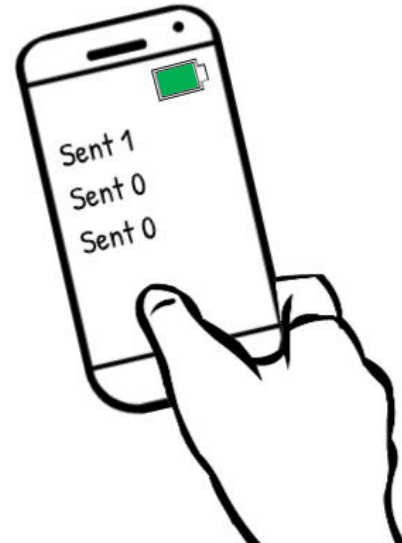
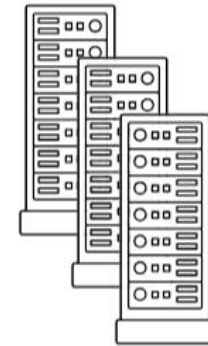
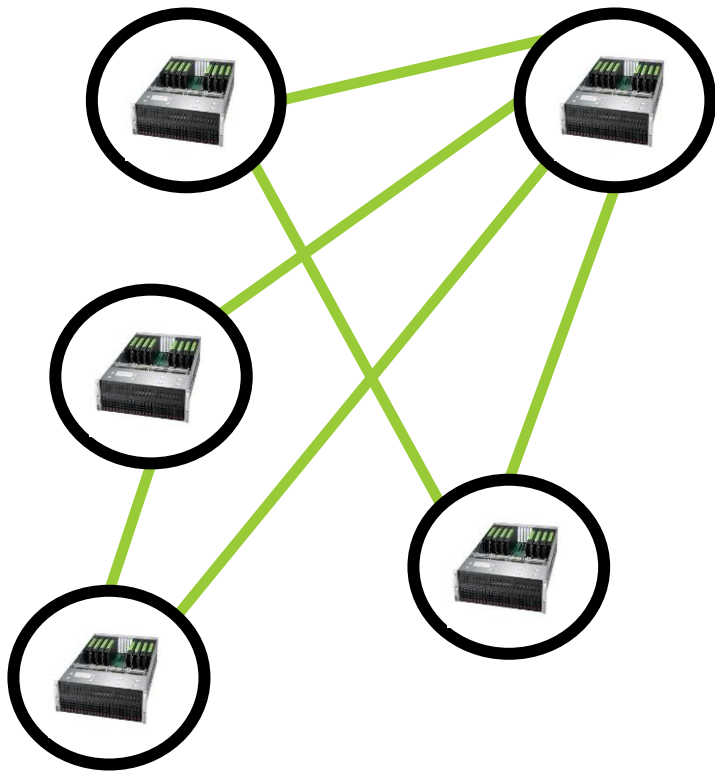


# DRIVE: One-bit Distributed Mean Estimation

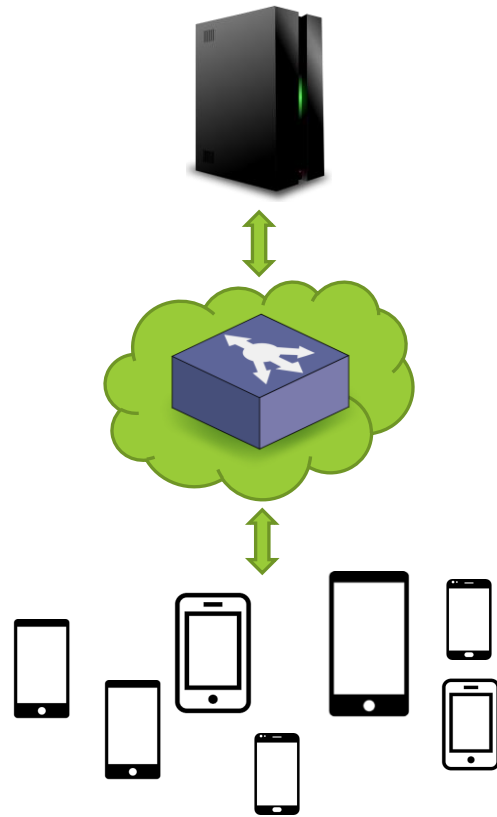
Shay Vargaftik (VMware Research)  
Ran Ben-Basat (University College London)  
Amit Portnoy (Ben-Gurion University)  
Gal Mendelson (Stanford University)  
Yaniv Ben-Itzhak (VMware Research)  
Michael Mitzenmacher (Harvard University)



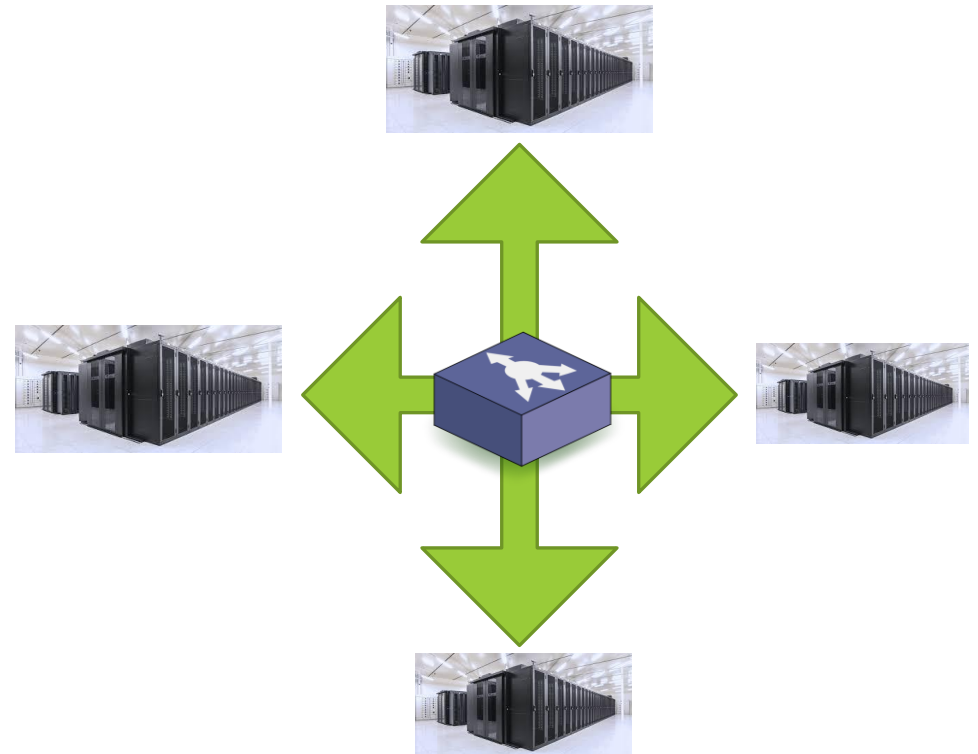
# Distributed/Federated Learning



Distributed



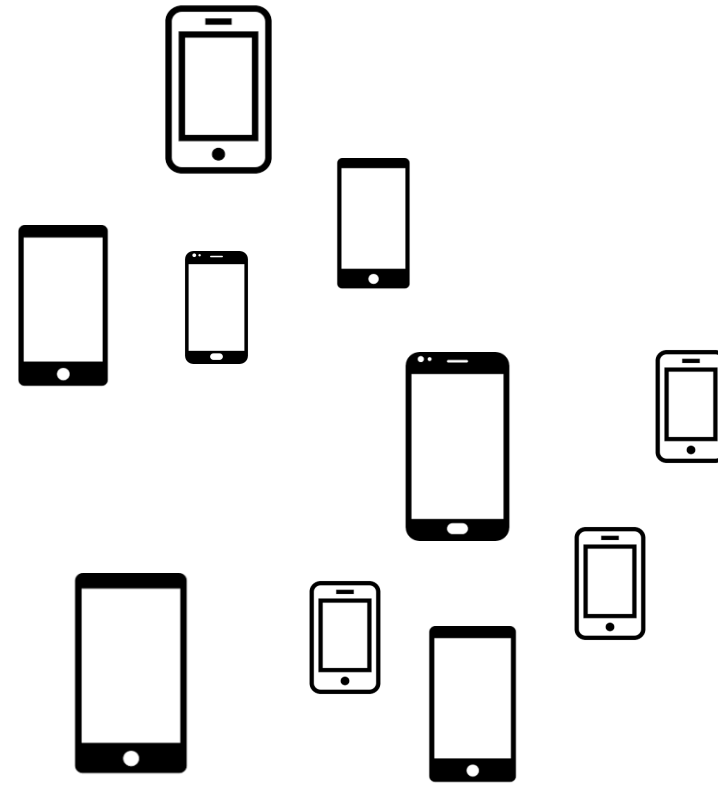
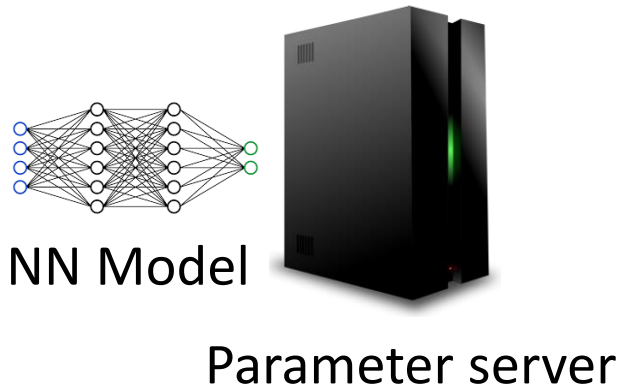
Federated – “cross device”



Federated – “cross silo”

# Communication Is a Bottleneck

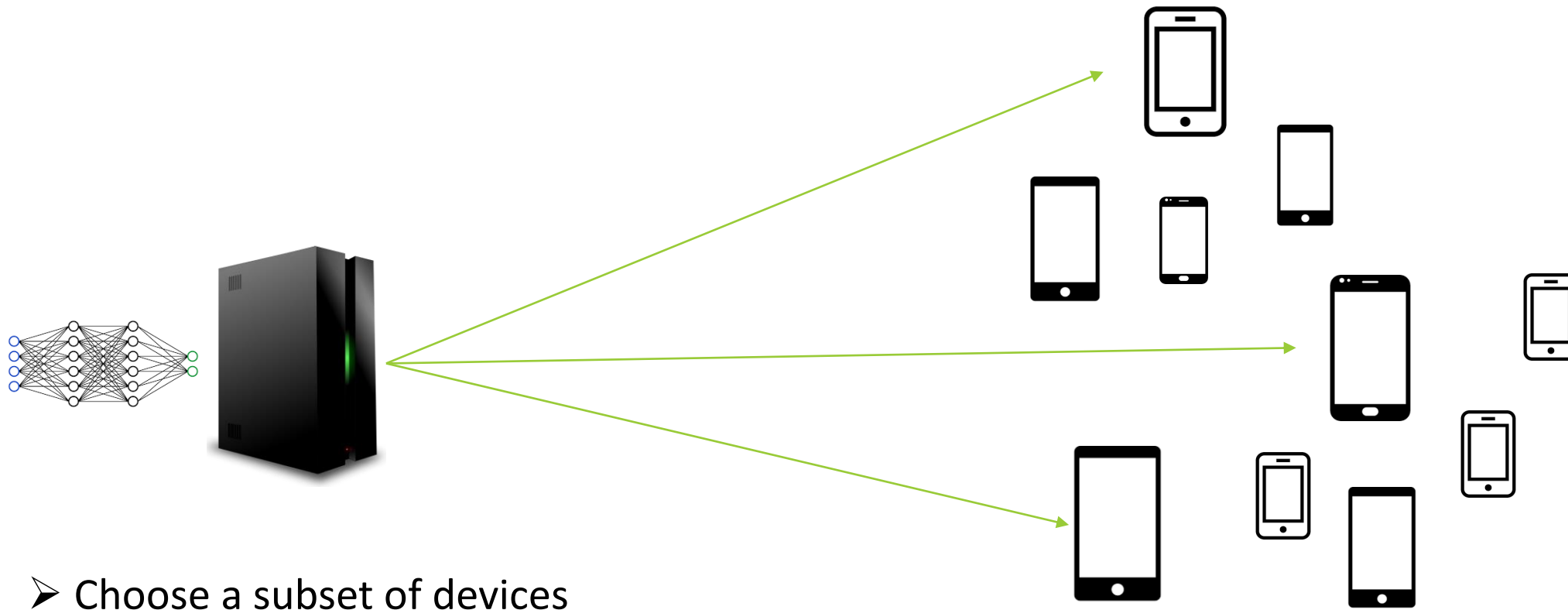
---



\* McMahan, et al. "Communication-Efficient Learning of Deep Networks from Decentralized Data." AISTATS, 2017.

