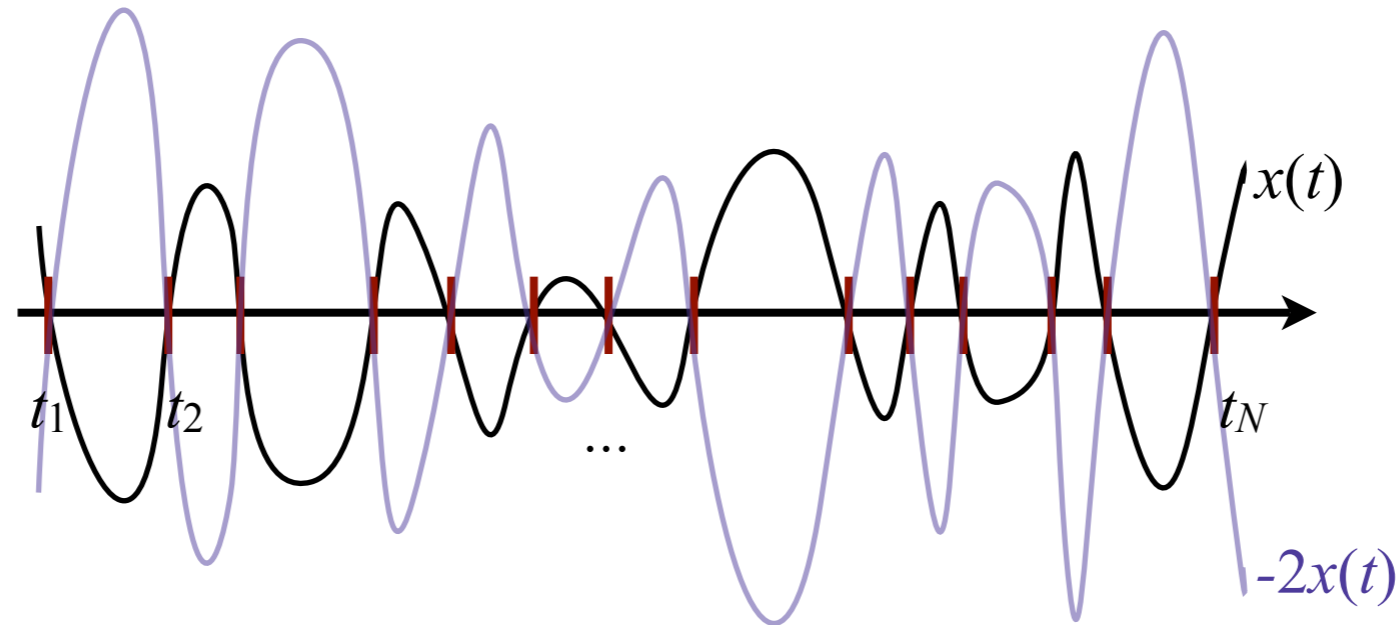


**Q: Given only the zero crossings  $\{t_1, t_2, \dots, t_N\}$  of a signal can we reconstruct it?**



**Easy implementation: only need a comparator and a clock**

# Logan's Theorem



**Q:** Given **only the zero crossings**  $\{t_1, t_2, \dots, t_N\}$  of a signal  
can we reconstruct it?

Logan's Theorem: **YES**. Signals bandlimited to  $[B, 2B)$  are  
uniquely determined by their zero crossings.

**BUT:** an arbitrary set of zero crossings **might not**  
correspond to a signal bandlimited to  $[B, 2B)$ .

Reconstruction is not robust. There is ambiguity.

Introduce **sparsity** to resolve the ambiguity!

