

# Fast Dimension Reduction

MMDS 2008

Nir Ailon

Google Research NY

- “Fast Dimension Reduction  Using Rademacher Series on Dual BCH Codes”  
(with Edo Liberty)



- The Fast Johnson Lindenstrauss Transform  
(with Bernard Chazelle)



# Original Motivation: Nearest Neighbor Searching

- Wanted to improve algorithm by Indyk, Motwani for approx. NN searching in Euclidean space.
- Evidence for possibility to do so came from improvement on algorithm by Kushilevitz, Ostrovsky, Rabani for approx NN searching over  $GF(2)$ .
- If we were to do the same for Euclidean space, it was evident that improving *run time* of ***Johnson-Lindenstrauss*** was key.

# Later Motivation

- Provide more elegant proof, use modern techniques.
- Improvement obtained as bonus.
- Exciting use of
  - Talagrand concentration bounds
  - Error correcting codes

# Random Dimension Reduction

- Sketching [Woodruff, Jayram, Li]
- (Existential) metric embedding
  - Distance preserving
    - Sets of points, subspaces, manifolds [Clarkson]
  - Volume preserving [Magen, Zouzias]
- Fast approximate linear algebra
  - SVD, linear regression (Muthukrishnan, Mahoney, Drineas, Sarlos)
- Computational aspects:
  - Time [A, Chazelle, Liberty] + {Sketching Community} + {Fast Approximate Linear Algebra Community}
  - randomness {Functional Analysis community}

# Theoretical Challenge

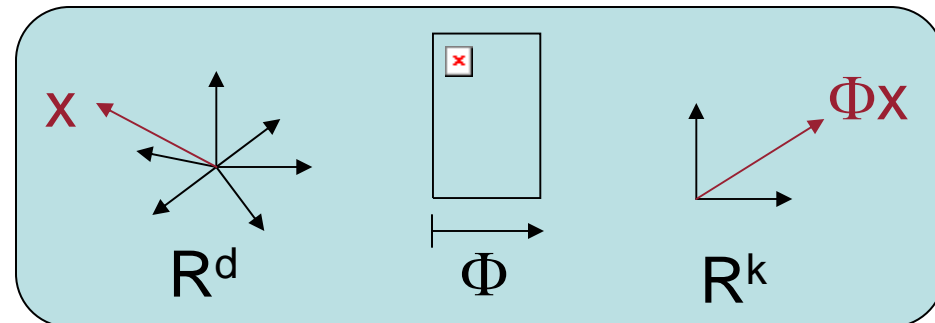
Find random projection  $\Phi$  from  $\mathbb{R}^d$  to  $\mathbb{R}^k$

( $d$  big,  $k$  small)

such that for every  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $\|x\|_2=1$ ,  $0 < \varepsilon < 1$

with probability  $1 - \exp\{-k\varepsilon^2\}$

$$\|\Phi x\|_2 = 1 \pm O(\varepsilon)$$



# Usage

If you have  $n$  vectors  $x_1 \dots x_n \in \mathbb{R}^d$ :

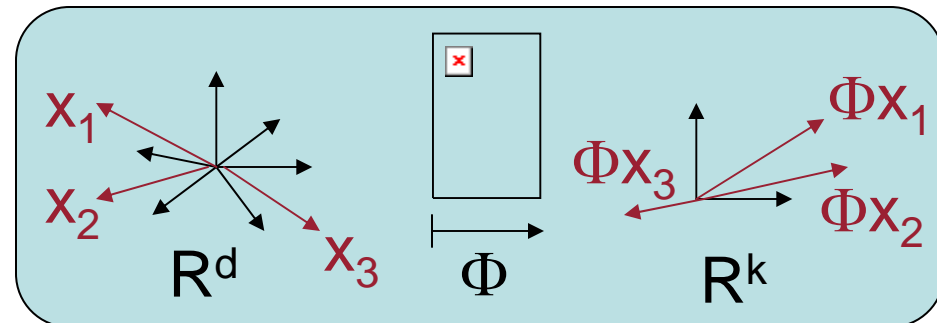
set  $k = O(\varepsilon^{-2} \log n)$

by union bound:

$$\text{for all } i, j \quad \|\Phi x_i - \Phi x_j\| \approx_{\varepsilon} \|x_i - x_j\|$$