# Communication Is a Bottleneck

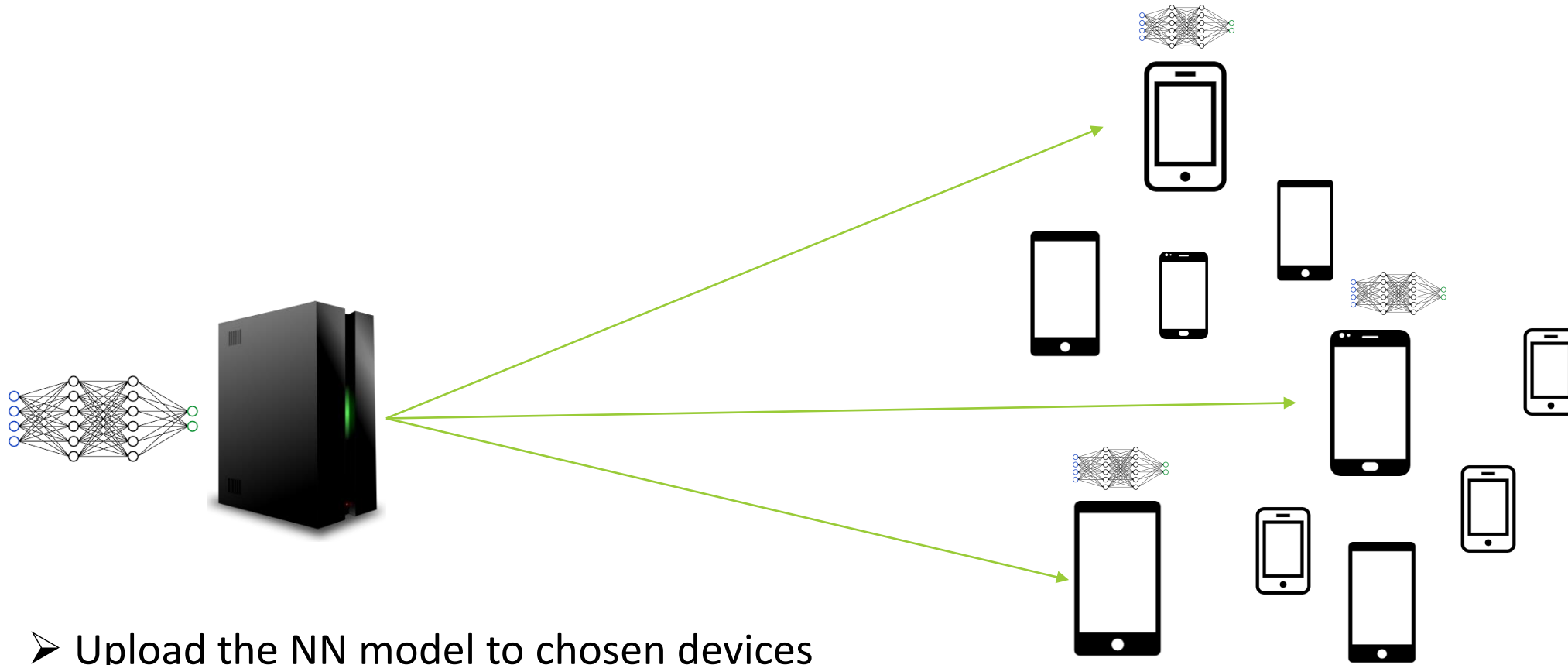
---



➤ Choose a subset of devices

# Communication Is a Bottleneck

---



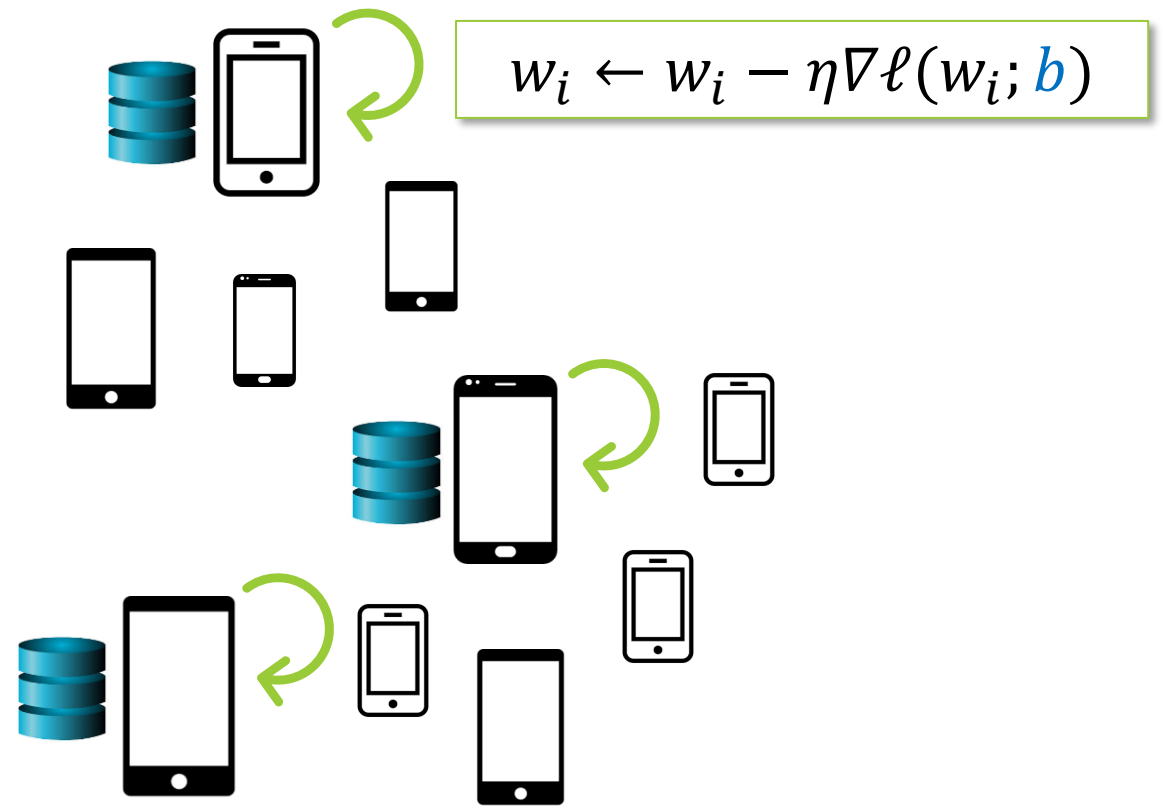
➤ Upload the NN model to chosen devices

# Communication Is a Bottleneck

---

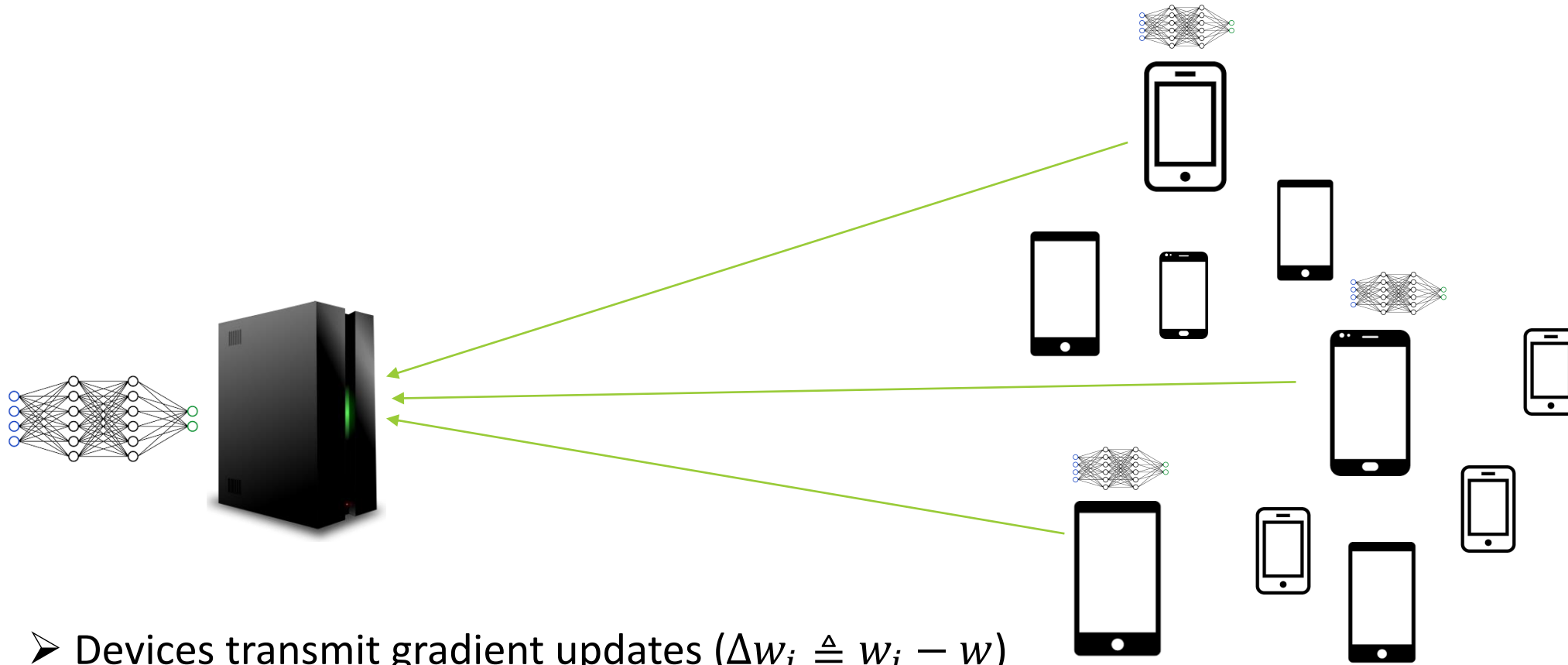


➤ Devices perform local training



# Communication Is a Bottleneck

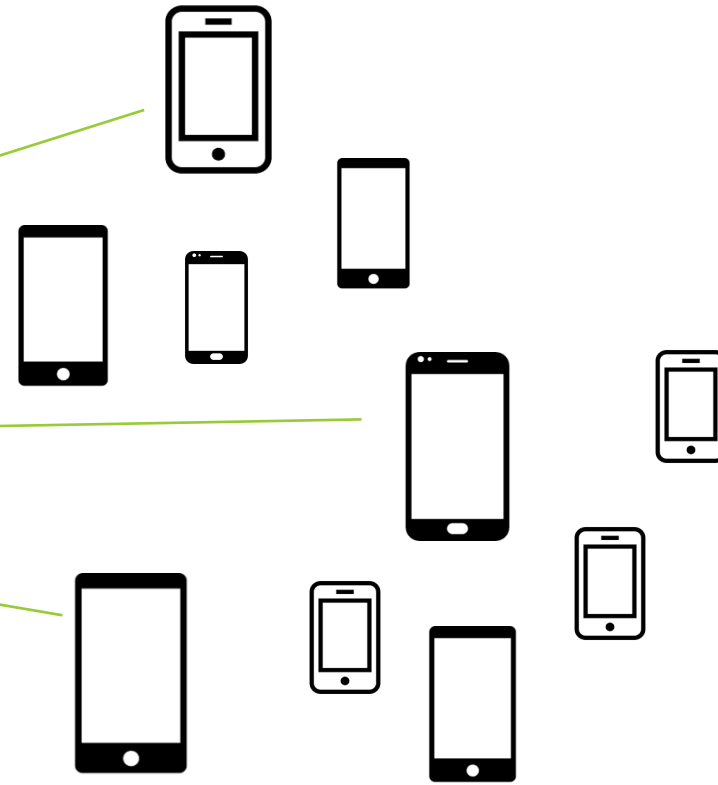
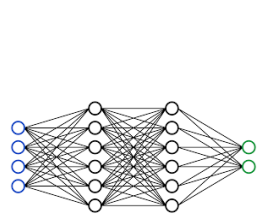
---