**Fourier series of  $x(t)$ :**

$$x(t) = \sum_{n \in \mathcal{B}} [a_n \cos(2\pi n t) + b_n \sin(2\pi n t)]$$

**Vector of coefficients:**

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{n_1} \\ \vdots \\ a_{n_{N/2}} \\ b_{n_1} \\ \vdots \\ b_{n_{N/2}} \end{bmatrix}$$

Given  $\{t_1, t_2, \dots, t_N\}$ ,

$$\Phi_{\{t_k\}} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(2\pi n_1 t_1) & \dots & \cos(2\pi n_{N/2} t_1) & \sin(2\pi n_1 t_1) & \dots & \sin(2\pi n_{N/2} t_1) \\ \cos(2\pi n_1 t_2) & \dots & \cos(2\pi n_{N/2} t_2) & \sin(2\pi n_1 t_2) & \dots & \sin(2\pi n_{N/2} t_2) \\ \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \cos(2\pi n_1 t_N) & \dots & \cos(2\pi n_{N/2} t_N) & \sin(2\pi n_1 t_N) & \dots & \sin(2\pi n_{N/2} t_N) \end{bmatrix}$$

Samples the signal at those times:

$$\Phi_{\{t_k\}} \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x(t_1) \\ \vdots \\ x(t_N) \end{bmatrix}$$

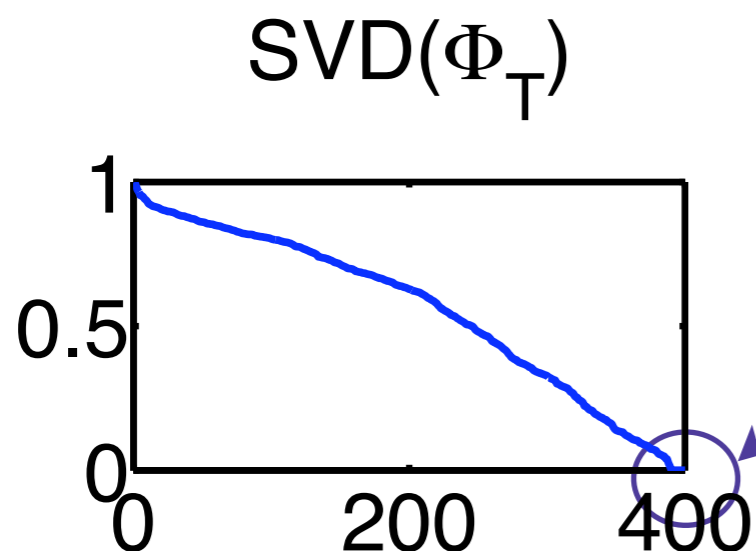
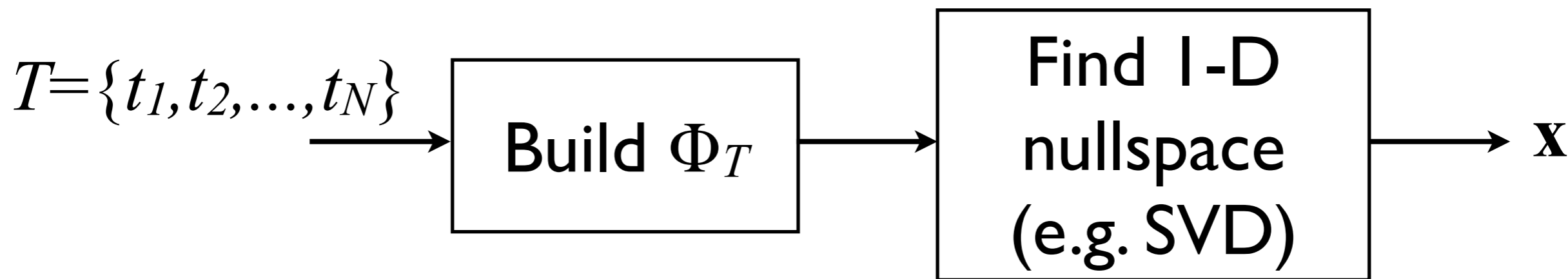
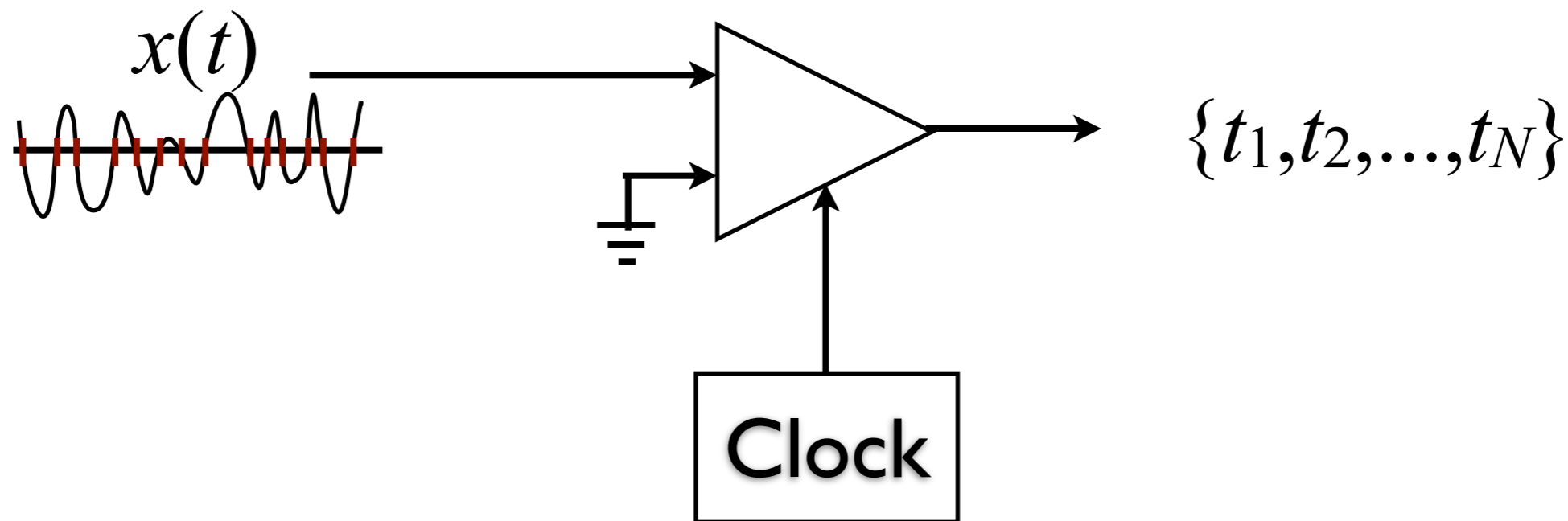
# Reconstruction Problem