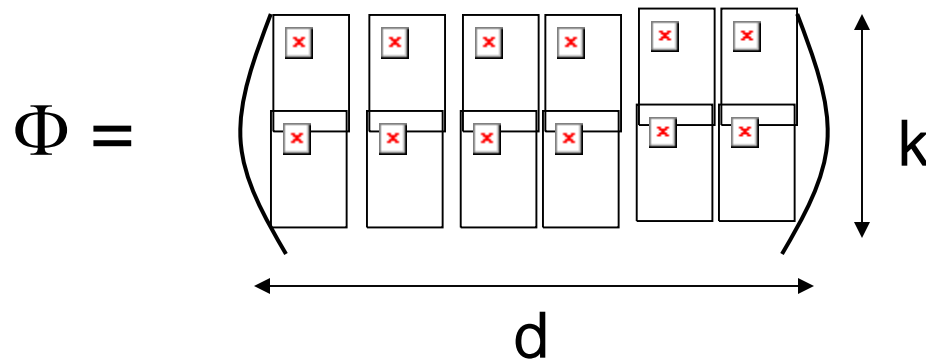
*low-distortion metric embedding*

“tight”



# Solution: Johnson-Lindenstrauss (JL)

“dense random matrix”



# So what's the problem?

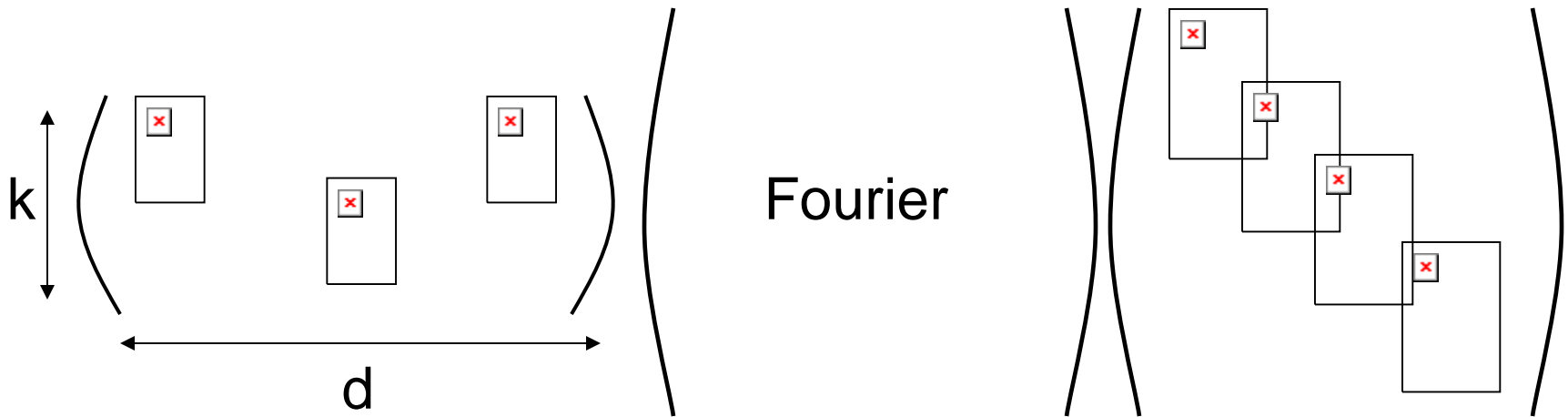
- running time  $\Omega(kd)$
- number of random bits  $\Omega(kd)$
- can we do better?