# Communication Is a Bottleneck

---

$$w \leftarrow w + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta w_i$$

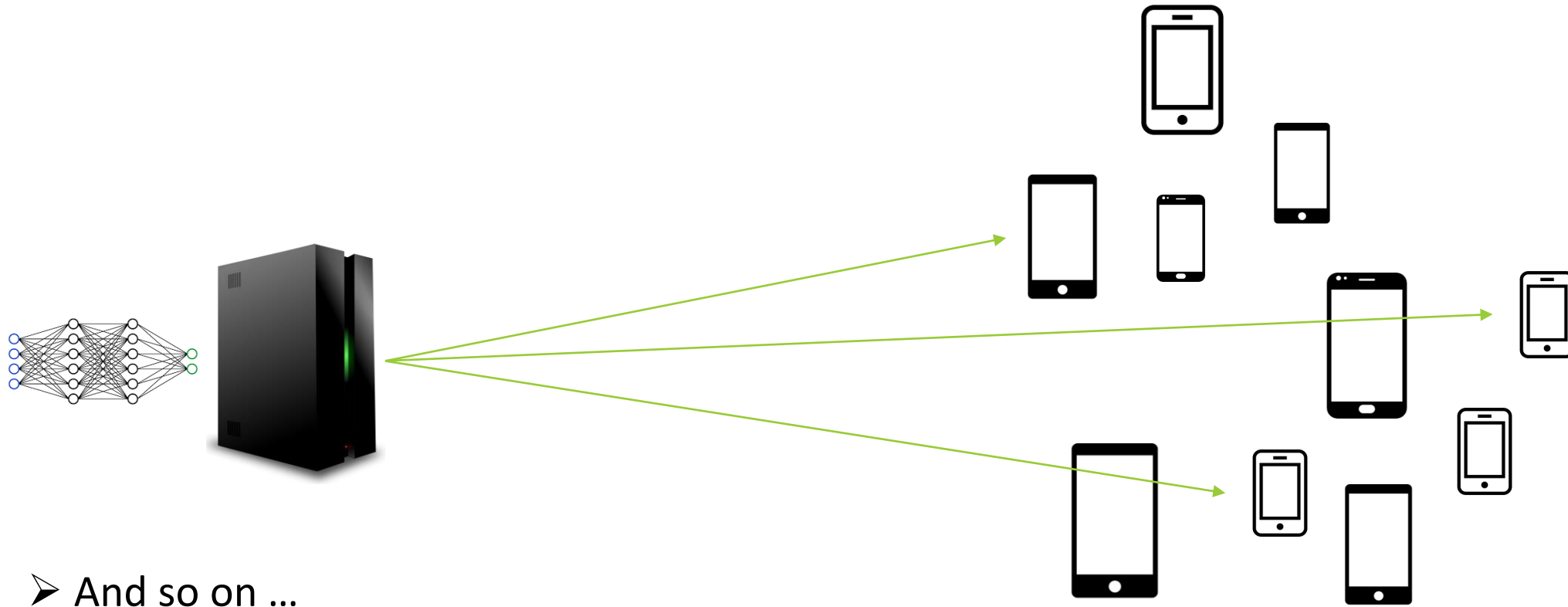


➤ Averaging the updates and updating the model



# Communication Is a Bottleneck

---



➤ And so on ...

# Reducing Communication

---

- Compression (reducing message size)
- Increasing computation to communication ratio

# Vector Estimation

---

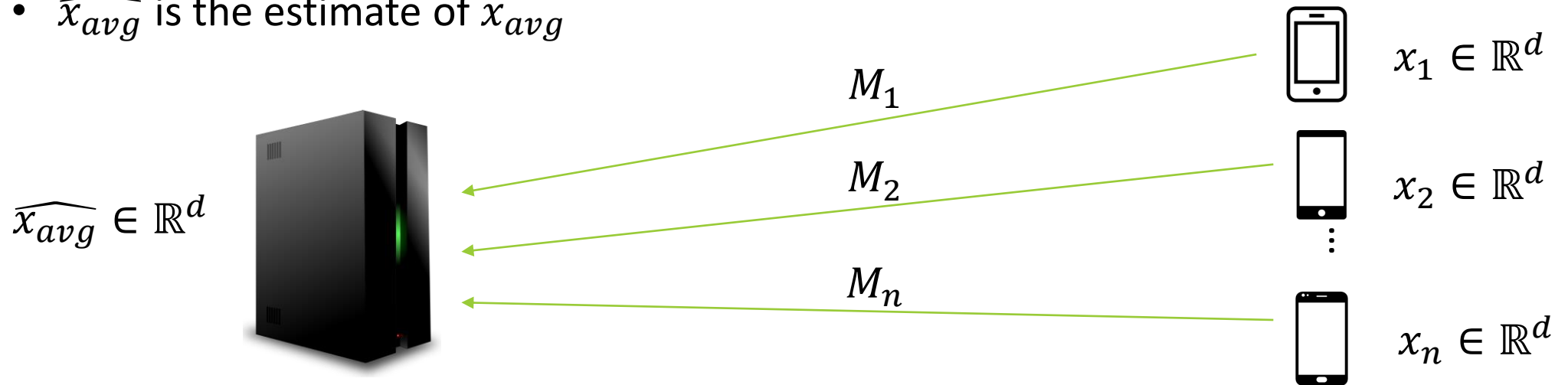
**Minimize: *vector Normalized Mean Squared Error (vNMSE)***  $\triangleq \frac{\mathbb{E}\|x - \hat{x}\|_2^2}{\|x\|_2^2}$



# Distributed Mean Estimation

**Minimize: Normalized Mean Squared Error (NMSE)**  $\triangleq \frac{\mathbb{E} \|x_{avg} - \widehat{x}_{avg}\|_2^2}{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \|x_i\|_2^2}$

- $x_{avg} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$
- $\widehat{x}_{avg}$  is the estimate of  $x_{avg}$

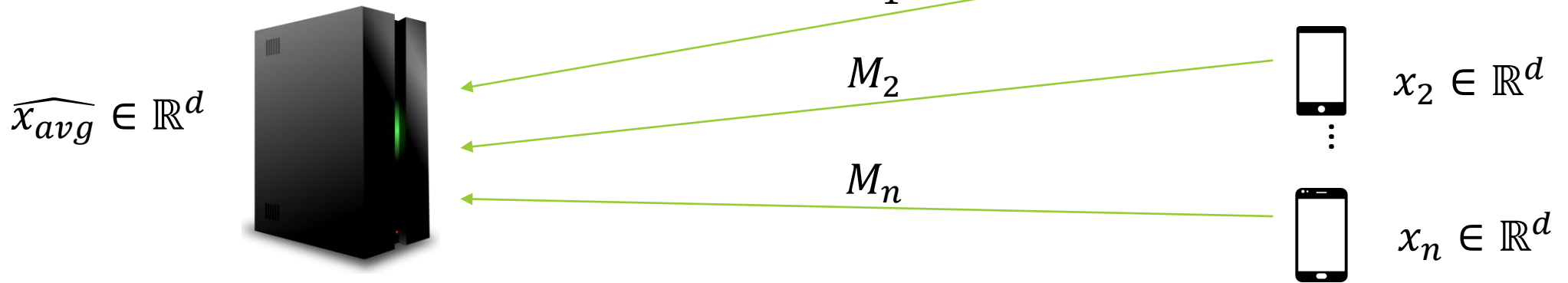


# One-bit Distributed Mean Estimation

**Minimize: Normalized Mean Squared Error (NMSE)**  $\triangleq \frac{\mathbb{E} \|x_{avg} - \widehat{x}_{avg}\|_2^2}{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \|x_i\|_2^2}$

- $x_{avg} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$
- $\widehat{x}_{avg}$  is the estimate of  $x_{avg}$

$$|M_i| = d(1 + o(1))$$



# One-bit Distributed Mean Estimation

## Previous Works

---

	bits/client ( $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$ )	NMSE
[1]	$O(d)$	$O\left(\frac{\log d}{n}\right)^{(1)}, O\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)^{(2)}$
[2]	$d(1 + o(1))$	$O\left(\frac{r \cdot R}{n}\right)$
[3] (also see [4, 5])	$\lambda \cdot d(1 + o(1)), \lambda > 1$	$O\left(\frac{\lambda^2}{(\sqrt{\lambda}-1)^4 \cdot n}\right)$
<b>DRIVE (this work)</b>	$d(1 + o(1))$	$O\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)$ ; for $d \gg 1$ : $\frac{\frac{\pi}{2} - 1}{n} \approx \frac{0.571}{n}$

[1] Suresh, et al. "Distributed mean estimation with limited communication." *ICML*, 2017.

[2] Konečný, et al. "Randomized distributed mean estimation: Accuracy vs. communication." *Frontiers in Applied Mathematics and Statistics*, 2018.

[3] Safaryan, et al. "Uncertainty principle for communication compression in distributed and federated learning and the search for an optimal compressor." *arXiv*, 2020.

[4] Caldas, et al. "Expanding the reach of federated learning by reducing client resource requirements." *arXiv*, 2018.

[5] Lyubarskii, et al. "Uncertainty principles and vector quantization." *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, 2010.

# One-bit/coordinate in DNN training

## Previous Works

---

### ➤ 1 bit/coordinate:

- 1-bit SGD [INTERSPEECH, 2014]
- SignSGD [ICML, 2018-9][ICLR, 2019]
- SIGNUM [ICLR, 2019]
- ...

up to **32X** savings in  
parameter-update  
communication compared to  
non-compressed solution

### ➤ Few bits/coordinate:

- TernGrad [NeurIPS, 2017]
- QSGD [NeurIPS, 2017]
- Sketched-SGD [NeurIPS, 2019]
- FetchSGD [ICML, 2020]
- ...

# Notations and Definitions

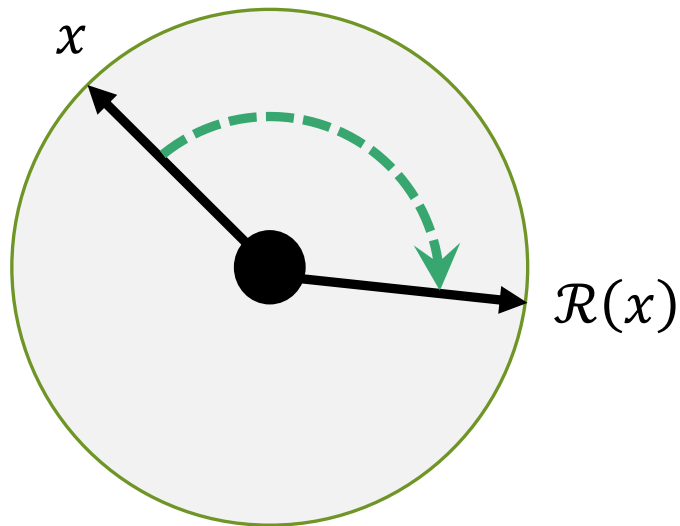
## Rotation

---

- $R$  is a rotation matrix ( $R^{-1}R = R^T R = I$ )

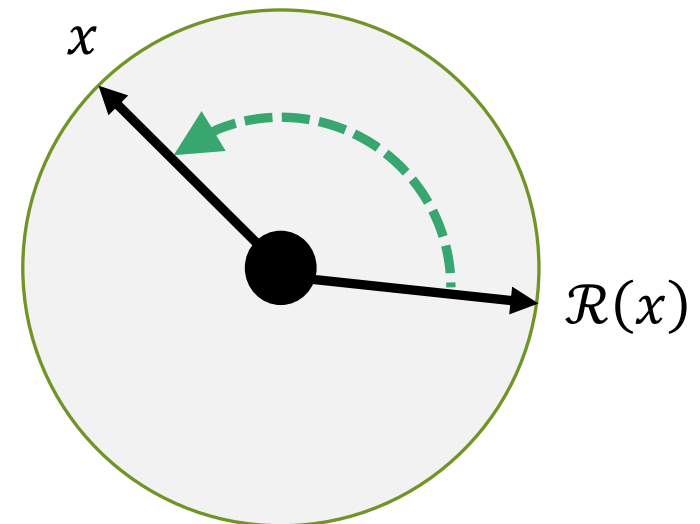
Rotation:

$$\mathcal{R}(x) \triangleq R \cdot x \in \mathbb{R}^d$$



Inverse rotation:

$$\mathcal{R}^{-1}(\mathcal{R}(x)) \triangleq R^T R \cdot x = x \in \mathbb{R}^d$$