$$\Phi_{\{t_k\}} \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x(t_1) \\ \vdots \\ x(t_N) \end{bmatrix}$$

If  $T = \{t_1, t_2, \dots, t_N\}$  are the zero crossings, then the **desired signal** is in the **nullspace** of  $\Phi$ :  $\Phi_T \mathbf{x} = 0$ .

Logan's theorem  $\Rightarrow \Phi_T$  has a **one-dimensional nullspace**.

# Signal Acquisition and Reconstruction



In practice: noise and quantization.

No nullspace!  
Many small singular values.  
Ambiguity!

$\ell_1$  minimization:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{x}\|_1$$

subject to  $\Phi \mathbf{x} = 0$

Relaxation:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|\Phi \mathbf{x}\|_2^2$$

Unit energy constraint:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|\Phi \mathbf{x}\|_2^2$$

subject to  $\|\mathbf{x}\|_2 = 1$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|\Phi \mathbf{x}\|_2^2$$

subject to  $\|\mathbf{x}\|_2 = 1$

Unconstrained minimization:

$$\text{Cost}(\mathbf{x}) = g(\mathbf{x}) + \frac{\lambda}{2} f(\Phi \mathbf{x})$$
$$\text{Cost}'(\mathbf{x}) = g'(\mathbf{x}) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \Phi^* f'(\Phi \mathbf{x})$$

where:

$$(g'(\mathbf{x}))_i = \begin{cases} -1 & x_i < 0 \\ [-1, 1] & x_i = 0 \\ +1 & x_i > 0 \end{cases}$$