# Fast JL

A, Chazelle 2006

$$\Phi = \mathbf{S}_{\text{parse}} \cdot \mathbf{H}_{\text{adamard}} \cdot \mathbf{D}_{\text{diagonal}}$$



time =  $O(k^3 + d \log d)$

beats JL  $\Omega(kd)$  bound for:  $\log d < k < d^{1/3}$

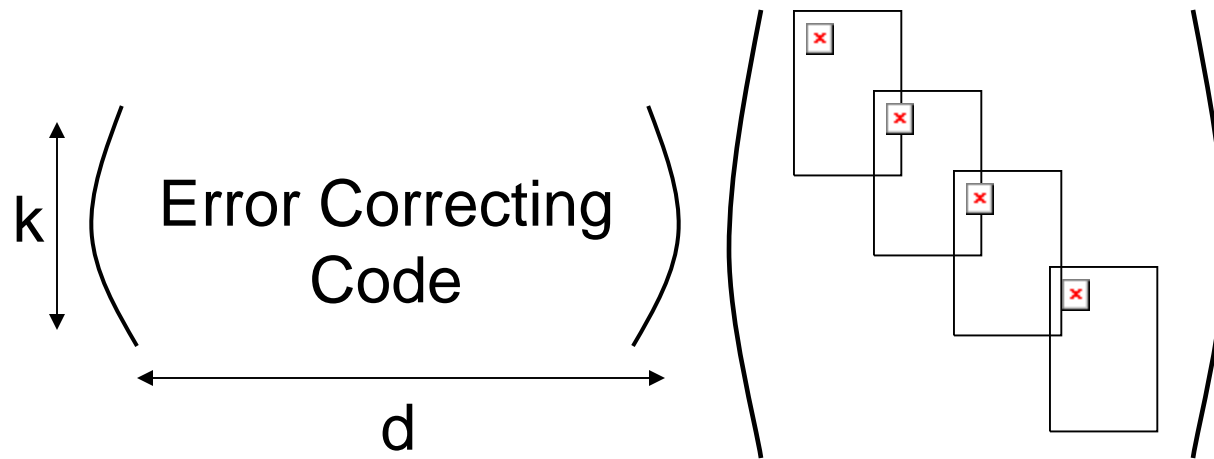
# Improvement on FJLT

- $O(d \log k)$  for  $k < d^{1/2}$
- beats JL up to  $k < d^{1/2}$
- $O(d)$  random bits

# Algorithm ( $k=d^{1/2}$ )

A, Liberty 2007

$$\Phi = \mathbf{B}_{\text{CH}} \cdot \mathbf{D}_{\text{agonal}} \dots$$





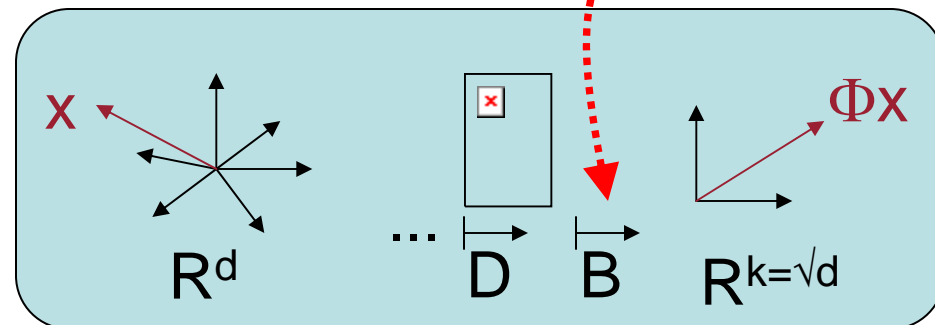
# Error Correcting Codes

Fact (easily from properties of dual BCH):

$$\|B^t\|_{2 \rightarrow 4} = O(1)$$

for  $y^t \in \mathbb{R}^k$  with  $\|y\|_2 = 1$ :

