



Sparse Methods in Radar Signal Processing

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Sparse Inferences about Scotland



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- It never rains in Edinburgh

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- The letter 's' is subject to P_M and P_{FA}
 - P_M : Defence vs Defense
 - P_{FA} : Optimization vs Optimisation

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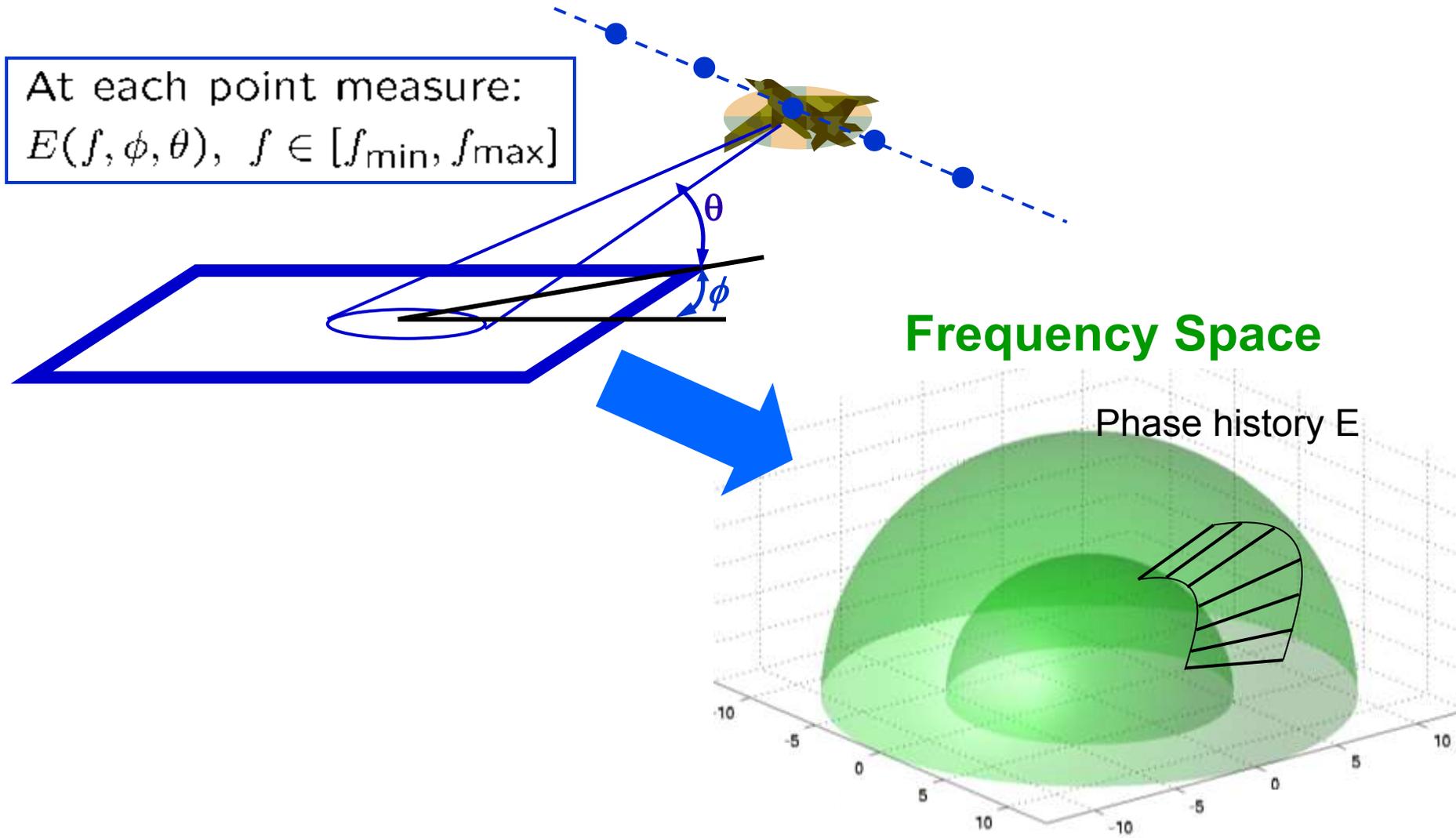
- It never rains in Edinburgh
- The letter 's' is subject to P_M and P_{FA}
 - P_M : P_{FA} ! Defence vs Defense
 - P_{FA} : P_M ! Optimization vs Optimisation
- If a roundabout doesn't have trees or grass on it, it is perfectly okay to drive right over it.
 - My apologies to any of you who were approaching a roundabout while I was driving through!