No change if gradients are projected on unit sphere

## Big Picture: Gradient descent until equilibrium.

Initialization parameters:  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}, \tau$

1. **Compute** quadratic gradient:  $\mathbf{h} = \Phi^T \Phi \hat{\mathbf{x}}$
2. **Project** onto sphere:  $\mathbf{h}_p = \mathbf{h} - \langle \hat{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{h} \rangle \hat{\mathbf{x}}$
3. **Quadratic gradient descent**:  $\hat{\mathbf{x}} \leftarrow \hat{\mathbf{x}} - \tau \mathbf{h}_p$
4. **Shrink** ( $\ell_1$  gradient descent):  
$$\hat{x}_i \leftarrow \text{sign}(\hat{x}_i) \max \left\{ |\hat{x}_i| - \frac{\tau}{\lambda}, 0 \right\}$$
5. **Normalize**:  $\hat{\mathbf{x}} \leftarrow \frac{\hat{\mathbf{x}}}{\|\hat{\mathbf{x}}\|}$
6. **Iterate** until equilibrium.

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|\Phi \mathbf{x}\|_2^2$$

subject to  $\|\mathbf{x}\|_2 = 1$

Optimization is **not convex**.

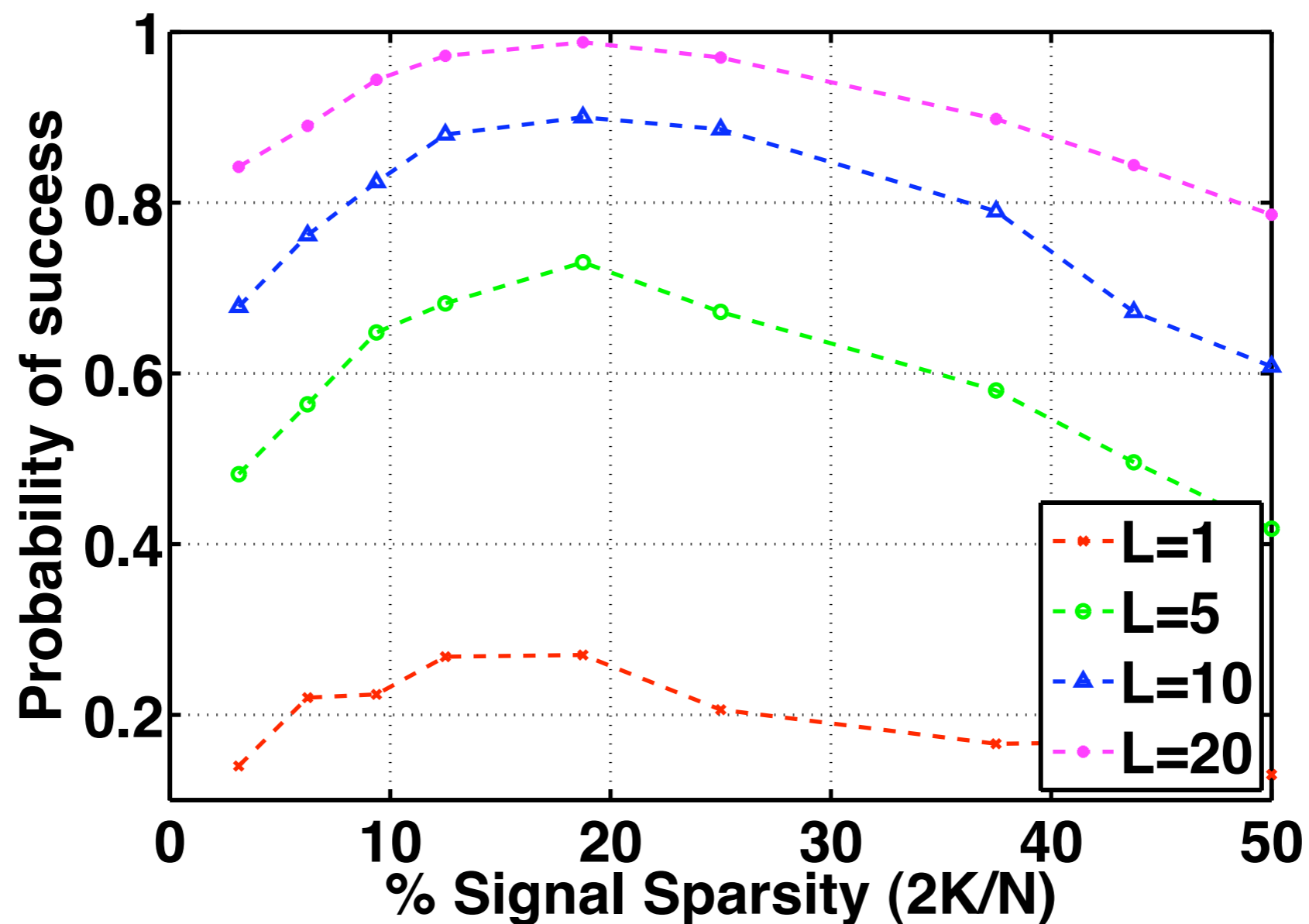
Convergence to global optimum **not guaranteed**.