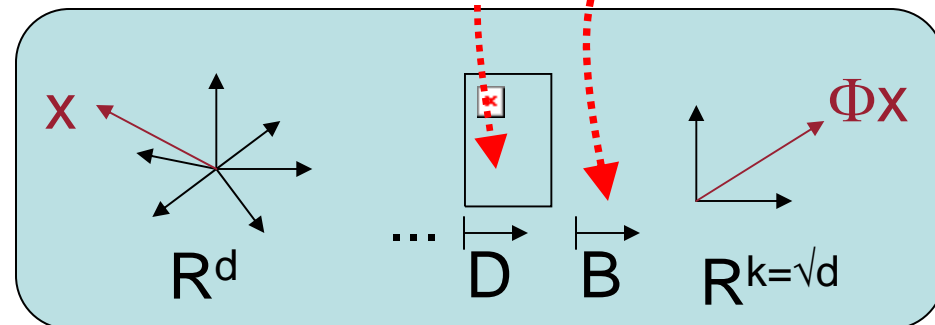
$$\|yB\|_4 = O(1)$$



# Rademacher Series on Error Correcting Codes

look at r.v.  $BDx \in (\mathbb{R}^k, I_2)$

$$\begin{aligned} BDx &= \sum D_{ii} x_i B_{\cdot i} \quad D_{ii} \in_{\mathbb{R}} \{\pm 1\} \quad i=1 \dots d \\ &= \sum D_{ii} M_{\cdot i} \end{aligned}$$



# Talagrand's Concentration Bound for Rademacher Series

$$Z = \|\sum D_{ij} M_{.i}\|_p \text{ (in our case } p=2\text{)}$$

$$\Pr[ |Z - EZ| > \varepsilon ] = O(\exp\{-\varepsilon^2/4\|M\|_{2 \rightarrow p}^2\})$$

# Rademacher Series on Error Correcting Codes

look at r.v.  $B\mathbf{D}\mathbf{x} \in (\mathbb{R}^k, l_2)$

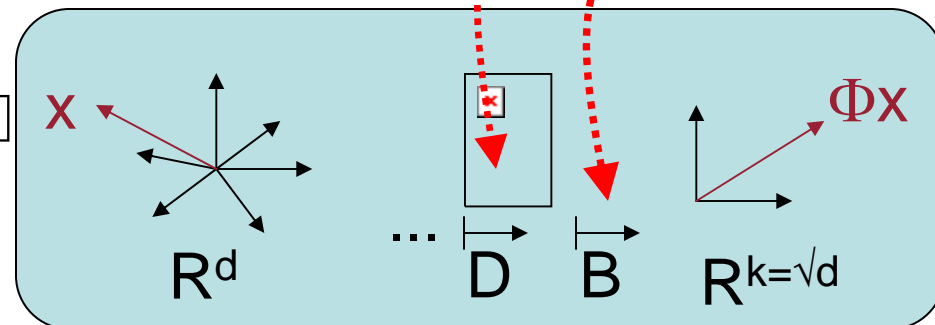
$$Z = \|B\mathbf{D}\mathbf{x}\|_2 = \|\sum D_{ij}M_{.i}\|_2$$

$$\|M\|_{2 \rightarrow 2} \leq \|\mathbf{x}\|_4 \|B^t\|_{2 \rightarrow 4} \text{ (Cauchy-Schwartz)}$$

by ECC properties:

$$\|M\|_{2 \rightarrow 2} \leq \|\mathbf{x}\|_4 O(1)^L$$

trivial:  $EZ = \|\mathbf{x}\|_2 = 1 \square$





# Rademacher Series on Error Correcting Codes

look at r.v.  $BDx \in (\mathbb{R}^k, l_2)$

$$Z = \|BDx\|_2 = \|\sum D_{ij} M_{\cdot i}\|_2$$

$$\|M\|_{2 \rightarrow 2} = O(\|x\|_4) \quad \square$$

$$EZ = 1$$

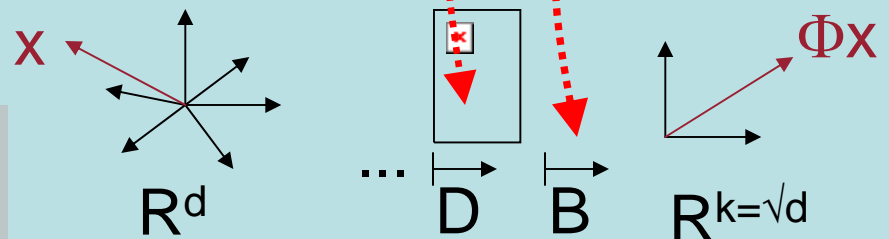
$$\Pr[|Z - EZ| > \varepsilon] = O(\exp\{-\varepsilon^2/4\|M\|_{2 \rightarrow 2}^2\})$$

□□

$$\Rightarrow \Pr[|Z - 1| > \varepsilon] = O(\exp\{-\varepsilon^2/\|x\|_4^2\})$$

how to get  $\|x\|_4^2 = O(k^{-1} = d^{-1/2})$  ?