Context



- Advances in digital processing are enabling revolutionary opportunities for radar signal processing
 - Sophisticated radar image/volume reconstructions
 - Multi-function radars that can simultaneously perform imaging, detection, moving object tracking and recognition, etc.
 - Persistent sensing over space and time
 - Combined sensing and communication
 - Estimation/inference with uncertainty analysis
- Challenges
 - Very large data, processing, and communications tasks
 - Traditional models for radar backscattering may not apply over wide angles

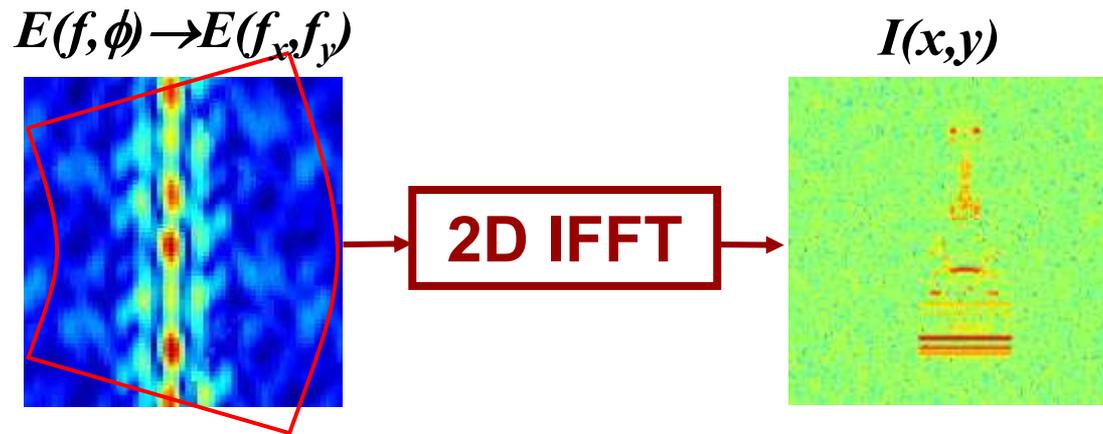
SAR Data Collection



SAR Image Formation



- Traditional approach: tomography



- Tomographic image $I(x, y)$ is a **matched filter** for an isotropic point scatterer at location (x, y) . [Rossi+Willsky]



Linear Algebra Formulation

- Measurements y ($M \times 1$) : phase history data as a function of (f, az, el)
- Reconstruction: x ($N \times 1$): set of (x, y) or (x, y, z) locations with significant radar scattering energy

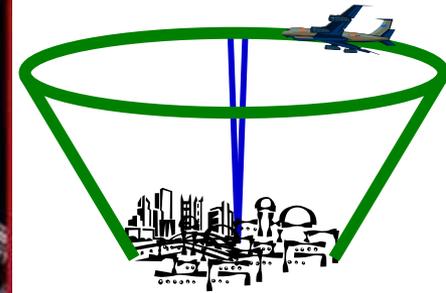
$$y = Ax + \nu$$

$$A = \left[e^{-j(k_{x,m}x_n + k_{y,m}y_n + k_{z,m}z_n)} \right], \quad M \times N$$

Matched filter:

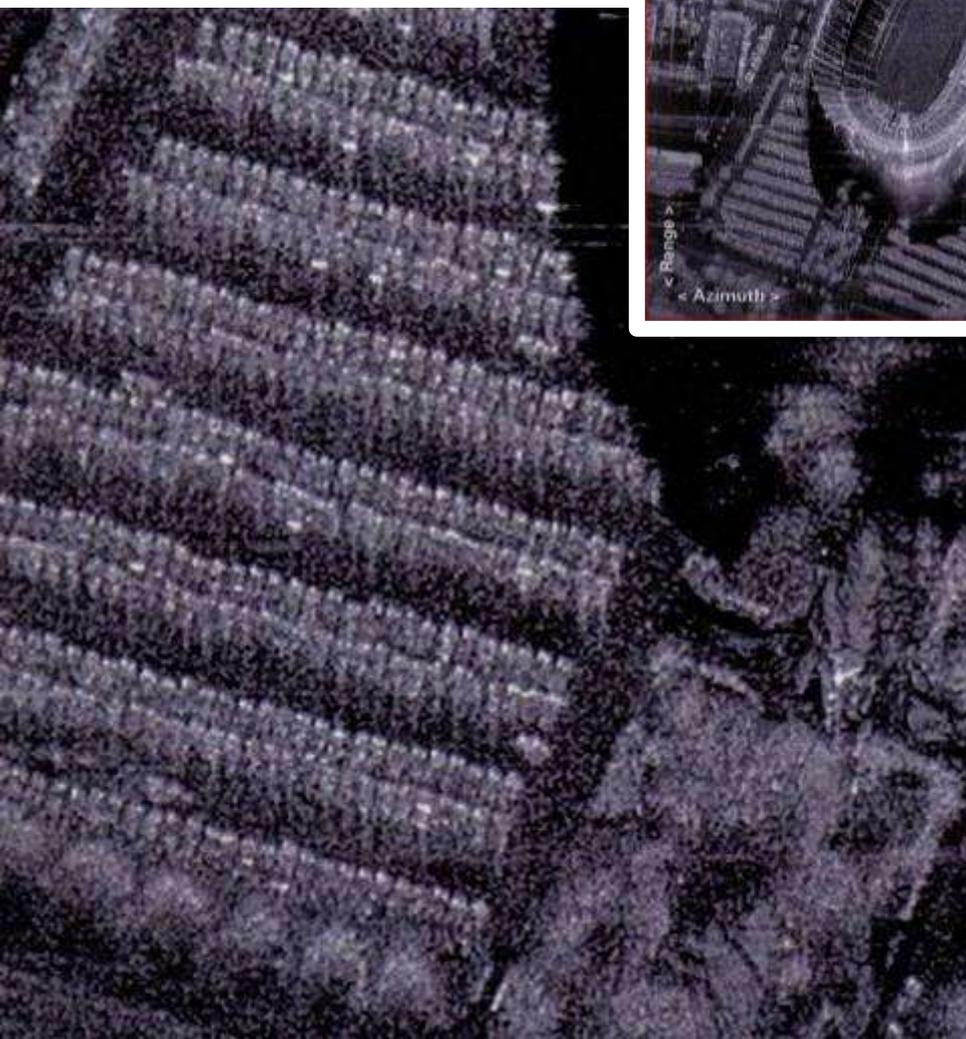
$$\hat{x} = A^H y$$

Example: Ohio Stadium



X-Band Radar
3° aperture
1ft x 1ft res

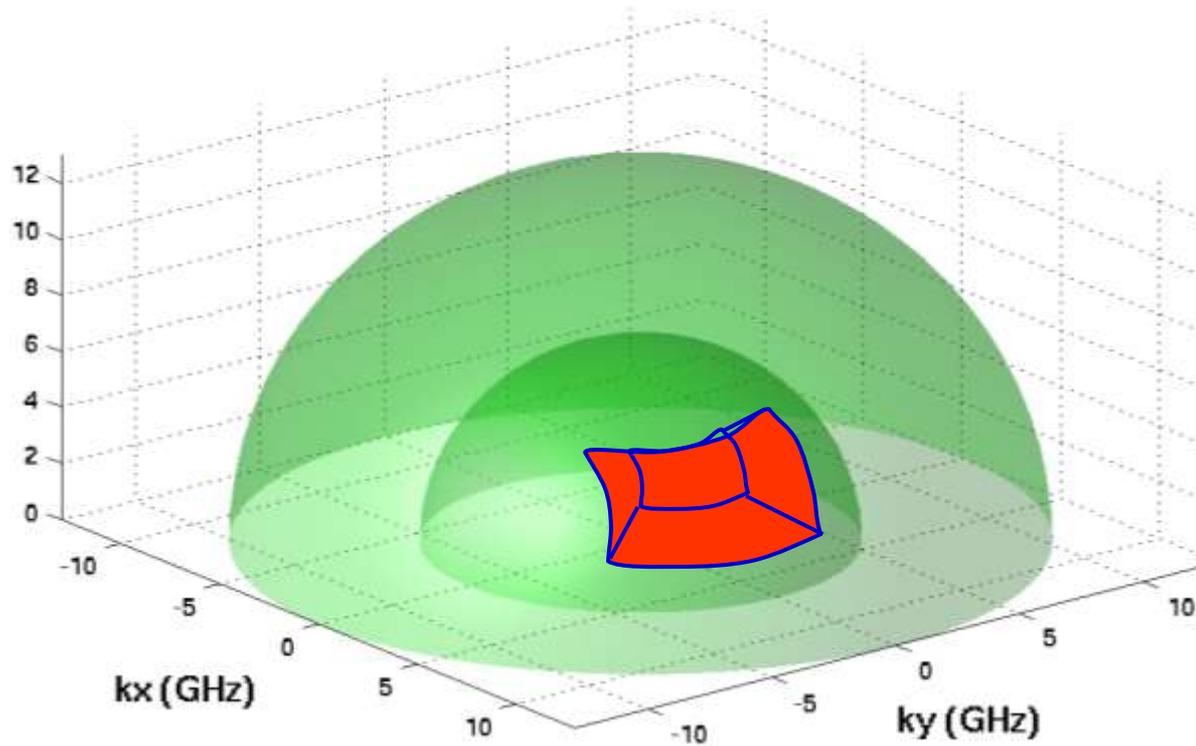
SAR Image Detail





3D Reconstruction

'Data Dome' Representation in k-space



- Massive data size and processing needs
- Filled aperture is difficult to collect

Can Sparsity Play a Role?



- At high frequencies, radar backscatter is well-modeled as a sum of responses from canonical scattering terms.
- EM scattering theory provides a rich characterization of backscatter behavior as a function of object shape
 - Azimuth, elevation, frequency dependence
 - Polarization dependence
 - Phase response - range
- This scattering theory suggests that the radar response may be sparse in some representations
 - Sparse reconstruction
 - Parametric modeling