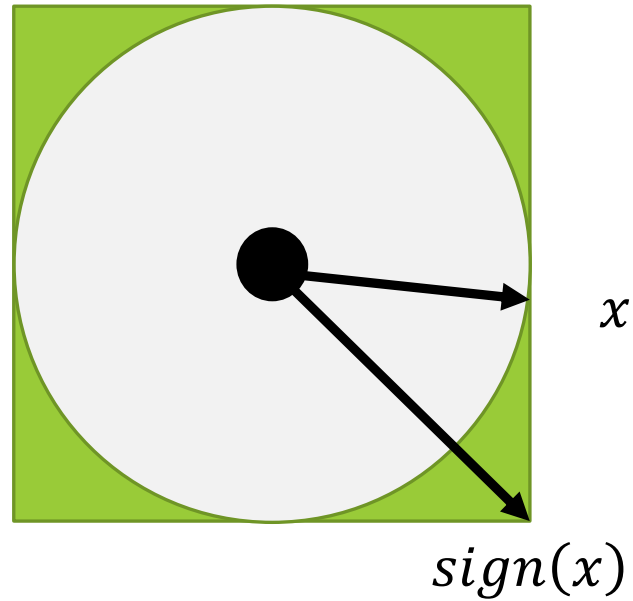


# Notations and Definitions

## Sign

---

- $sign(x) \in \{-1, 1\}^d$

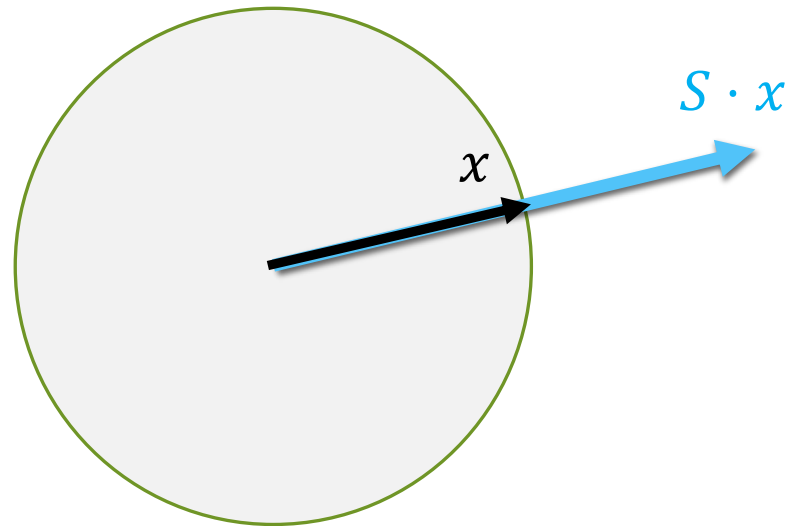


# Notations and Definitions

## Scale

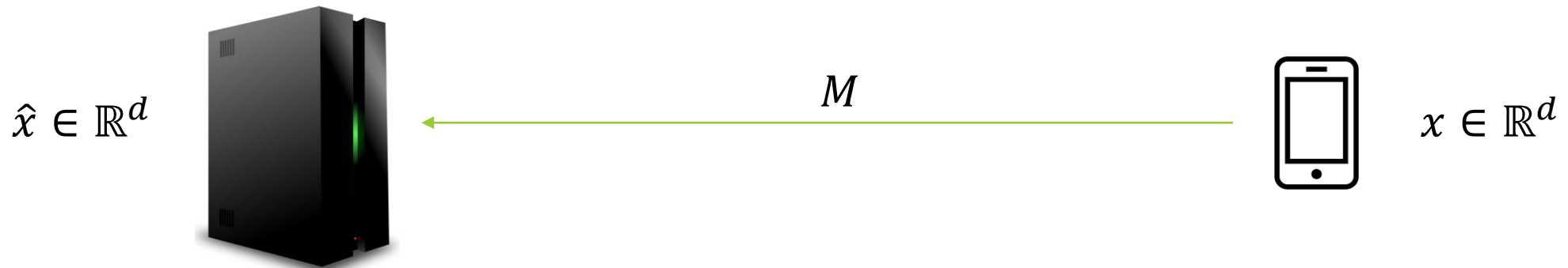
---

- $S \in \mathbb{R}$  is a scale



# DRIVE - Deterministically Rounding randomly rotated Vectors

- $R$  is a rotation matrix
- $S \in \mathbb{R}$  is a scale
- $\mathcal{R}(x) \triangleq R \cdot x \in \mathbb{R}^d$
- $\text{sign}(\mathcal{R}(x)) \in \{-1, 1\}^d$

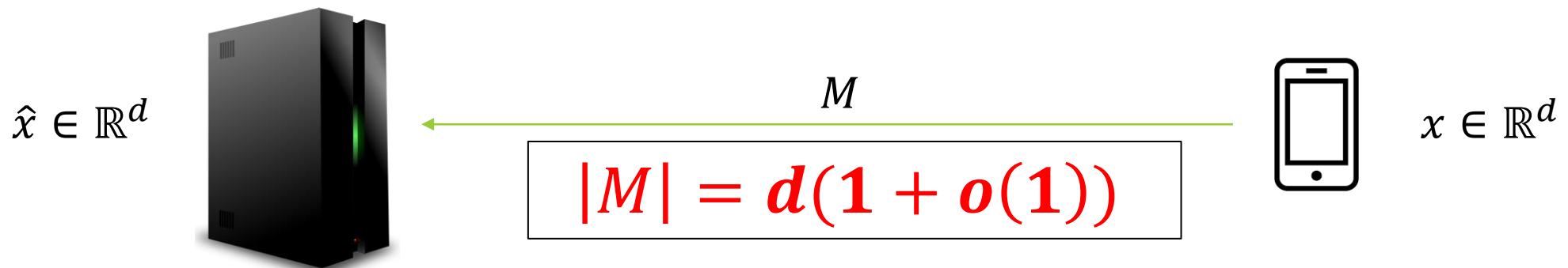


# DRIVE - Deterministically Rounding randomly rotated Vectors

- $R$  is a rotation matrix
- $S \in \mathbb{R}$  is a scale
- $\mathcal{R}(x) \triangleq R \cdot x \in \mathbb{R}^d$
- $\text{sign}(\mathcal{R}(x)) \in \{-1, 1\}^d$

Compress:

1. Compute:  $\mathcal{R}(x), S$
2. Send:  $M = (\text{sign}(\mathcal{R}(x)), S)$



# DRIVE - Deterministically Rounding randomly rotated Vectors

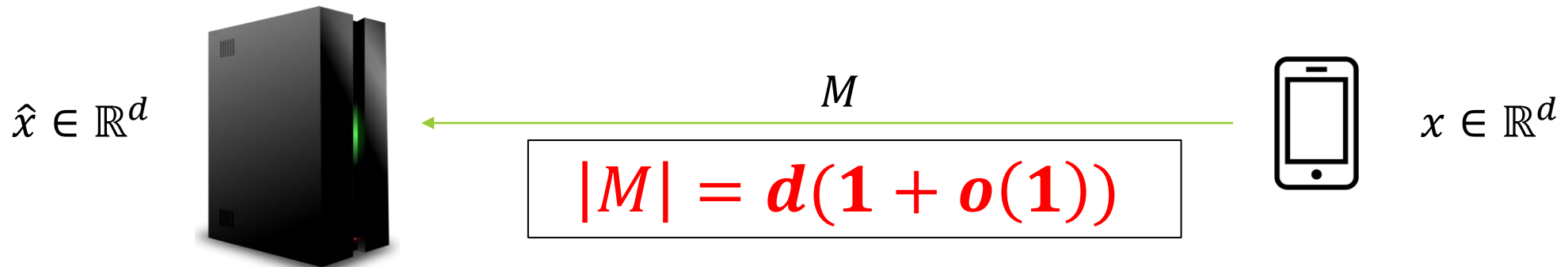
- $R$  is a rotation matrix
- $S \in \mathbb{R}$  is a scale
- $\mathcal{R}(x) \triangleq R \cdot x \in \mathbb{R}^d$
- $\text{sign}(\mathcal{R}(x)) \in \{-1, 1\}^d$

Decompress:

1. Compute:  $\widehat{\mathcal{R}(x)} = S \cdot \text{sign}(\mathcal{R}(x))$
2. Estimate:  $\hat{x} = \mathcal{R}^{-1}(\widehat{\mathcal{R}(x)})$

Compress:

1. Compute:  $\mathcal{R}(x), S$
2. Send:  $M = (\text{sign}(\mathcal{R}(x)), S)$



# DRIVE's Properties

---

- Given  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ :
  - How to choose the rotation matrix  $R$ ?
  - How to set the scale  $S$ ?
  
- Considerations:
  - Guarantees
  - Complexity

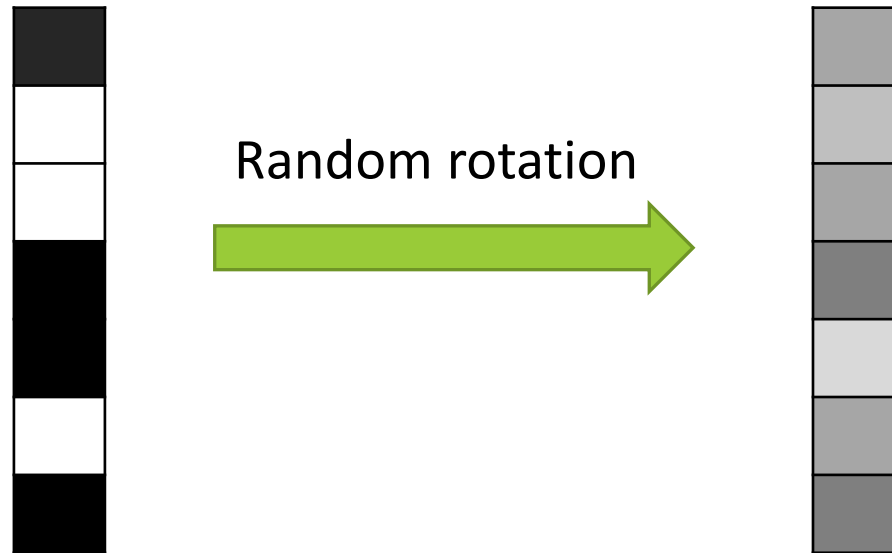
# Intuition Behind DRIVE

## Random rotation

---

Quantization leads to large error for unbalanced coordinates

- ✓ All coordinates follow the **same distribution** ( $\approx \mathcal{N}\left(0, \frac{\|x\|_2^2}{d}\right)$  for  $d \gg 1$ )



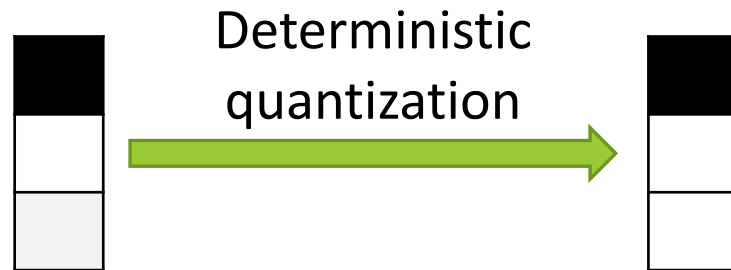
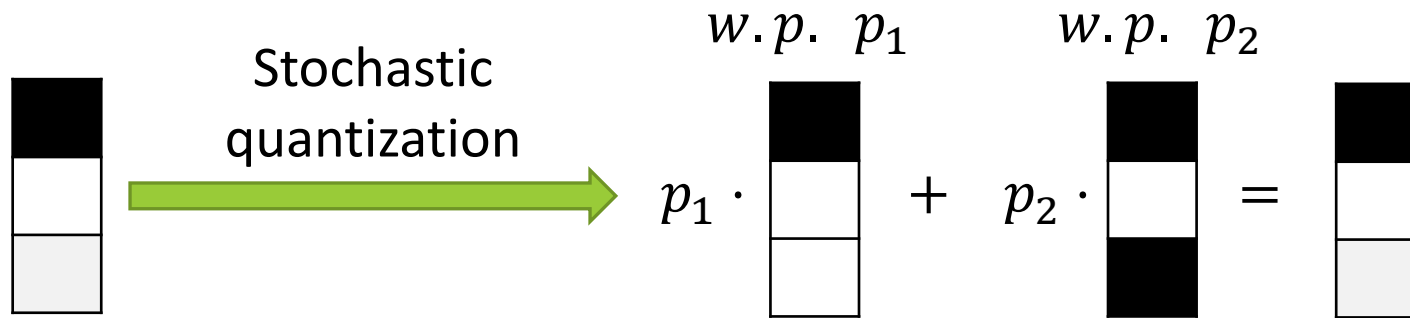
# Intuition Behind DRIVE

