

# Sparse Reconstruction as Noncoherent Decoding

Phil Schniter



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Joint work with Lee Potter, Subhojit Som, and Justin Ziniel

## The Sparse Reconstruction Problem:

From the  $M$ -length observation

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{e},$$

where

$\mathbf{A}$  is known and

$\mathbf{e}$  is AWGN,

we desire to estimate the  $N$ -length signal  $\mathbf{x}$ , which is

1. *under-determined*:  $\mathbf{x}$  has  $N > M$  coefficients, and
2. *sparse*:  $\mathbf{x}$  has  $K < M$  non-zero coefficients ( $K$  unknown).

## Sparse Reconstruction as Optimization in $\mathbb{R}^N$ :

Many techniques treat sparse reconstruction as optimization over  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ :

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N} \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \text{ s.t. } \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 \leq \epsilon \quad \text{Basis Pursuit}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 \text{ s.t. } \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \leq t \quad \text{Lasso}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 + \sigma^2 \tau \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \quad \text{GPSR}$$

$$= \arg \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N} p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}) \text{ s.t. } \begin{cases} p(\mathbf{x}) \propto e^{-\tau \|\mathbf{x}\|_1} \\ p(\mathbf{e}) \propto e^{-\|\mathbf{x}\|_2^2/\sigma^2} \end{cases} \quad \text{Laplacian MAP}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^N} p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}_{\text{ML}}, \hat{\beta}_{\text{ML}}) \text{ s.t. } \begin{cases} \mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\alpha} \sim \text{indep } \mathcal{N}(0, \alpha_n^{-1}) \\ \boldsymbol{\alpha} \sim \text{iid } \Gamma(0, 0) \\ \mathbf{e}|\beta \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \beta^{-1} \mathbf{I}) \\ \beta \sim \Gamma(0, 0) \end{cases} \quad \text{RVM}$$

## Sparse Reconstruction via Model Selection:

For true active-coefficient indices  $S_0$ , we can write

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}_{S_0} \mathbf{x}_{S_0} + \mathbf{e}.$$

This motivates two-step sparse reconstruction procedures such as

- 1)  $\hat{S}_{\text{MAP}} = \arg \max_{S \in \mathbb{S}} p(S|\mathbf{y})$  “MAP model selection”
- 2)  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\text{LS}|\hat{S}_{\text{MAP}}} = (\mathbf{A}_{\hat{S}_{\text{MAP}}}^T \mathbf{A}_{\hat{S}_{\text{MAP}}})^{-1} \mathbf{A}_{\hat{S}_{\text{MAP}}}^T \mathbf{y}$  “conditional LS estimation”

and

- 1)  $\hat{S}_\tau = \{S \in \mathbb{S} : p(S|\mathbf{y}) > \tau\}$  “soft model selection”
- 2)  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\text{MMSE}} \approx \sum_{S \in \hat{S}_\tau} p(S|\mathbf{y}) \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\text{MMSE}|S}$  “MMSE estimation”

where  $\mathbb{S}$  denotes the set of admissible models  $S$ . (known  $K \Rightarrow$  restricted  $\mathbb{S}$ .)

We now show that the *model selection*  
is closely related to *noncoherent decoding*...

## Noncoherent Decoding:

Consider observations  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^M$ , channel  $\mathbf{h} \in \mathbb{R}^K$ , and codeword matrix  $\mathbf{B}_i$ :

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{B}_i \mathbf{h} + \mathbf{e}, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, J\}.$$

In *noncoherent decoding*, we attempt to infer the codeword index  $i$  from  $\mathbf{y}$  without knowing the channel state  $\mathbf{h}$ .

Sometimes we assume known channel statistics

$$\mathbf{h} \sim \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \mathbf{R}) \text{ with } \begin{cases} \boldsymbol{\mu} = \mathbf{0} & \text{for Rayleigh fading} \\ \boldsymbol{\mu} \neq \mathbf{0} & \text{for Ricean fading} \end{cases}$$

and noise statistics  $\mathbf{e} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \sigma^2 \mathbf{I})$ .