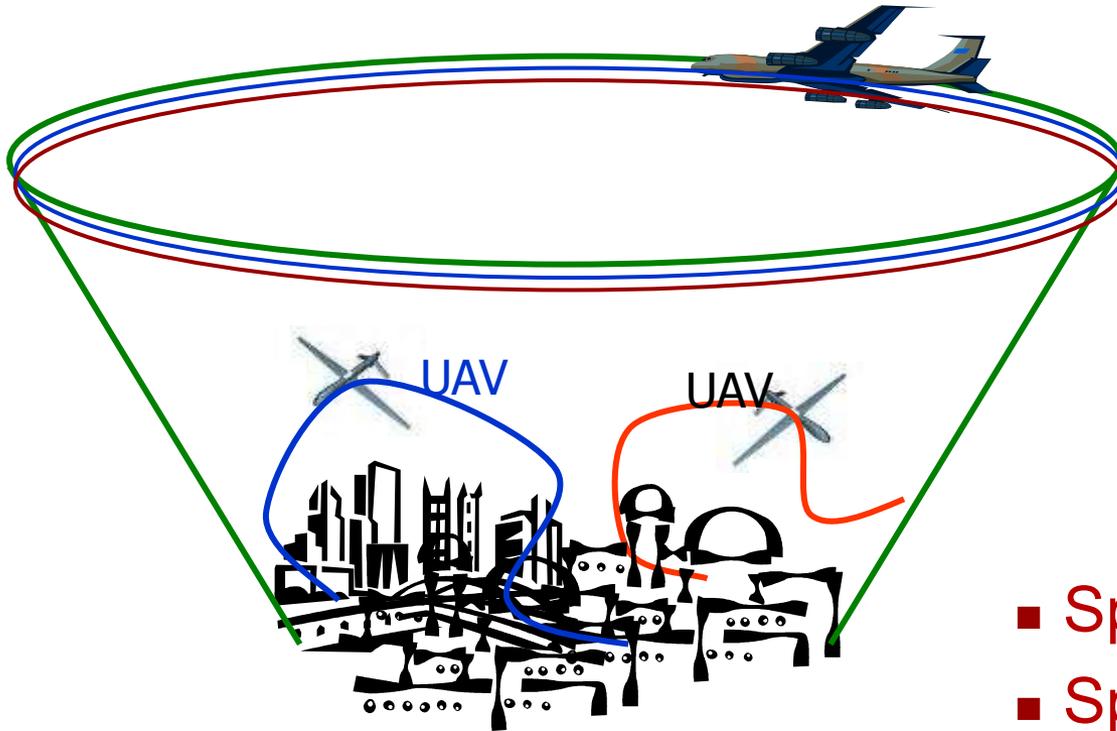
Scattering Model

$$S(f, \phi, \theta) = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} A_{HH} & A_{HV} \\ A_{VH} & A_{VV} \end{bmatrix}}_{\substack{\text{Polarization} \\ \text{Dependence}}} \underbrace{\left(\frac{jf}{f_c}\right)^\gamma}_{\substack{\text{Frequency} \\ \text{Dependence}}} \underbrace{M(\phi, \theta)}_{\text{Aspect Dependence}} \underbrace{e^{j\frac{4\pi f}{f_c}\Delta R(x,y,z;a)}}_{\text{Location Dependence}}$$

Canonical Shape Type Γ	Icon	Polarization Type β	Amplitude Response $M_\Gamma(k, \hat{\phi}, \hat{\theta}; \Theta)$	Calibration Factor A	Range Offset ΔR_r
Plate		odd	$M_{\text{plate}}(\Theta_{\text{plate}}) = \frac{jkA}{\sqrt{\pi}} \text{sinc} [kL \sin \hat{\phi} \cos \hat{\theta}] \text{sinc} [kH \sin \hat{\theta}]$ $\hat{\phi} \in [-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$	LH	0
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Cylinder		odd	$M_{\text{cyl}}(\Theta_{\text{cyl}}) = jk\sqrt{\cos \phi} A \text{sinc} [kL \sin \hat{\phi}] \hat{\phi} \in [-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$	$L\sqrt{r}$	$2r \cos \phi$
Top-hat		even	$M_{\text{top}}(\Theta_{\text{top}}) = A\sqrt{jk} \times \begin{cases} \sin \hat{\theta}, & \hat{\theta} \in [0, \frac{\pi}{4}] \\ \cos \hat{\theta}, & \hat{\theta} \in [\frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{\pi}{2}] \end{cases}$	$\sqrt{\frac{8r}{\sqrt{2}}} H$	$2r \cos \theta$
Sphere		odd	$M_{\text{sphere}}(\Theta_{\text{sphere}}) = A\sqrt{\pi} r$	1	$2r$

Jackson & RLM: 2009

Persistent, Wide-Angle Radar



- Sparsity in sensing
- Sparsity in reconstruction
 - Compressive sensing
 - Other sparse reconstruction techniques
 - Parametric modeling



Sparse Reconstruction

Sparsity

- Measurements y ($M \ll 1$) : sparse sampling of full (f, az, el) radar measurement space
- Reconstruction: x ($N \ll 1$): sparse set of (x, y, z) locations with significant radar scattering energy