Deterministic rounding + Rescaling

---

Stochastic Quantization is unbiased but leads to larger errors

- ✓ Proper rescaling can minimize error and/or make the **estimation unbiased**





# DRIVE With a Uniform Random Rotation

---

- $\mathcal{R}_U(x)$  is uniformly distributed on a  $d - 1$  dimensional sphere of radius  $\|x\|_2$
- Minimize  $\mathbf{v}NMSE$ . Set  $\mathbf{S} = \frac{\|\mathcal{R}_U(x)\|_1}{d}$ , then:
  - $\frac{\mathbb{E}\|x - \hat{x}\|_2^2}{\|x\|_2^2} = \left(1 - \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{d}\right) < 0.3634$

# DRIVE With a Uniform Random Rotation Is **Unbiased** With Proper Scaling

---

➤  $\mathcal{R}_U(x)$  is uniformly distributed on a  $d - 1$  dimensional sphere of radius  $\|x\|_2$

➤ Minimize **NMSE**. Set  $\mathcal{S} = \frac{\|x\|_2^2}{\|\mathcal{R}_U(x)\|_1}$ , then  $\mathbb{E}[\hat{x}] = x$  and:

- $\frac{\mathbb{E}\|x - \hat{x}\|_2^2}{\|x\|_2^2} \xrightarrow{(*)} \frac{\pi}{2} - 1 \approx 0.571$

- $\frac{\mathbb{E}\|x_{avg} - \widehat{x}_{avg}\|_2^2}{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \|x_i\|_2^2} \rightarrow \frac{0.571}{n}$

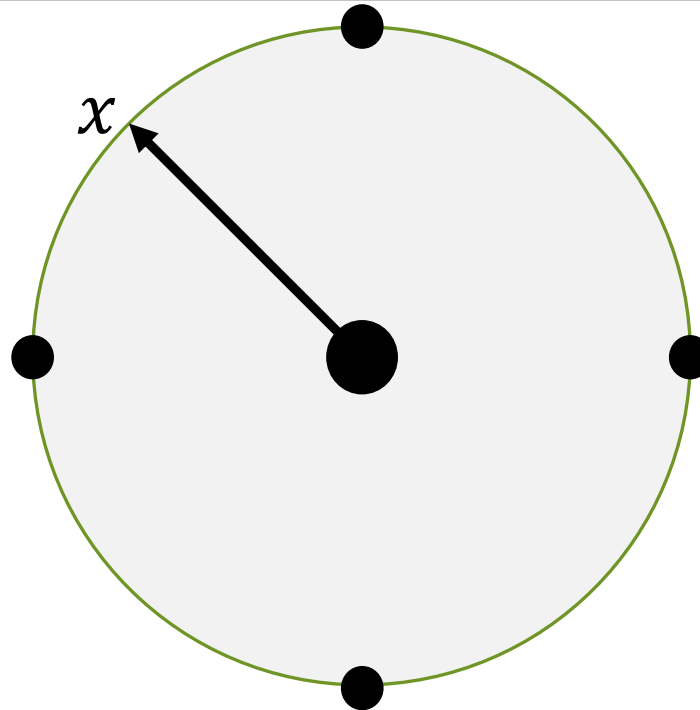
(\*) for  $d \geq 135$ ,  $\frac{\mathbb{E}\|x - \hat{x}\|_2^2}{\|x\|_2^2} \leq \frac{\pi}{2} - 1 + \frac{\sqrt{(6\pi^3 - 12\pi^2) \cdot \ln(d) + 1}}{d}$

# DRIVE With a Uniform Random Rotation Is **Unbiased** With Proper Scaling

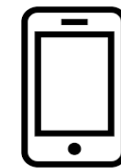
➤ For ease of exposition:

➤  $d = 2$

➤  $\text{sign}(\mathcal{R}(x)) \in \{-1, 0, 1\}^d$

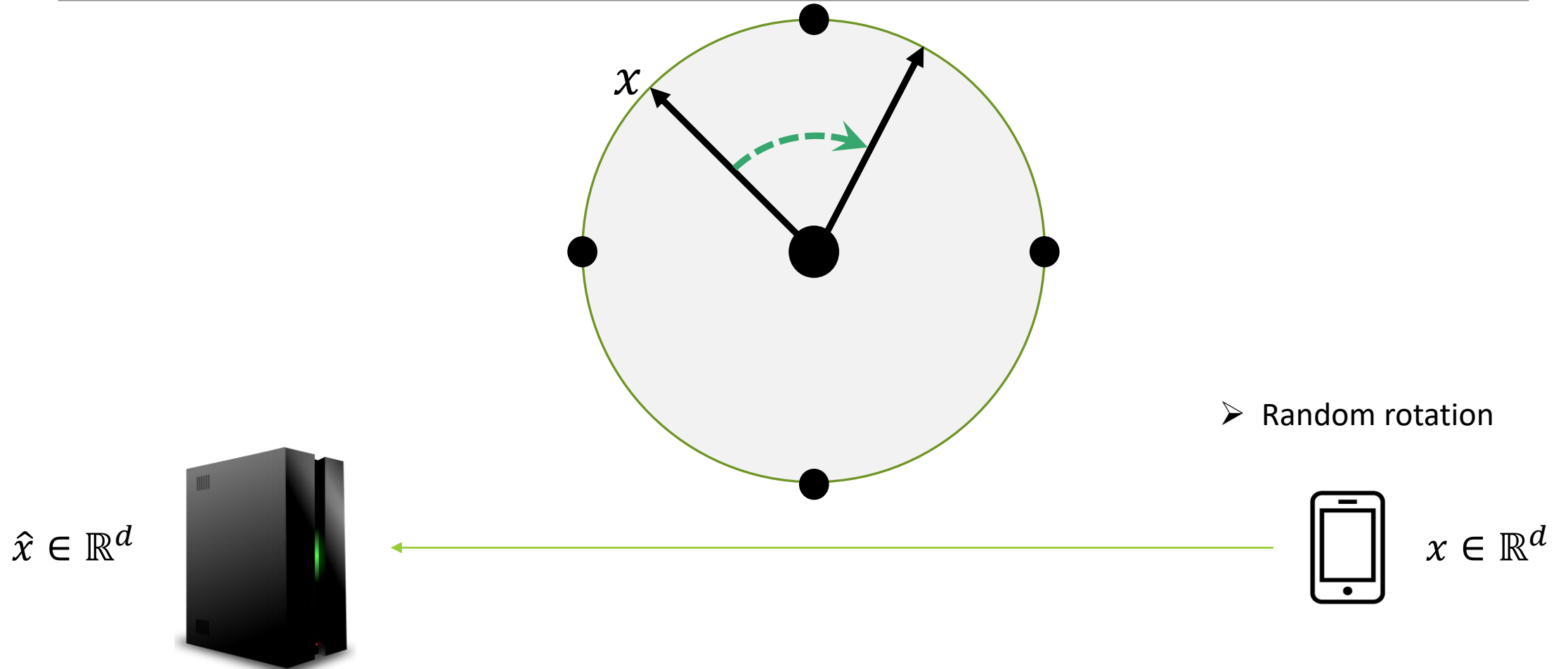


$\hat{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$

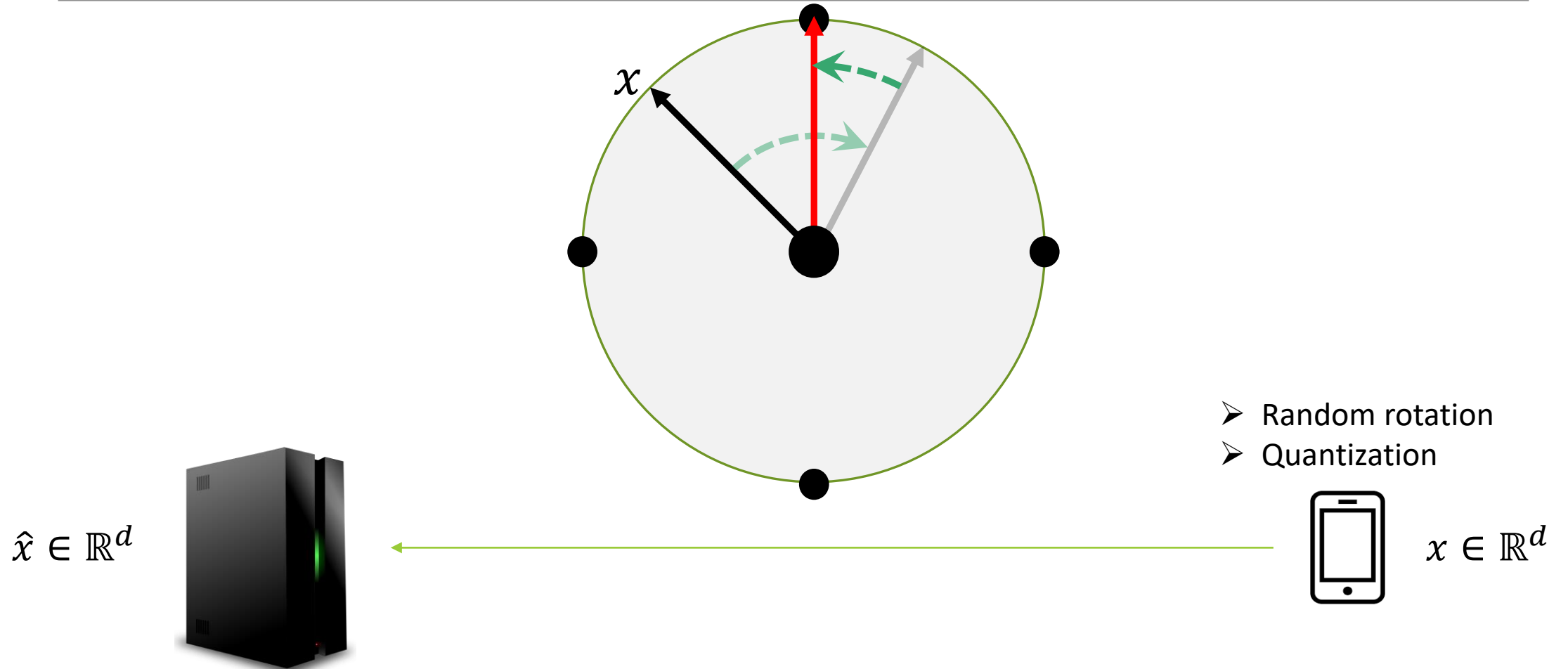


$x \in \mathbb{R}^d$

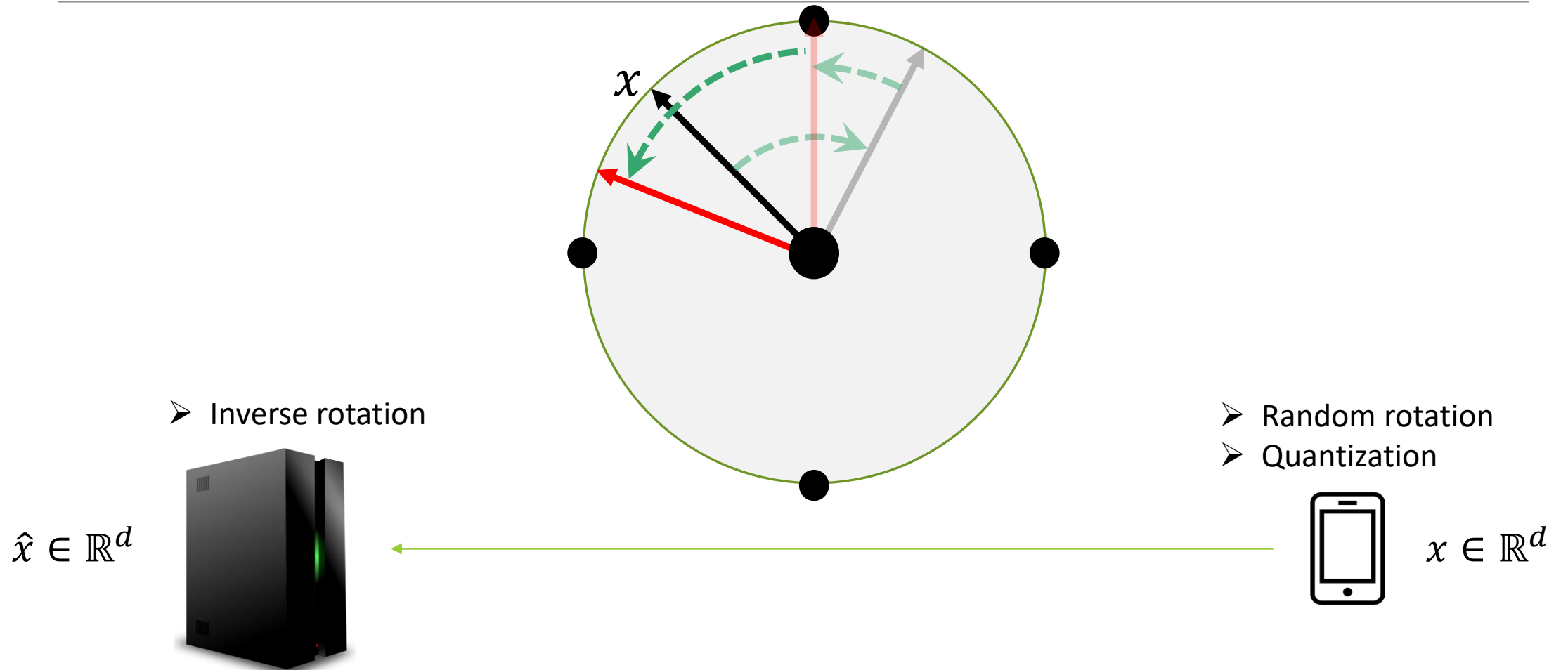
# DRIVE With a Uniform Random Rotation Is **Unbiased** With Proper Scaling