Exploit **randomness**:

- Execute  $L$  times with random initializations.
- Pick best solution.

If  $P = P(\text{success for 1 execution})$ , then  
 $P(\text{overall success}) = 1 - (1 - P)^L$

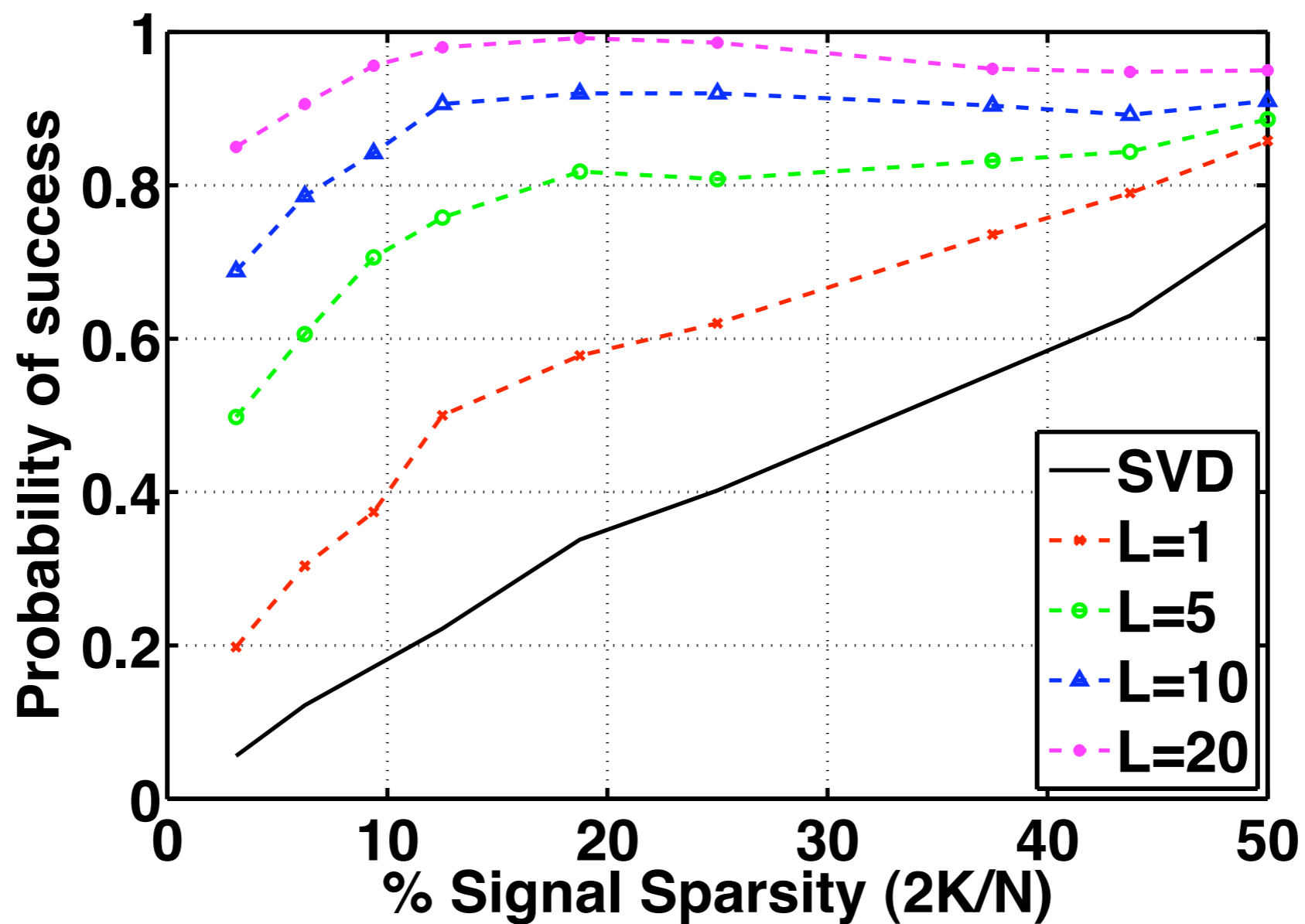
## Probability of Success



L=number of random initializations

N=256 coefficients

## Probability of Success



L=number of random initializations

N=256 coefficients

Optimization on sphere:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|\Phi \mathbf{x}\|_2^2$$

subject to  $\|\mathbf{x}\|_2 = 1$

Relaxation of sphere constraint:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 + \frac{\lambda_1}{2} \|\Phi \mathbf{x}\|_2^2 + \lambda_2 \left| \|\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 - 1 \right|^2$$

We can now use **standard**  $\ell_1$  algorithms!

# $\ell_1$ minimization formulation

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 + \frac{\lambda_1}{2} \|\Phi \mathbf{x}\|_2^2 + \lambda_2 \left| \|\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 - 1 \right|^2$$

**Let:**

$$\tilde{\Phi} = \begin{bmatrix} c\mathbf{x} \\ \Phi \end{bmatrix}, \quad c = \left( \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} \right)^2$$

**At equilibrium:**

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 + \frac{\lambda_1}{2} \left\| \tilde{\Phi} \mathbf{x} - \begin{bmatrix} c \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \right\|_2^2$$

Initialization parameters:  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}, \lambda_1, \lambda_2$