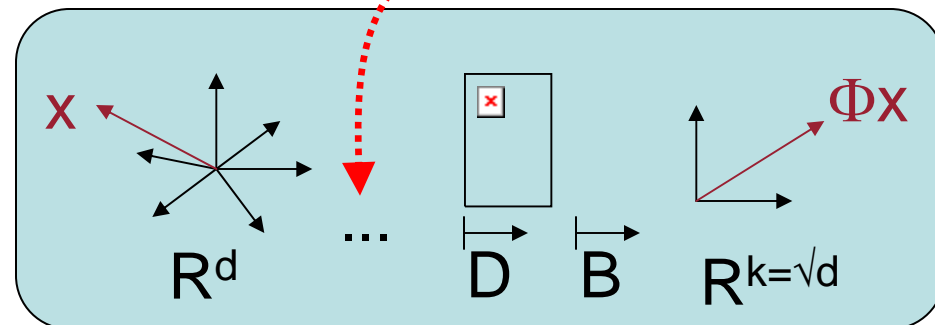
Challenge: w. prob.  $\exp\{-k\varepsilon^2\}$   
deviation of more than  $\varepsilon$



# Controlling $\|x\|_4^2$

how to get  $\|x\|_4^2 = O(k^{-1}=d^{-1/2})$  ?

- if you think about it for a second...
- “random”  $x$  has  $\|x\|_4^2 = O(d^{-1/2})$
- but “random”  $x$  easy to reduce:  
just output first  $k$  dimensions
- are we asking for too much?
- no: truly random  $x$  has strong bound on  $\|x\|_p$  for all  $p > 2$



# Controlling $\|x\|_4^2$

how to get  $\|x\|_4^2 = O(k^{-1}=d^{-1/2})$  ?

- can multiply  $x$  by orthogonal matrix

- try matrix  $HD$

( $HD$  used in [AC06] to control  $\|HDx\|_\infty$ )

- $Z = \|HDx\|_4$   
 $= \|\sum D_{ij} x_j H_{.i}\|_4$   
 $= \|\sum D_{ij} M_{.i}\|_4$

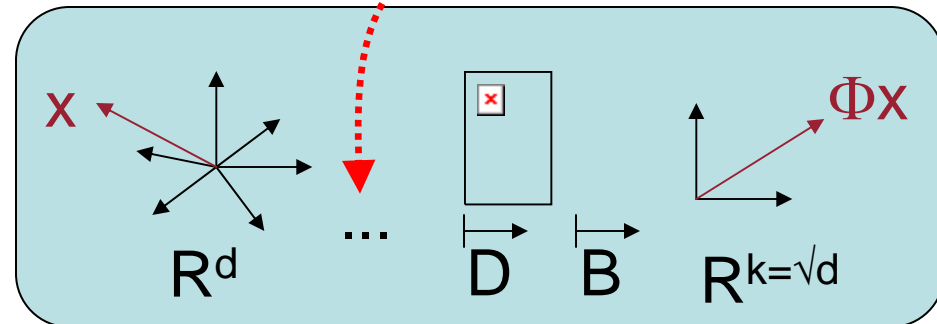
- by Talagrand:

$$\Pr[ |Z - EZ| > t ] = O(\exp\{-t^2/4\|M\|_{2 \rightarrow 4}^2\})$$

$$EZ = O(d^{-1/4}) \text{ (trivial)}$$

$$\|M\|_{2 \rightarrow 4} \leq \|H\|_{4/3 \rightarrow 4} \|x\|_4$$

(Cauchy Schwartz)



# Controlling $\|x\|_4^2$

how to get  $\|x\|_4^2 = O(k^{-1}=d^{-1/2})$  ?