## Examples of vectorized model $y = B_i h + e$ :

1. MIMO flat-fading:

$$\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{C}_i \mathbf{H} + \mathbf{E} \quad \text{for} \quad \mathbf{H} \in \mathbb{C}^{N_t \times N_r}, \mathbf{C}_i \in \mathbb{C}^{L \times N_t}, \mathbf{Y} \in \mathbb{C}^{L \times N_r}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{vec}(\mathbf{Y}) = (\mathbf{I}_{N_r} \otimes \mathbf{C}_i) \text{vec}(\mathbf{H}) + \text{vec}(\mathbf{E})$$

2. SISO with ISI:

$$\begin{bmatrix} y_0 \\ y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \\ y_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_0^{(i)} & & & & \\ & b_1^{(i)} & b_0^{(i)} & & \\ & & b_2^{(i)} & b_1^{(i)} & b_0^{(i)} \\ & & & b_2^{(i)} & b_1^{(i)} \\ & & & & b_2^{(i)} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} h_0 \\ h_1 \\ h_2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} e_0 \\ e_1 \\ e_2 \\ e_3 \\ e_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

3. SISO with TV-ISI:

$$\begin{bmatrix} y_0 \\ y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \\ y_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_0^{(i)} & & & & & & & & \\ & b_0^{(i)} & & & & & & & \\ & & b_0^{(i)} & & & & & & \\ & & & b_1^{(i)} & & & & & \\ & & & & b_0^{(i)} & & & & \\ & & & & & b_1^{(i)} & & & \\ & & & & & & b_2^{(i)} & & \\ & & & & & & & b_1^{(i)} & \\ & & & & & & & & b_2^{(i)} \\ & & & & & & & & & b_2^{(i)} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} h_{0,0} \\ h_{1,0} \\ h_{2,0} \\ h_{0,1} \\ h_{1,1} \\ h_{2,1} \\ h_{0,2} \\ h_{1,2} \\ h_{2,2} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} e_0 \\ e_1 \\ e_2 \\ e_3 \\ e_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Noncoherent Decoding as Model Selection:

Notice that we can rewrite

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{B}_i \mathbf{h} + \mathbf{e}, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, J\}$$

as the familiar sparse reconstruction problem:

$$\mathbf{y} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{B}_1 & \cdots & \mathbf{B}_i & \cdots & \mathbf{B}_J \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{A}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{h} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{x}} + \mathbf{e}$$

for  $K$ -sparse  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{JK}$ . Thus

*noncoherent decoding*  $\Leftrightarrow$  *model selection*  
*under*  $\mathbb{S} = \{(1, \dots, K), (K+1, \dots, 2K), \dots, (KJ-K+1, \dots, KJ)\}$ .



## Noncoherent Decoding – Typical Approaches:

Known channel/noise statistics, non-equal codeword priors:

$$\hat{i}_{\text{MAP}} = \arg \max_i p(i|\mathbf{y})$$

$$= \arg \max_i \{ \ln p(\mathbf{y}|i) + \ln p(i) \} \quad \text{where } p(\mathbf{y}|i) = \int p(\mathbf{y}|i, \mathbf{h}) p(\mathbf{h}) d\mathbf{h}$$

$$\hat{\mathcal{I}}_\tau = \{i : \ln p(\mathbf{y}|i) + \ln p(i) > \ln \tau\} \quad \dots \text{soft decoding}$$

Known channel/noise statistics, equal codeword priors:

$$\hat{i}_{\text{ML}} = \arg \max_i p(\mathbf{y}|i)$$

Unknown channel/noise statistics:

$$\hat{i}_{\text{GLRT}} = \arg \max_i p(\mathbf{y}|i, \hat{\mathbf{h}}_{\text{ML}|i}) \quad \text{where } \hat{\mathbf{h}}_{\text{ML}|i} = \mathbf{B}_i^+ \mathbf{y}$$

$$= \arg \min_i \mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{\Pi}_{\mathbf{B}_i}^\perp \mathbf{y}.$$

## Model Selection – Typical Approaches:

Known signal/noise statistics, non-equal model priors:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{S}_{\text{MAP}} &= \arg \max_{S \in \mathcal{S}} p(S|\mathbf{y}) \\ &= \arg \max_{S \in \mathcal{S}} \{ \ln p(\mathbf{y}|S) + \ln p(S) \} \quad \text{where } p(\mathbf{y}|S) = \int p(\mathbf{y}|S, \mathbf{x}_S) p(\mathbf{x}_S) d\mathbf{x}_S \\ \hat{S}_\tau &= \{S : \ln p(\mathbf{y}|S) + \ln p(S) > \ln \tau\} \quad \dots \text{Bayesian model averaging}\end{aligned}$$