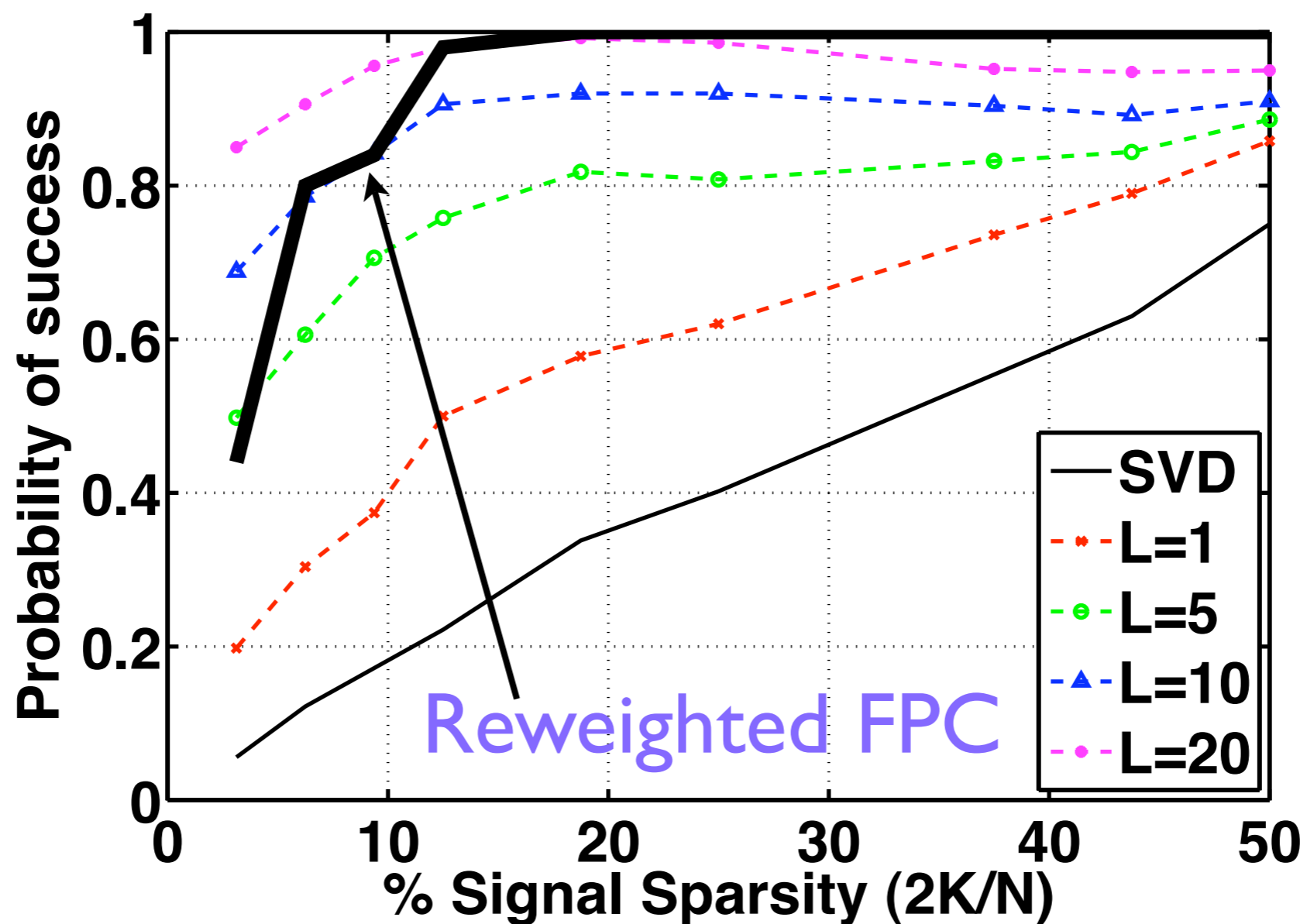
→ 1. **Build**  $\tilde{\Phi} = \begin{bmatrix} c\hat{\mathbf{x}} \\ \Phi \end{bmatrix}, c = \left(\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1}\right)^2$

2. **Estimate** using FPC:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 + \frac{\lambda_1}{2} \left\| \tilde{\Phi} \mathbf{x} - \begin{bmatrix} c \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \right\|_2^2$$

3. **Iterate** until equilibrium.

## Probability of Success



L=number of random initializations  
N=256 coefficients

- Signal reconstruction from zero crossings is **unstable**.
- **Sparsity** assumptions **can** be used to **stabilize** it.
- Reconstruction requires **optimization on the sphere**
- The problem is **non-convex**. Convergence to global optimum is not guaranteed.
- We provide two algorithms that **converge** experimentally with **very high probability**.