$$y = Ax + \nu$$

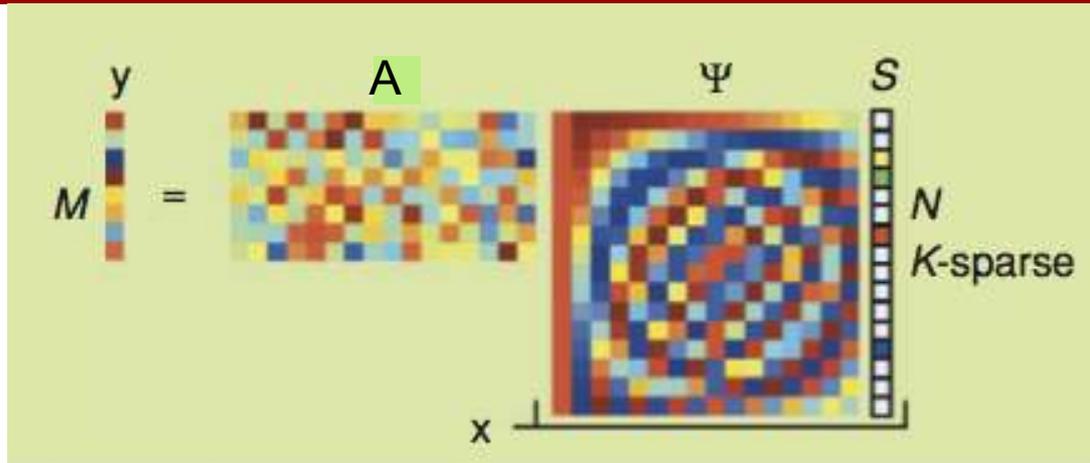
$$A = \left[e^{-j(k_{x,m}x_n + k_{y,m}y_n + k_{z,m}z_n)} \right], \quad M \times N$$

Sparse reconstruction:

$$\hat{x} = \arg \min_x \|y - Ax\|_2^2 + \lambda \|x\|_p^p \quad p \leq 1$$



Compressive Sensing



$$y = Ax + \nu$$

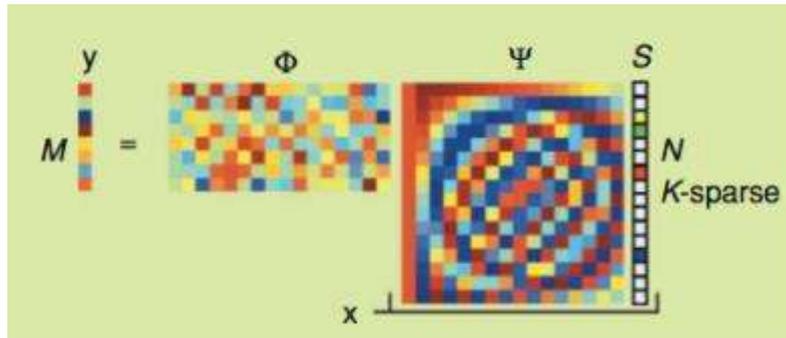
A satisfies the Restricted Isometry Property (RIP)

$$\hat{x} = \arg \min_x \|y - Ax\|_2^2 + \lambda \|x\|_1$$

Compressive Sensing

- **Discrete linear model**
- ℓ_1 regularization (=convex problem)
- **Provable performance guarantees**

Compressive Sensing: Hype or Help?



Does compressive sensing apply to radar?