$$Z = \|\Sigma D_{ii} M_{\cdot i}\|_4 \quad M_{\cdot i} = x_i H_{\cdot i}$$

$$\Pr[ |Z - EZ| > t ] = O(\exp\{-t^2/4\|M\|_{2 \rightarrow 4}^2\}) \text{ (Talagrand)}$$

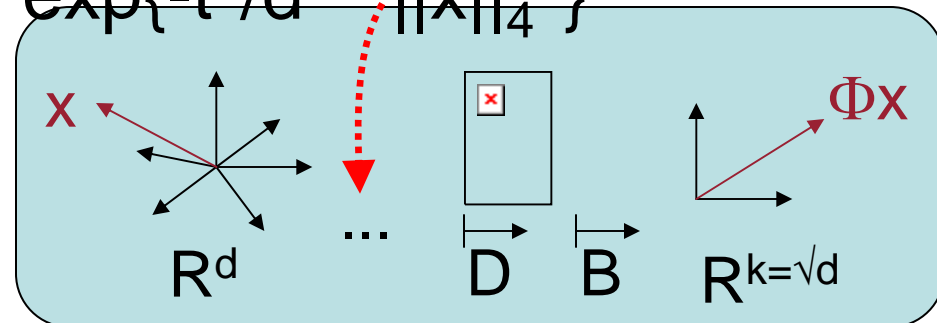
$$EZ = O(d^{-1/4}) \text{ (trivial)}$$

$$\|M\|_{2 \rightarrow 4} \leq \|H\|_{4/3 \rightarrow 4} \|x\|_4 \text{ (Cauchy Schwartz)}$$

$$\|H\|_{4/3 \rightarrow 4} \leq d^{-1/4} \text{ (Hausdorff-Young)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \|M\|_{2 \rightarrow 4} \leq d^{-1/4} \|x\|_4$$

$$\Rightarrow \Pr[ \|HDx\|_4 > d^{-1/4} + t ] = \exp\{-t^2/d^{-1/2} \|x\|_4^2\}$$



# Controlling $\|x\|_4^2$

how to get  $\|x\|_4^2 = O(d^{1/2})$  ?

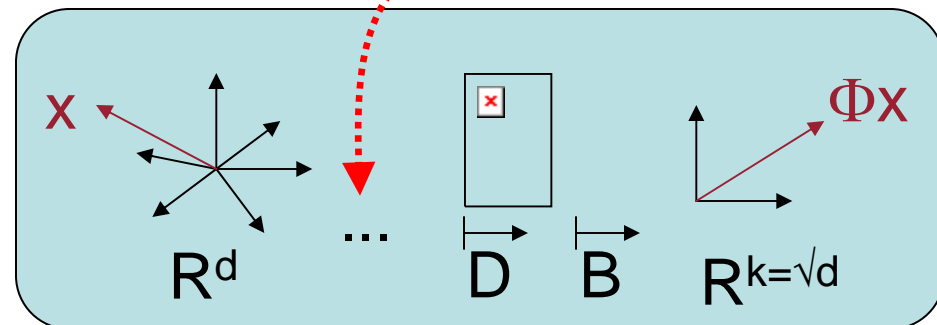
$$\Pr[ \|HDx\|_4 > d^{-1/4} + t ] = \exp\{-t^2/d^{-1/2}\|x\|_4^2\}$$

need some slack  $k=d^{1/2-\delta}$

max error probability for challenge:  $\exp\{-k\}$

$$k = t^2/d^{-1/2}\|x\|_4^2$$

$$\Rightarrow t = k^{1/2}d^{-1/4}\|x\|_4 = \|x\|_4 d^{-\delta/2}$$



# Controlling $\|x\|_4^2$

how to get  $\|x\|_4^2 = O(d^{-1/2})$  ?