Known signal/noise statistics, equal model priors:

$$\hat{S}_{\text{ML}} = \arg \max_{S \in \mathcal{S}} p(\mathbf{y}|S)$$

Unknown signal/noise statistics:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{S}_{\text{GLRT}} &= \arg \max_{S \in \mathcal{S}} p(\mathbf{y}|S, \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\text{LS}|S}) \quad \text{where } \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\text{LS}|S} = \mathbf{A}_S^+ \mathbf{y} \\ &= \arg \min_{S \in \mathcal{S}} \mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{\Pi}_{\mathbf{A}_S}^\perp \mathbf{y} \quad \dots \text{fails for nested } \mathcal{S}!\end{aligned}$$

## Leveraging the Connection – PWEF Analysis:

- Pair-wise error probability (PWEF) of noncoherent decoding, e.g.,

$$P_{j|i} = \Pr \{ p(\mathbf{y}|j) > p(\mathbf{y}|i) \mid i \} \quad \text{for ML}$$

has been thoroughly studied.

- The results apply directly to model selection under the constraint

$$\mathbb{S} = \{ (1, \dots, K), (K+1, \dots, 2K), \dots, (KJ-K+1, \dots, KJ) \}.$$

Note: Since this  $\mathbb{S}$  is non-nested, can use GLRT.

- PWEF results can be extended to cover the case of “unrestricted”  $\mathbb{S}$ , where  $|\mathbb{S}| = 2^N$ .

## Model Selection via “Generalized Information Criteria”:

For general  $\mathbb{S}$ , model selection often takes the form

$$\hat{S} = \arg \min_{S \in \mathbb{S}} \left\{ \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}_S \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{LS|S}\|_2^2 + \eta |S| \right\}.$$

This includes “information theoretic” model-order selection criteria, e.g.,

$\eta_{\text{AIC}} = 2$	Akiake’s information criterion
$\eta_{\text{BIC}} = \ln M$	Bayesian information criterion
$\eta_{\text{RIC}} = 2 \ln N$	Risk inflation criterion

as well as MAP model selection under the Zellner/iid-Bernoulli model:

$$\eta_{\text{MAP}} = \frac{\gamma+1}{\gamma} \ln \left( (1+\gamma) \left( \frac{1-\lambda}{\lambda} \right)^2 \right) \quad \text{for} \quad \begin{cases} \text{unrestricted } \mathbb{S} \text{ (i.e., } |\mathbb{S}| = 2^N) \\ p(S) = \lambda^{|S|} (1-\lambda)^{(N-|S|)} \\ \mathbf{x}_S \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \gamma \sigma^2 (\mathbf{A}_S^T \mathbf{A}_S)^{-1}). \end{cases}$$

## PWEP of Model Selection:

**Lemma 1** For generic  $\mathbb{S}$ , the PWEP of

$$\hat{S} = \arg \min_{S \in \mathbb{S}} \left\{ \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}_S \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{LS|S}\|_2^2 + \eta |S| \right\} \quad \text{under } \mathbf{x}_S | S \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \gamma \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}_{|S|})$$

has the upper bound (tight as  $\gamma \rightarrow \infty$ ):

$$P_{\hat{S}|S} \leq (\alpha_{\hat{S},S} \gamma)^{-K_m} C_{K_m, K_f}(\eta),$$

where  $K_m$  and  $K_f$  denote the # of missed and false-alarm coefficients, and

$$C_{K_m, K_f}(\eta) = \begin{cases} e^{(K_m - K_f)\eta} \sum_{k=0}^{K_f-1} \frac{(K_f - K_m)^k \eta^k}{k!} \binom{K_m + K_f - 1 - k}{K_m} & K_m \leq K_f, \\ \sum_{k=0}^{K_m} \frac{(K_m - K_f)^k \eta^k}{k!} \binom{K_m + K_f - 1 - k}{K_f - 1} & K_m > K_f. \end{cases}$$

$$\alpha_{\hat{S},S} = \lambda_{\min}(\mathbf{A}_m^T \mathbf{\Pi}_{\mathbf{A}_{\hat{S}}}^{\perp} \mathbf{A}_m) \quad \dots \text{Restricted Isometry Property}$$

(An extension of Brehler & Varanasi TIT 2001.)