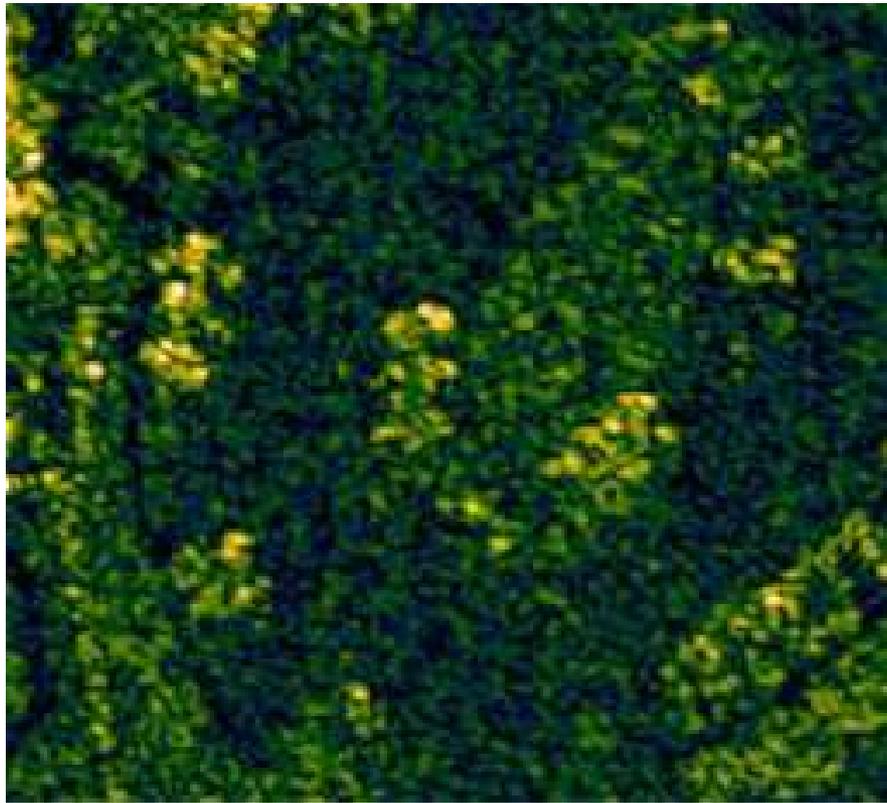
- Hype or help?
- Bandwagon or breakthrough?
- Satan or salvation?
- Fraud or foundation?

From: L. Potter, Optical Society of America Incubator, April 2014

Bah! Humbug! Part 1



- Radar signals aren't compressible in many applications.
- For air-to-ground surveillance, sensor data has *high entropy*



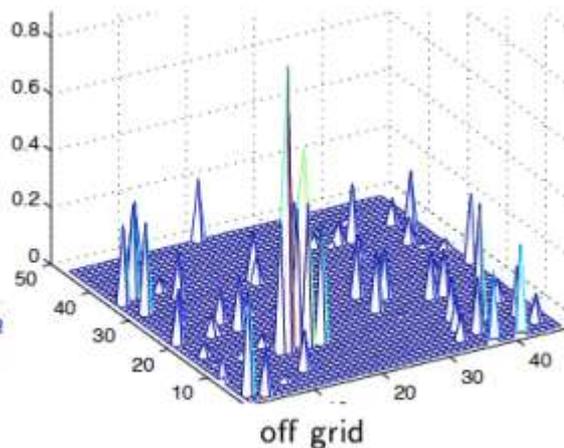
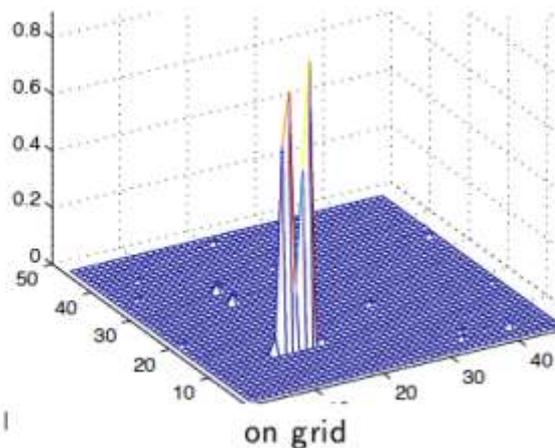


Bah! Humbug! Part 2

- CS orthodoxy assumes ranges, angles, velocities are *discretized* to a sample grid – yet these parameters are *continuous-valued*.
- Basis mismatch leads to loss of sparsity; oversampled grids destroy low coherence