first round:

$$\|HDx\|_4 < d^{-1/4} + \|x\|_4 d^{-\delta/2}$$

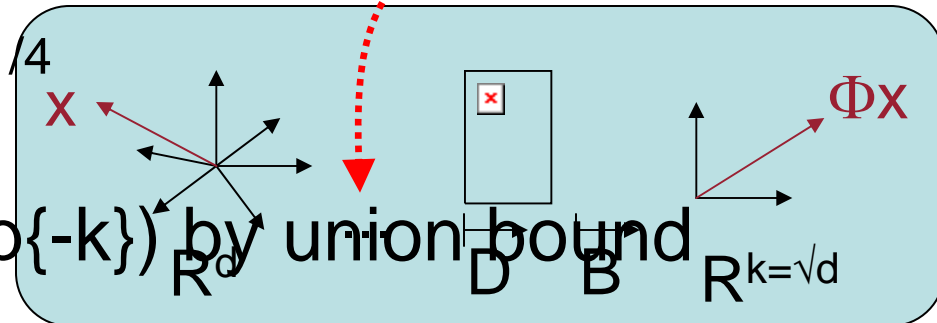
second round:

$$\|HD''HD'x\|_4 < d^{-1/4} + d^{-1/4-\delta/2} + \|x\|_4 d^{-\delta}$$

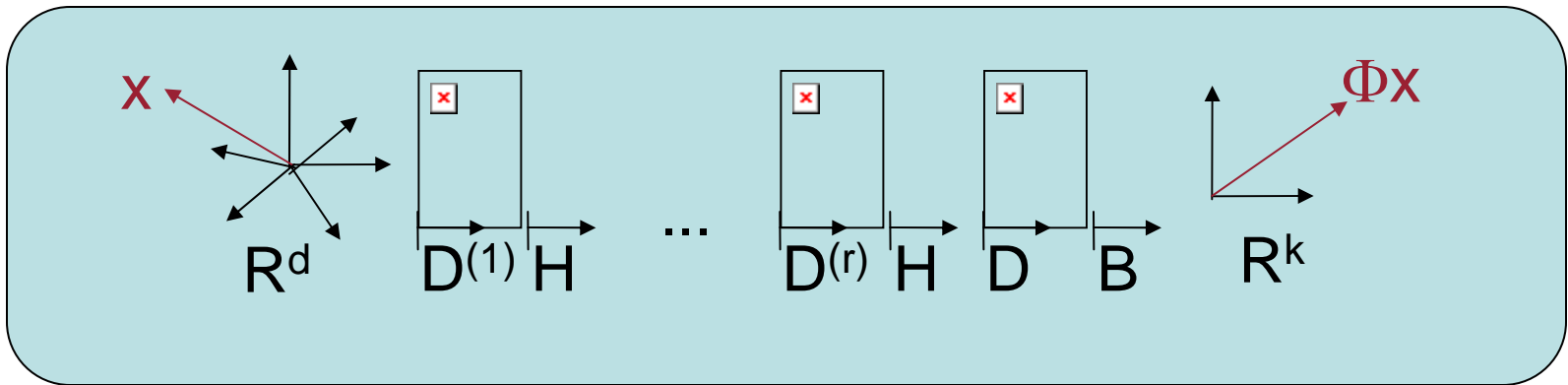
$r=O(1/\delta)$ 'th round:

$$\|HD^{(r)}\dots HD'x\|_4 < O(r)d^{-1/4}$$

... with probability  $1-O(\exp\{-k\})$  by union bound



# Algorithm for $k=d^{1/2-\delta}$



running time  $O(d \log d)$   
randomness  $O(d)$

# Open Problems

- Go beyond  $k=d^{1/2}$   
Conjecture: can do  $O(d \log d)$  for  $k=d^{1-\delta}$
- Approximate linear  $l_2$ -regression  
minimize  $\|Ax-b\|_2$  given  $A,b$  (overdetermined)
  - State of the art for *general inputs*:  
 $\tilde{O}(\text{linear time})$  for  $\#\{\text{variables}\} < \#\{\text{equations}\}^{1/3}$
  - Conjecture: can do  $\tilde{O}(\text{linear time})$  “always”
- What is the best you can do in linear time?  
[A, Liberty, Singer 08]



# Open Problem

## Worthy of Own Slide

- Prove that JL onto  $k=d^{1/3}$  (say) with distortion  $\varepsilon=1/4$  (say) requires  $\Omega(d \log(d))$  time
- This would establish similar lower bound for FFT
  - Long standing dormant open problem