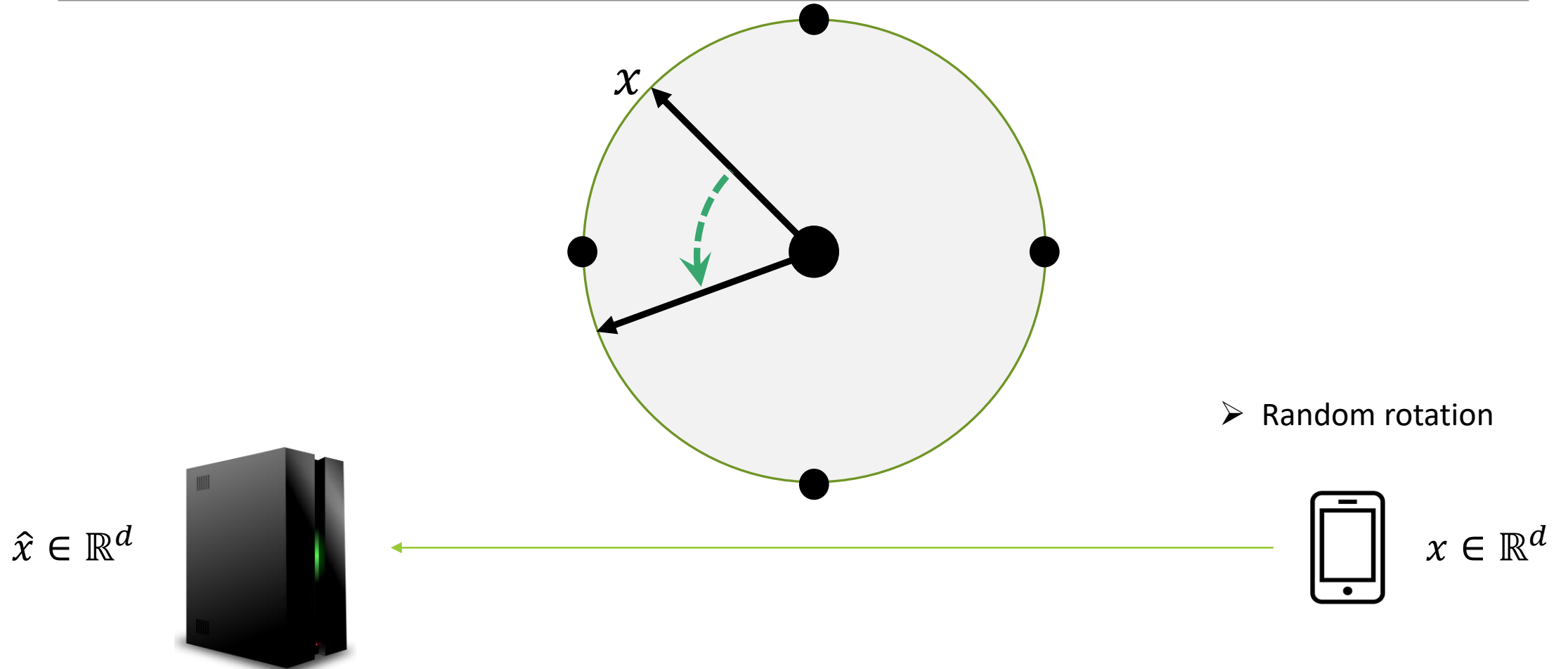
# DRIVE With a Uniform Random Rotation Is **Unbiased** With Proper Scaling



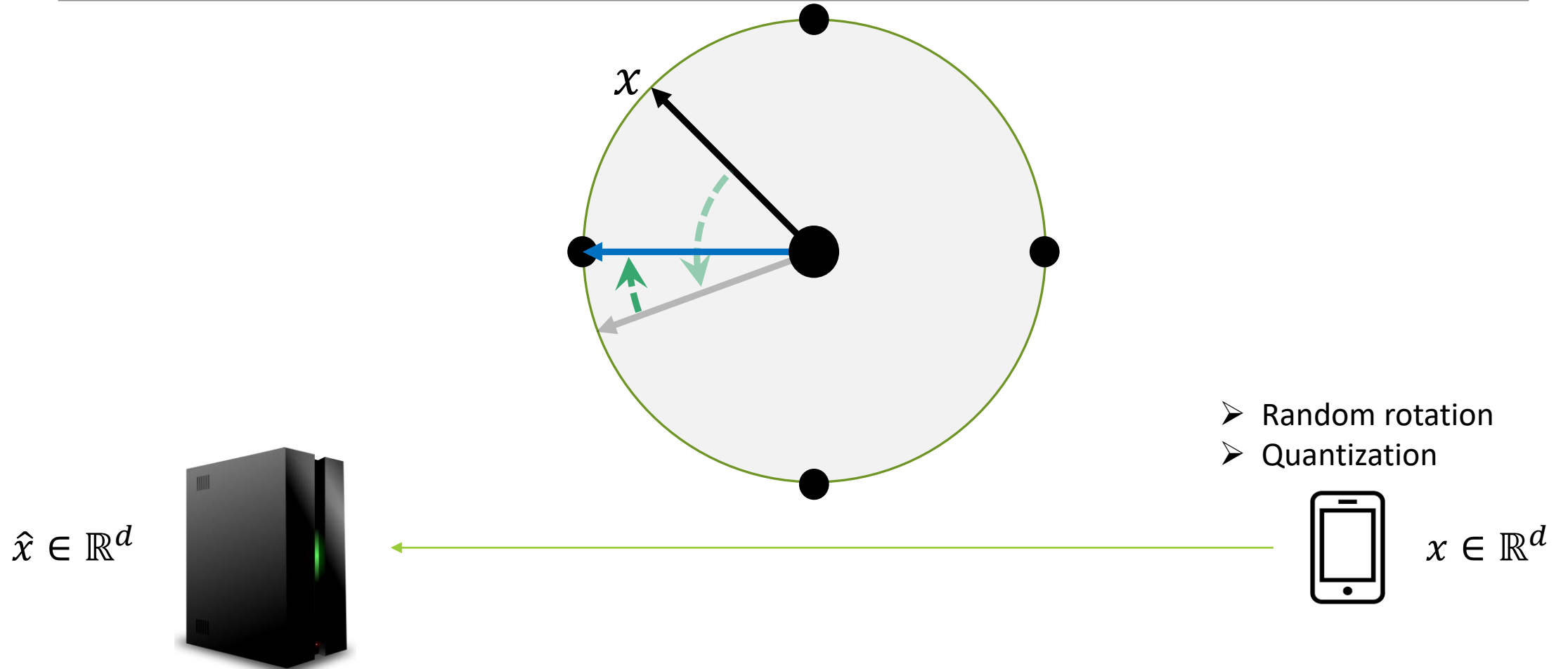
# DRIVE With a Uniform Random Rotation Is **Unbiased** With Proper Scaling