## Performance Guarantees for MAP Model Selection:

Assuming that  $\mathbf{A}$  has unit-norm columns and satisfies a Restricted Isometry Property (RIP), we've recently shown that the following properties hold *with high probability* for reasonably small constants  $K_1, K_2, K_3, K_4$ :

1. The energy of the missed signal coefficients is upper bounded by  $K_1 M \sigma_e^2$ .
2. No active coefficients are missed when  $|\mu| > 4\sigma_1 + K_2 \sqrt{M} \sigma_e^2$ .
3. No coefficients are falsely detected when  $|\mu| > K_3 \sqrt{M} \sigma_1 + K_4 \sqrt{M} \sigma_e^2$ .

## Leveraging the Connection – A Sparse-Reconstruction Algorithm:

Optimal model selection under known statistics and non-equal priors is

$$\hat{S}_{\text{MAP}} = \arg \max_{S \in \mathcal{S}} p(S|\mathbf{y}) = \arg \min_{S \in \mathcal{S}} \{ -\ln p(\mathbf{y}|S) - \ln p(S) \}$$

where, for  $\mathbf{x}_S \sim \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \mathbf{R})$ ,

$$-\ln p(\mathbf{y}|S) = \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}_S \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\text{MMSE}|S}\|_2^2 + \|\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\text{MMSE}|S} - \boldsymbol{\mu}\|_{\mathbf{R}^{-1}}^2 + \ln |\mathbf{A}_S \mathbf{R} \mathbf{A}_S^T + \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}| + C$$

As in *soft noncoherent decoding*, can use *tree search* to find the set of models  $\hat{S}$  with significant posterior probability. The “per-survivor” nuisance parameter estimates  $\{\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\text{MMSE}|S}\}_{S \in \hat{S}}$  can then be combined for MMSE estimation:

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\text{MMSE}} \approx \sum_{S \in \hat{S}} p(S|\mathbf{y}) \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\text{MMSE}|S} \quad \dots \text{Bayesian model averaging.}$$

Using  $\mathcal{O}(MNK)$ -complexity tree search, “Fast Bayesian Matching Pursuit” yields

*near-optimal performance with OMP-like complexity.*

## Numerical Experiments — “Compressible” Signal:

Setup:  $N = 512$   
 $M = 128$   
 $\mathbf{A}$  : i.i.d.  $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$  with columns scaled to unit norm  
 $\mathbf{x}$  : shuffled  $x_n = e^{-\rho n}$  with sparsity  $\rho \in (0, 1)$   
 SNR = 15dB

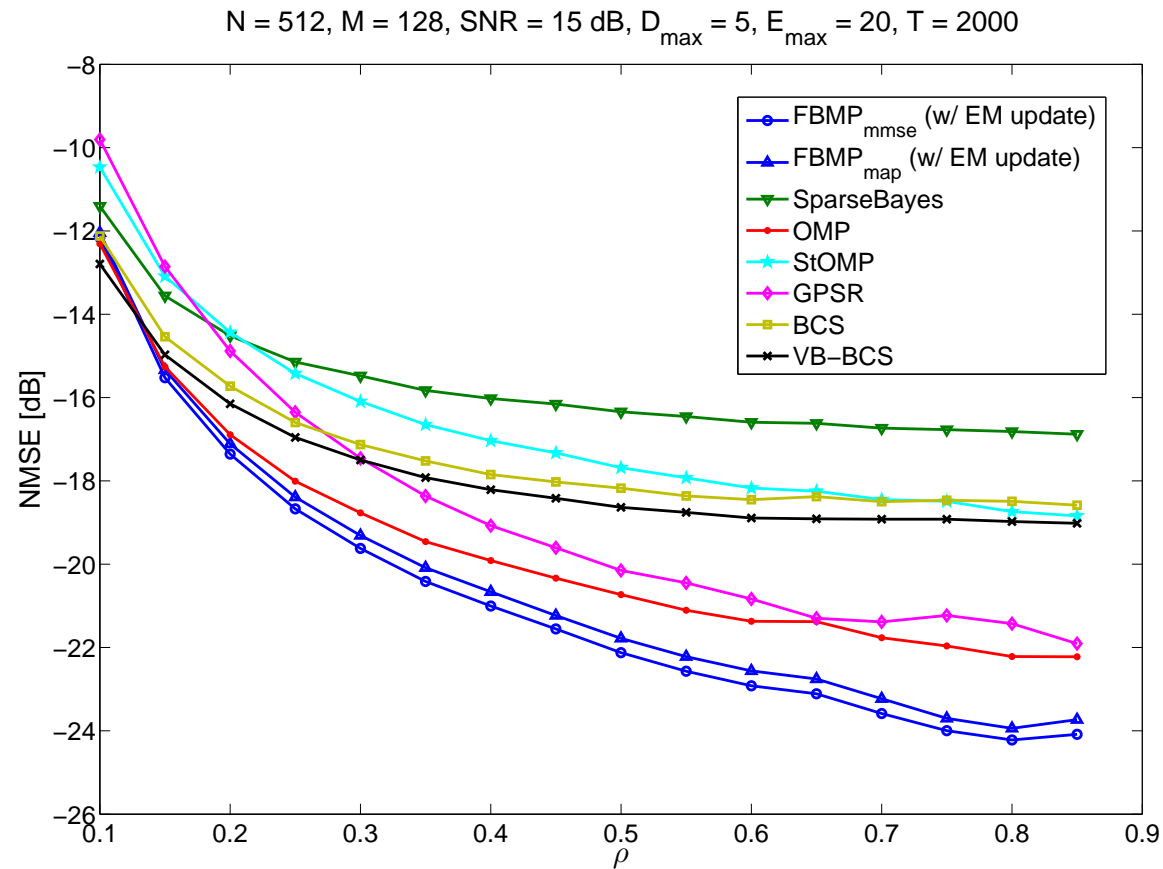
Algorithms:

OMP – Tropp & Gilbert  
 StOMP – Donoho, Tsaig, Drori & Starck  
 GPSR-Basic – Figueiredo, Nowak & Wright ( $\min_{\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 + \tau\|\mathbf{x}\|_1$ )  
 SparseBayes – Wipf & Rao (RVM)  
 BCS – Ji & Carin (RVM)  
 VB-BCS – Ji & Carin (RVM)  
 FBMP – Schniter, Potter & Ziniel (BMA)

Performance:  $\text{NMSE} \triangleq \text{Avg} \left\{ \frac{\|\hat{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{x}\|_2^2}{\|\mathbf{x}\|_2^2} \right\}$  over 2500 random trials.



## NMSE versus decay rate $\rho$ :



FBMP outperformed GPSR and OMP by 2 dB and others by much more.

Note: The signal priors favor GPSR!

## The Relevance Vector Machine (RVM):

The RVM is an alternate Bayesian approach to sparse reconstruction:

- For coefficient activity, RVM uses continuous “precisions”  $\alpha \in (\mathbb{R}^+)^N$ :

$$\mathbf{x}|\alpha \sim \text{independent } \mathcal{N}(0, \alpha_n^{-1}) \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha \sim \text{iid } \Gamma(0, 0)$$

$$\mathbf{e}|\beta \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \beta^{-1}\mathbf{I}) \quad \text{and} \quad \beta \sim \Gamma(0, 0)$$

- The RVM’s gamma hyperpriors lead to the convenient posterior

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}, \alpha, \beta) \sim \mathcal{N}(\bar{\boldsymbol{\mu}}, \bar{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}) \quad \text{for} \quad \begin{cases} \bar{\boldsymbol{\mu}} = \beta \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{y} \\ \bar{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}} = (\beta \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A} + \mathcal{D}(\alpha))^{-1} \end{cases}$$

and thus  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\text{MMSE}} = \bar{\boldsymbol{\mu}}$ .

- The EM algorithm can be used to estimate  $\{\alpha, \beta\}$  jointly with  $\{\bar{\boldsymbol{\mu}}, \bar{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}\}$ .  
Can implement with an  $\mathcal{O}(NK^2)$  recursion after an  $\mathcal{O}(N^2M)$  initialization.

[1] Tipping, “Sparse Bayesian learning and the relevance vector machine,” *J. Machine Learning Res.*, 2001.

[2] Wipf and Rao, “Sparse Bayesian learning for basis selection,” *IEEE Trans. Signal Processing*, 2004.

[3] Ji, Xue, and Carin, “Bayesian Compressive Sensing,” *IEEE Trans. Signal Processing*, 2008.

## Bayesian Model Averaging versus the Relevance Vector Machine:

- Both are Bayesian approaches to sparse parameter estimation.
- For coefficient activity, RVM uses the continuous parameterization  $\alpha$ , while BMA uses the discrete parameterization  $S$ .
- Implementations have roughly the same complexity (recall that FBMP is  $\mathcal{O}(NMK)$  and RVM has  $\mathcal{O}(NK^2)$  recursion plus  $\mathcal{O}(N^2M)$  initialization).
- Upon termination, the RVM posterior is Gaussian

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}) \sim \mathcal{N}(\bar{\boldsymbol{\mu}}, \bar{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}})$$

whereas the BMA posterior is a Gaussian mixture:

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}) \sim \sum_S \mathcal{N}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\text{MMSE}|S}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_S) p(S|\mathbf{y}).$$

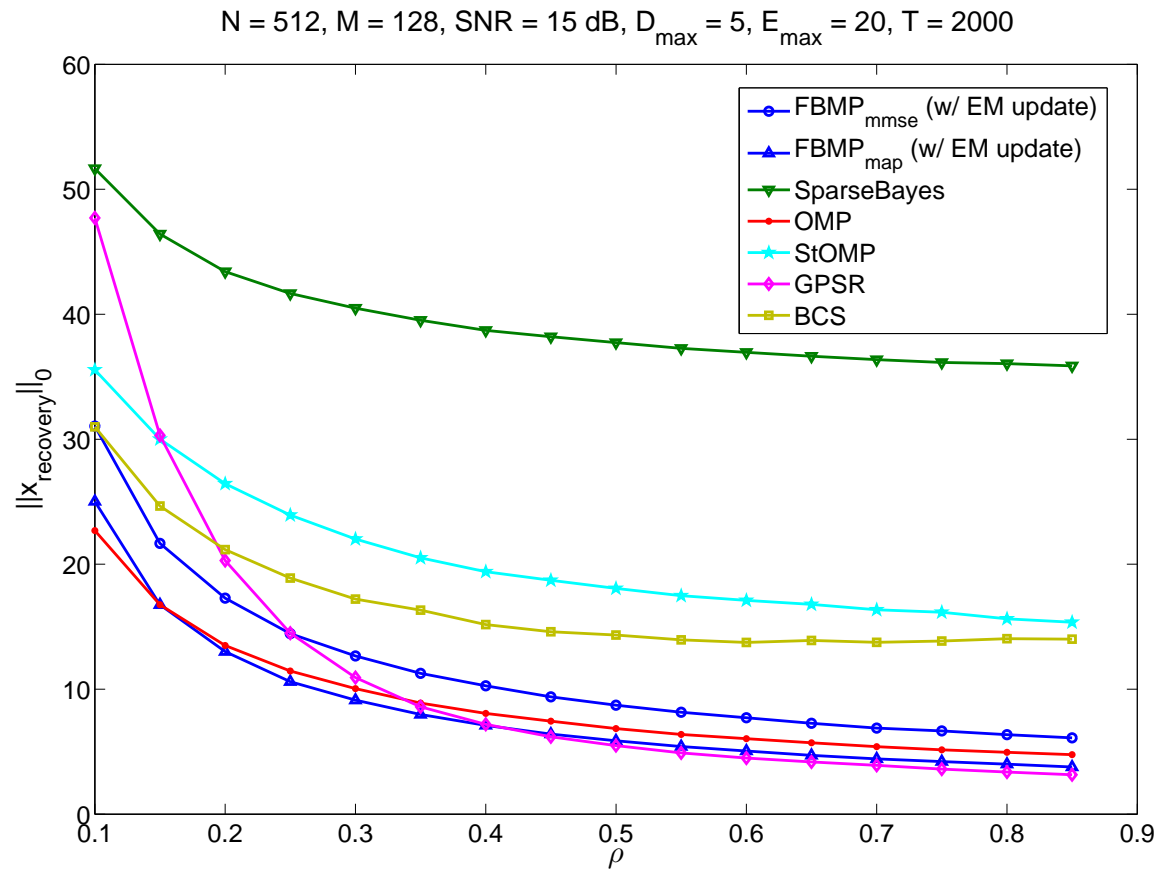
Thus, the BMA posterior can be more informative.