# DRIVE With a Uniform Random Rotation Is **Unbiased** With Proper Scaling

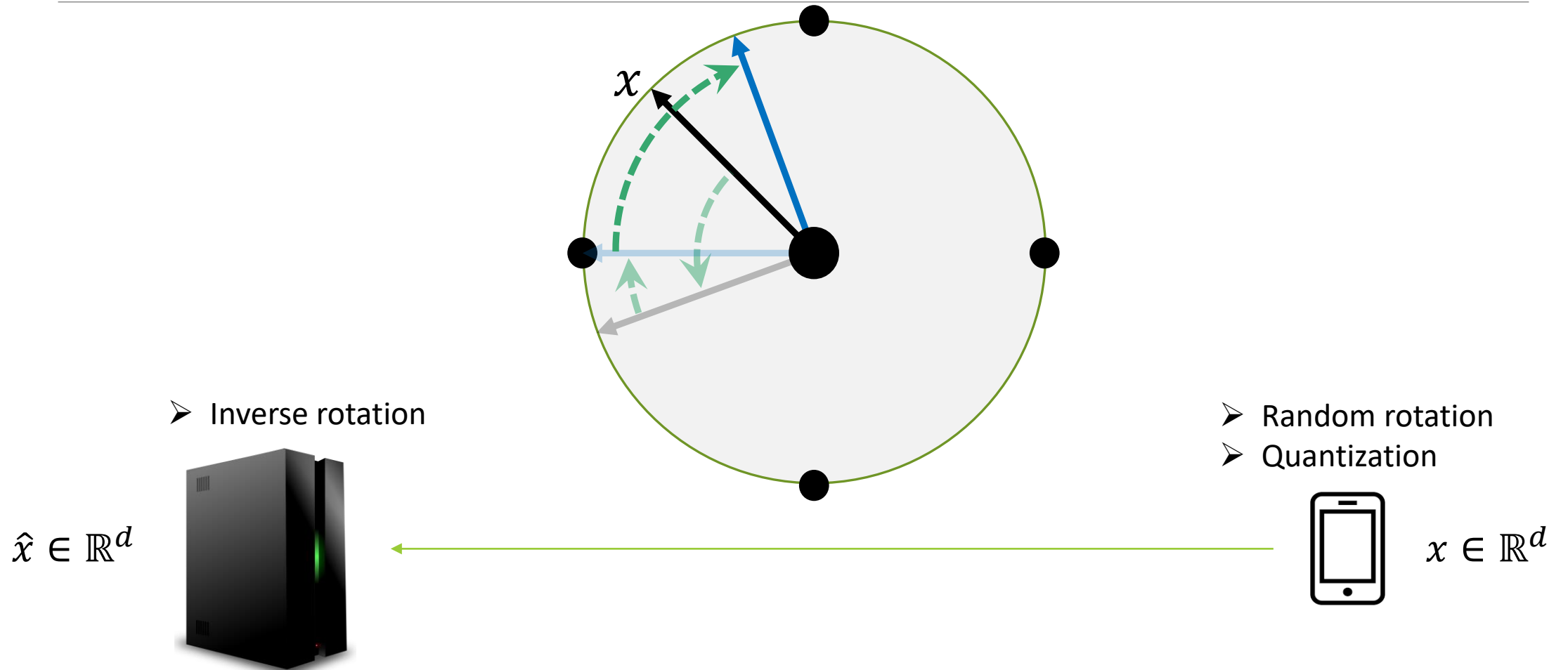


# DRIVE With a Uniform Random Rotation Is **Unbiased** With Proper Scaling



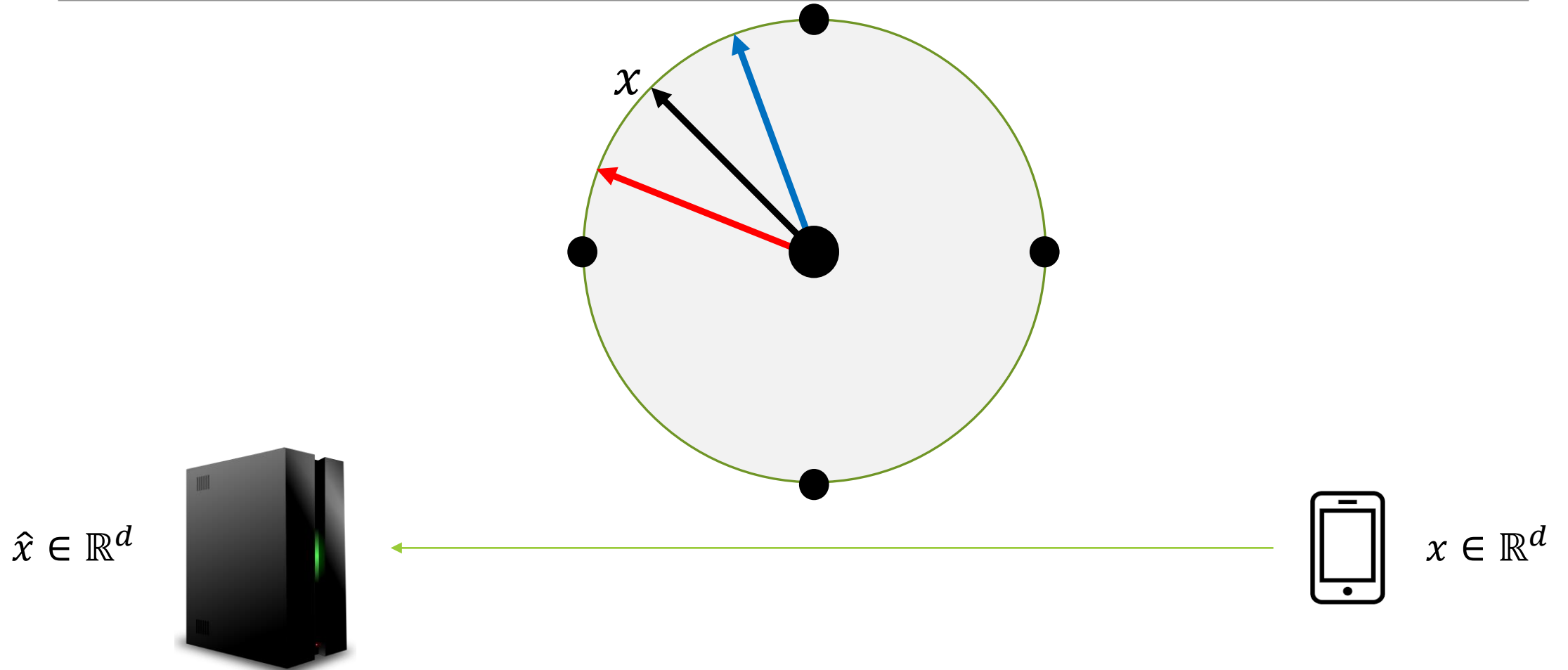


# DRIVE With a Uniform Random Rotation Is **Unbiased** With Proper Scaling

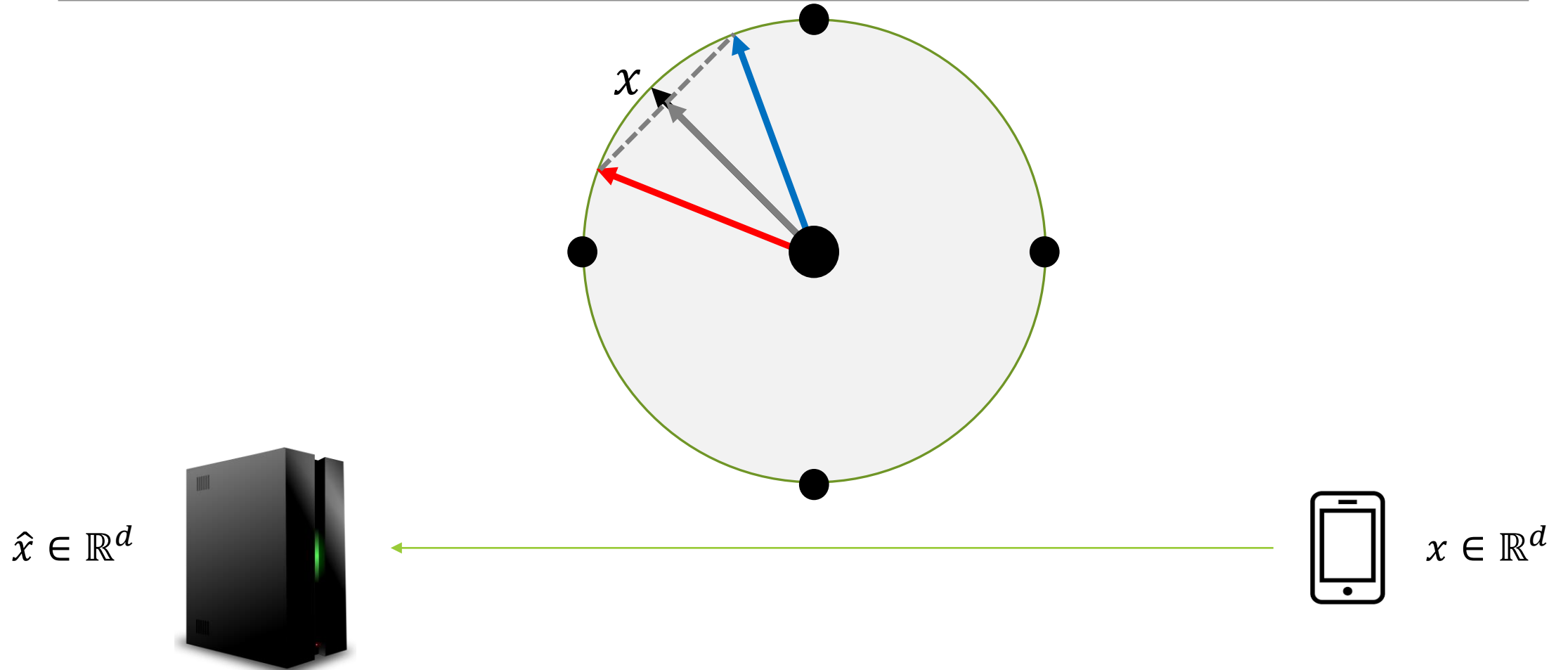


# DRIVE With a Uniform Random Rotation Is **Unbiased** With Proper Scaling

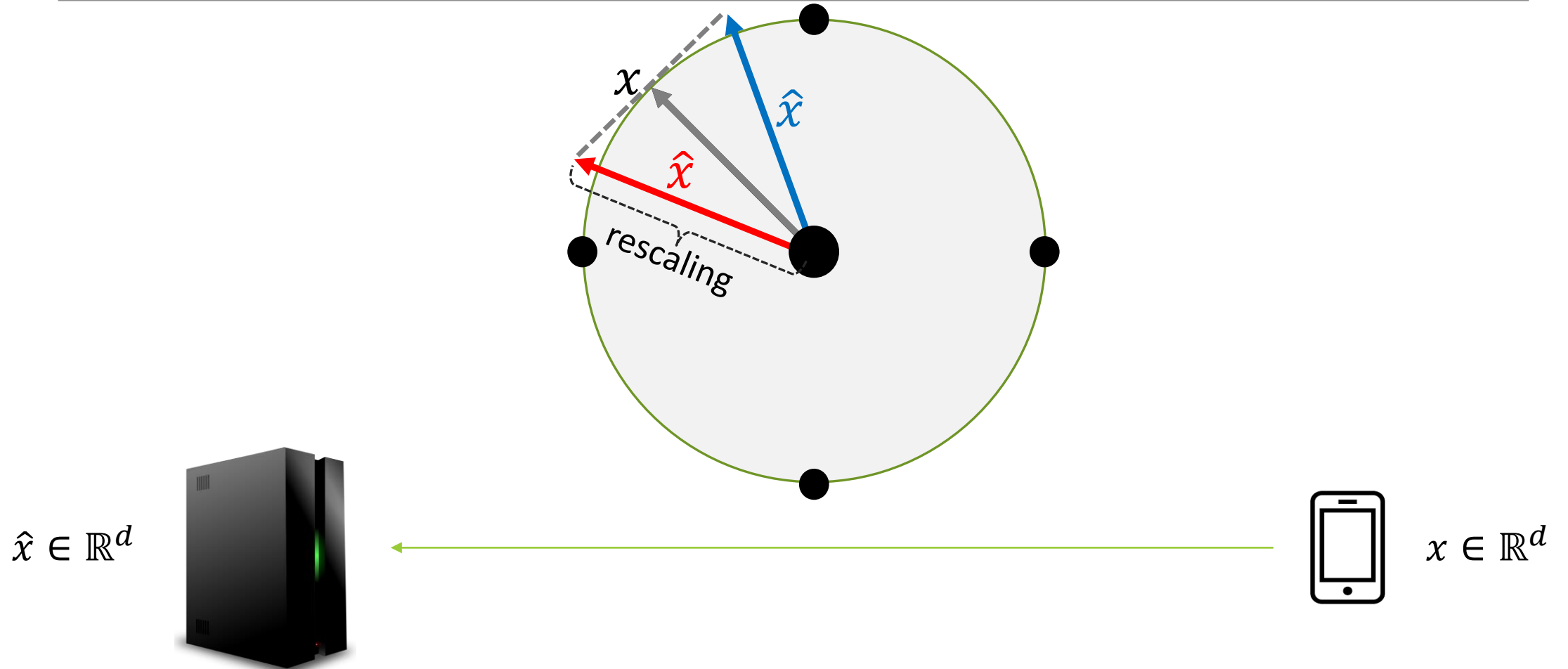
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# DRIVE With a Uniform Random Rotation Is **Unbiased** With Proper Scaling



# DRIVE With a Uniform Random Rotation Is **Unbiased** With Proper Scaling



# DRIVE With a Structured Random Rotation

---

Challenge: Uniform random rotation may not be sufficiently fast ( $O(d^3)$ )

Solution: Randomized Hadamard transform

- ✓  $O(d \cdot \log(d))$  time complexity
- ✓ GPU friendly in-place implementation
- ✓  $\approx 27$  ms for  $d = 33.5$  M

```
def hadamard(vec):  
  
    h = 2  
  
    while h <= vec.numel():  
  
        hf = h // 2  
        vec = vec.view(vec.numel() // h, h)  
  
        vec[:, :hf] = vec[:, :hf] + vec[:, hf:2 * hf]  
        vec[:, hf:2 * hf] = vec[:, :hf] - 2 * vec[:, hf:2 * hf]  
  
        h *= 2  
  
    vec /= np.sqrt(vec.numel())
```

\* Suresh, et al. "Distributed mean estimation with limited communication." *ICML*, 2017.