- Simulation results show advantages of BMA over RVM.

## Conclusions:

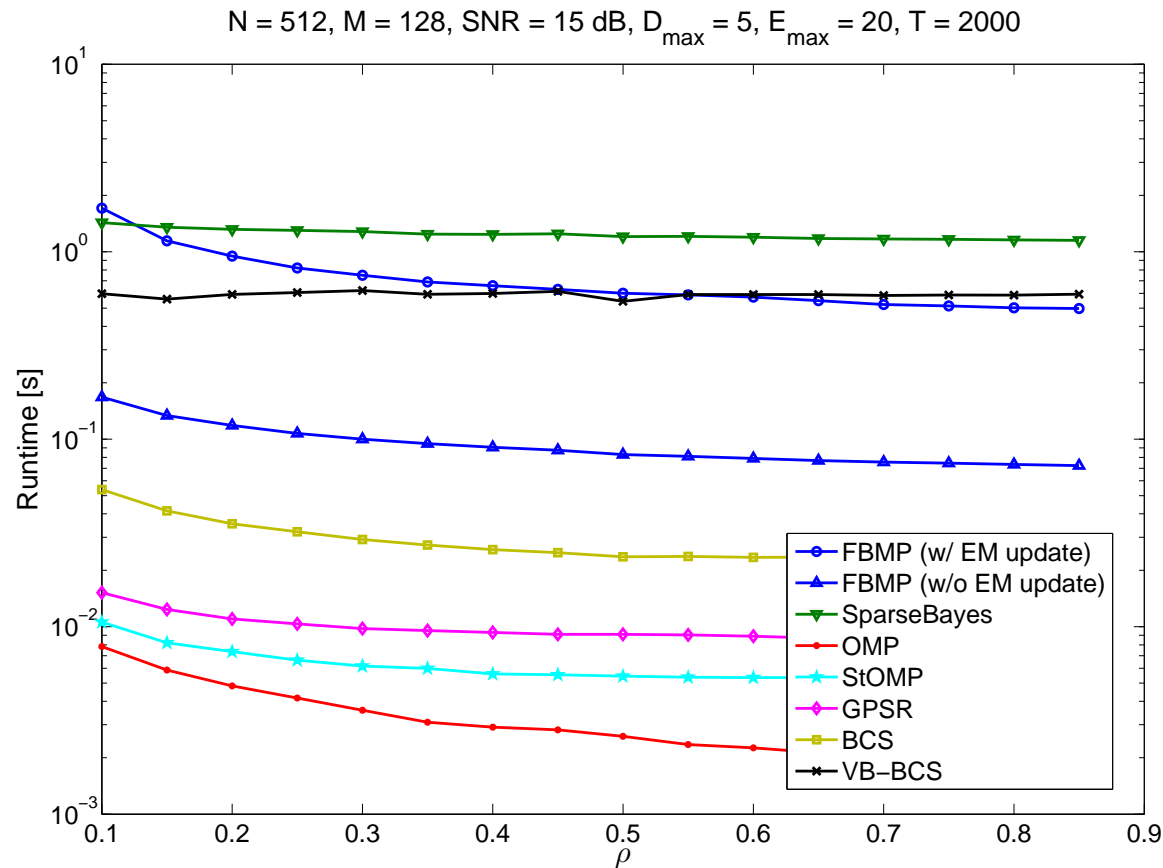
- Sparse reconstruction can be viewed as (discrete) model selection followed by (continuous) parameter estimation.
- Noncoherent decoding is (discrete) codeword selection under (continuous) nuisance parameters.
- Noncoherent decoding becomes equivalent to sparse reconstruction under a particular admissible model set  $\mathcal{S}$ .
- Noncoherent decoding techniques can be exploited for sparse reconstruction:
  - PWEF analyses for noncoherent decoding can be extended to yield PWEF analyses for model selection under general  $\mathcal{S}$ .
  - Noncoherent decoding algorithms based on soft tree search inspire low-complexity near-optimal sparse reconstruction algorithms like Fast Bayesian Matching Pursuit.

## Sparsity of estimate versus decay rate $\rho$ :



The estimates returned by FBMP are among the sparsest.

## Runtime versus decay rate $\rho$ :



FBMP (without EM iterations) is on par with other Bayesian algorithms, and a bit slower than other matching pursuit and convex programming algorithms.