# DRIVE With a Structured Random Rotation

---

- $\mathcal{R}_H(x)$  depends on  $x$
- Defines a grid on a  $d - 1$  dimensional sphere of radius  $\|x\|_2$
- Minimize ***vNMSE***. Set  $S = \frac{\|\mathcal{R}_H(x)\|_1}{d}$ , then:
  - $\frac{\mathbb{E}\|x - \hat{x}\|_2^2}{\|x\|_2^2} \leq 0.5$  (instead of  $\approx 0.3634$  for  $\mathcal{R}_U(x)$ )

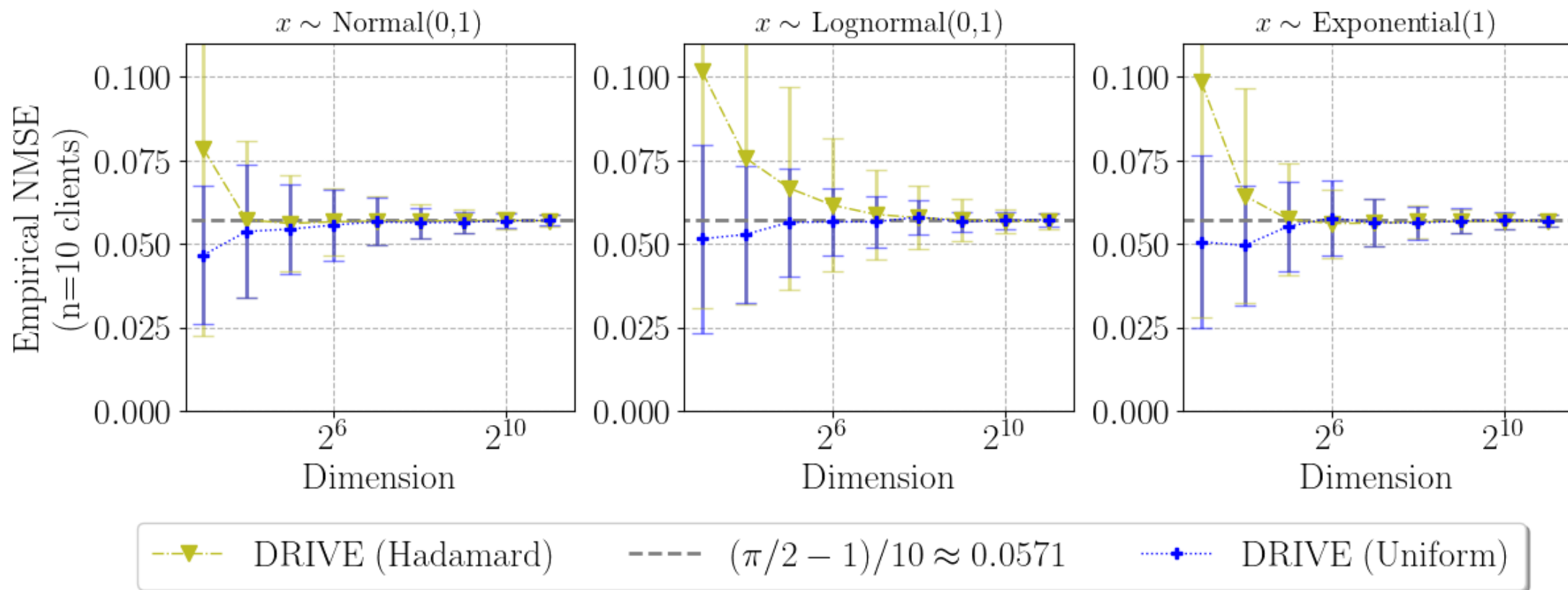
# DRIVE With a Structured Random Rotation

---

- $\mathcal{R}_H(x)$  depends on  $x$
- Defines a grid on a  $d - 1$  dimensional sphere of radius  $\|x\|_2$
- Minimize **NMSE**. Set  $S = \frac{\|x\|_2^2}{\|\mathcal{R}_H(x)\|_1}$ , then, if  $x$  admits finite moments:
  - For  $d \gg 1$ :  $\mathcal{R}_H(x) \approx \mathcal{R}_U(x)$  (converge to the same moments)
  - For  $d \gg 1$ :  $\mathbb{E}[\hat{x}] \approx x \rightarrow \frac{\mathbb{E}\|x_{avg} - \widehat{x_{avg}}\|_2^2}{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \|x_i\|_2^2} \approx \frac{0.571}{n}$

\* Chmiel, et al. "Neural gradients are near-lognormal: improved quantized and sparse training." ICLR, 2021.

# DRIVE With a Structured Random Rotation





# DRIVE With a Structured Random Rotation

Overhead?  
PRNG seed!

```
def drive_compress(vec, prng):  
    """ randomize vec signs  
    radamacher_diagonal = 2 * torch.bernoulli(torch.ones(vec.numel(), device=vec.device) / 2, generator=prng) - 1  
    vec = vec * radamacher_diagonal  
  
    """ in-place Hadamard transform  
    hadamard_rotate(vec)  
  
    """ compute the scale  
    scale = torch.norm(vec,2)**2 / torch.norm(vec,1)  
  
    """ compute the sign of the rotated vector  
    sign_rvec = 1.0-2*(vec<0)  
  
    """ send the sign vector of the rotated vector and its scale  
    return sign_rvec, scale  
  
def drive_decompress(compressed_vec, scale, prng):  
    """ in-place Hadamard transform (inverse)  
    hadamard_rotate(compressed_vec)  
  
    """ restore vec signs using a matching radamacher diagonal - uses the same PRNG seed as the sender  
    radamacher_diagonal = 2 * torch.bernoulli(torch.ones(vec.numel(), device=vec.device) / 2, generator=prng) - 1  
    compressed_vec = compressed_vec * radamacher_diagonal  
  
    """ scale and return  
    return scale * compressed_vec
```

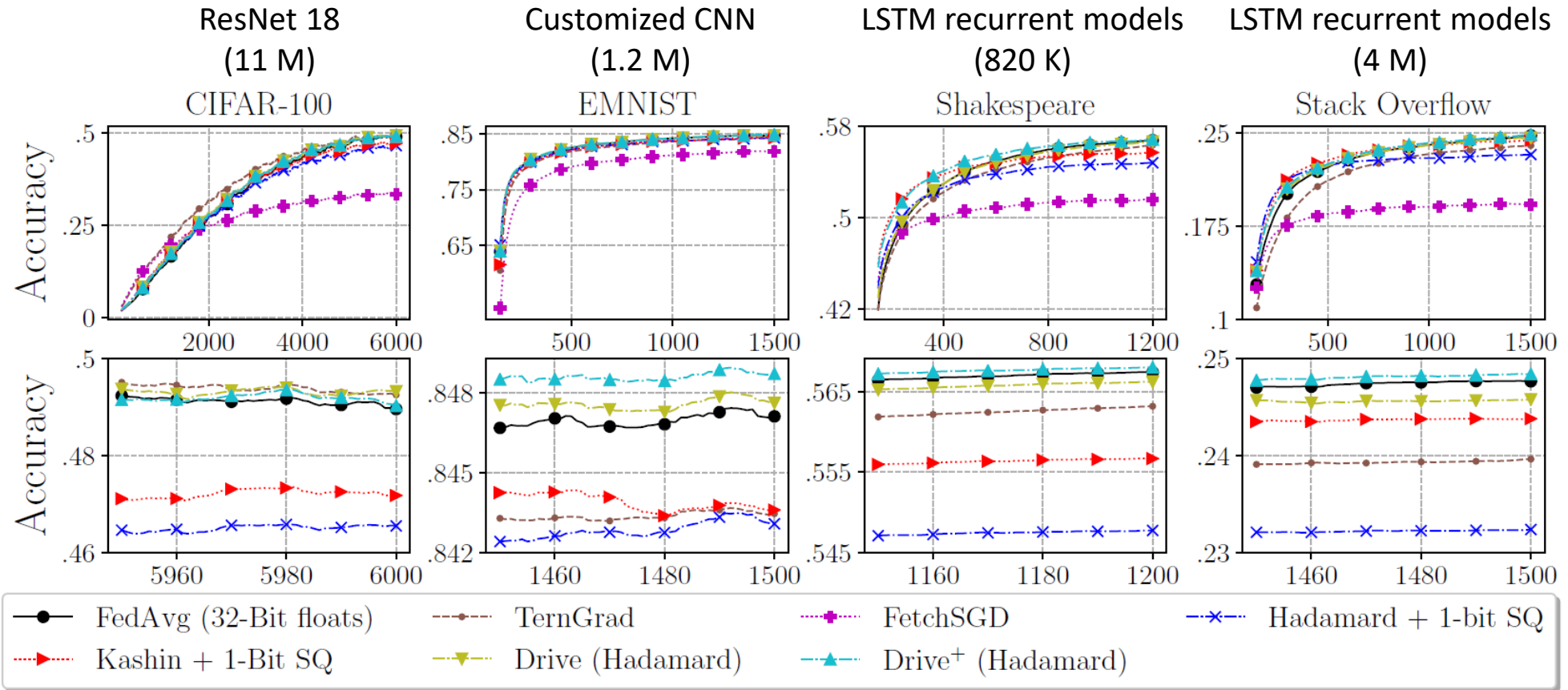
# More in the Paper

---

- DRIVE<sup>+</sup> - further reduces vMNSE (especially for low dimensions)
- More evaluation vs. SOTA techniques :
  - NMSE and encoding speeds over different GPUs
  - Distributed Learning (CNNs)
  - Distributed K-means (Lloyd's algorithm)
  - Distributed Power-iteration (e.g., PCA)
- Compatibility with EF
- Entropy encoding

# Evaluation

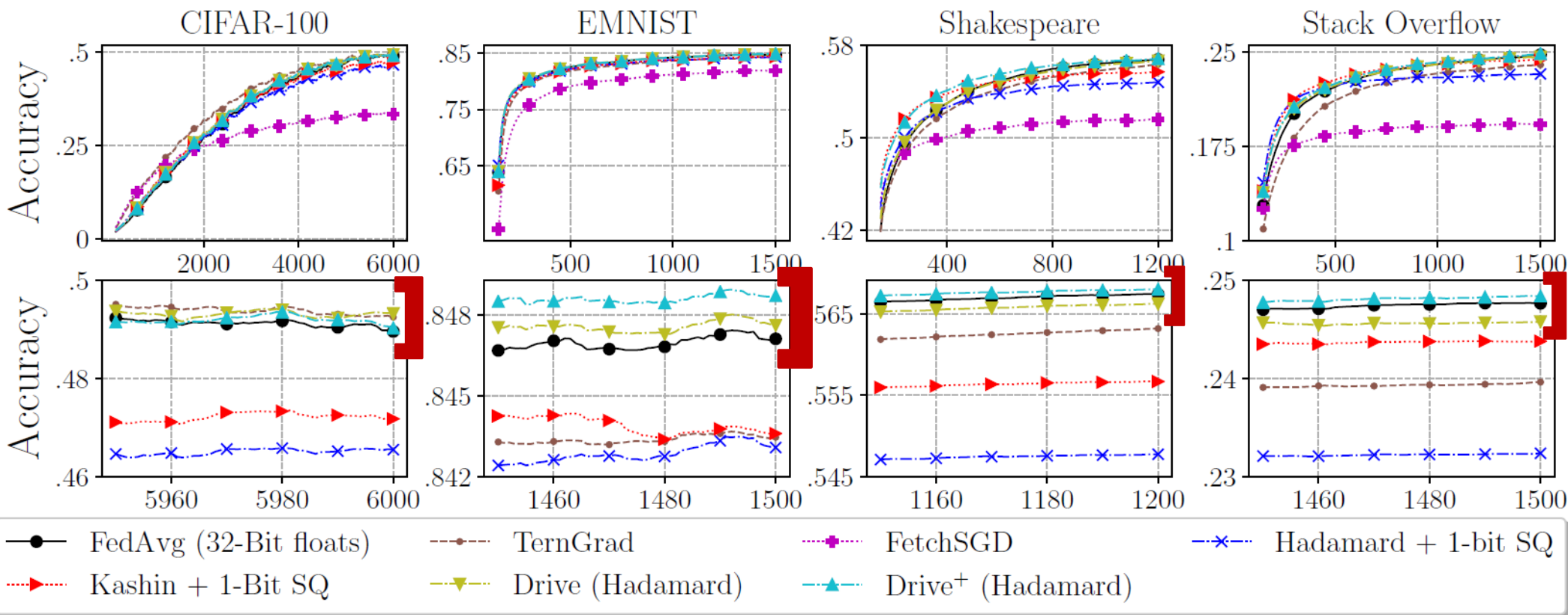
## Federated learning



\* Evaluation inspired by: Reddi, et al. "Adaptive Federated Optimization." ICLR, 2021.

# Evaluation

## Federated learning



# Our Results Are Reproducible

---

- DRIVE's code is available in:
  - <https://github.com/amitport/DRIVE-One-bit-Distributed-Mean-Estimation>
- All simulations in the paper
- Stand-alone PyTorch implementation
- Stand-alone TensorFlow implementation

# Future Work

[arXiv] Extend DRIVE to other settings:

➤ <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2108.08842.pdf>

[ICALP21'] Push the boundary of shared randomness:

➤ <https://drops.dagstuhl.de/opus/volltexte/2021/14094/pdf/LIPIcs-ICALP-2021-25.pdf>

Thank You!

And enjoy your DRIVE!

Communication-Efficient Federated Learning via Robust  
Distributed Mean Estimation

Shay Vargaftik\*  
VMware Research

Ran Ben Basat\*  
University College London

Amit Portnoy\*  
Ben-Gurion University

Gal Mendelson  
Stanford University

Yaniv Ben-Itzhak  
VMware Research

Michael Mitzenmacher  
Harvard University

**How to Send a Real Number Using a Single Bit  
(and Some Shared Randomness)**

**Ran Ben Basat**  
University College London

**Michael Mitzenmacher**  
Harvard University

**Shay Vargaftik**  
VMware Research