lab test

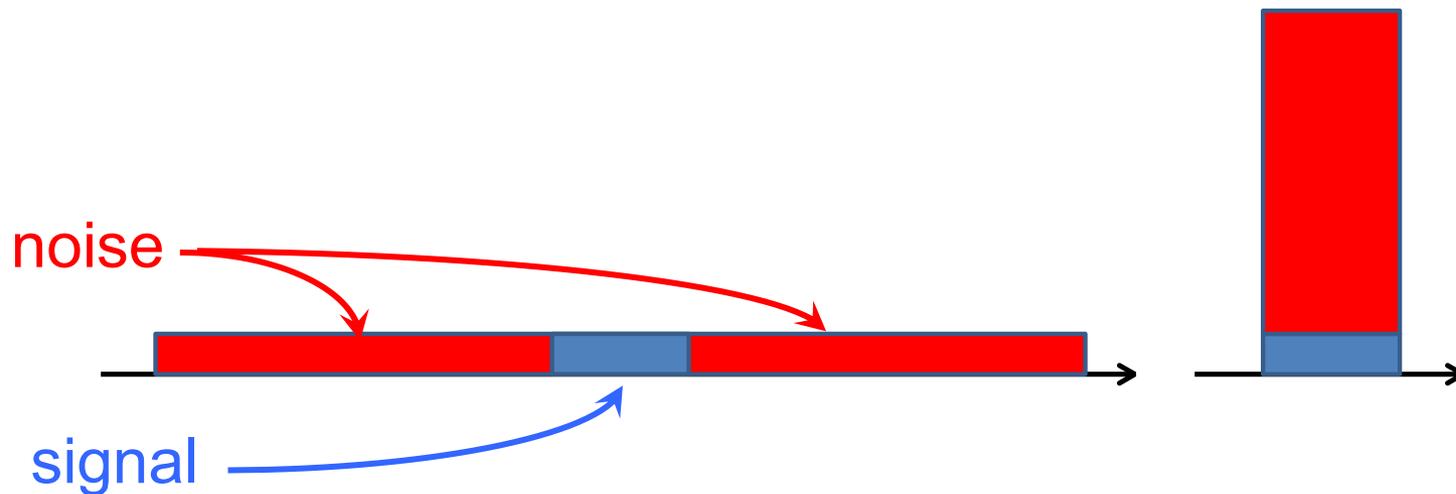


Benchtop X-band result using ℓ_1 with chirp waveforms and 47:1 compression.

Bah! Humbug! Part 3



- RF receiver noise power, cost, and power consumption scale with the precision of sample timing, not the average #samples per unit time.



Bah! Humbug! Part 4



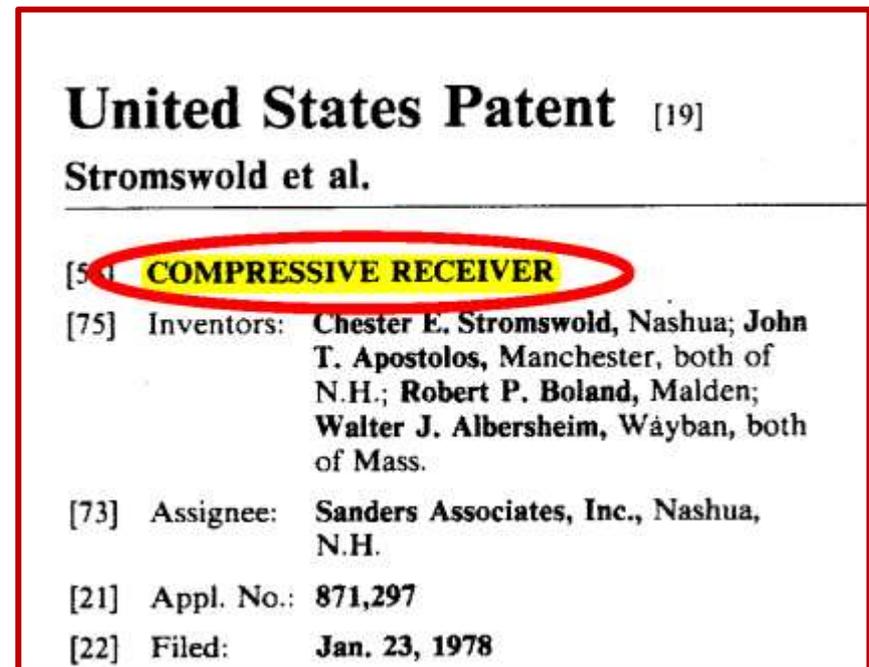
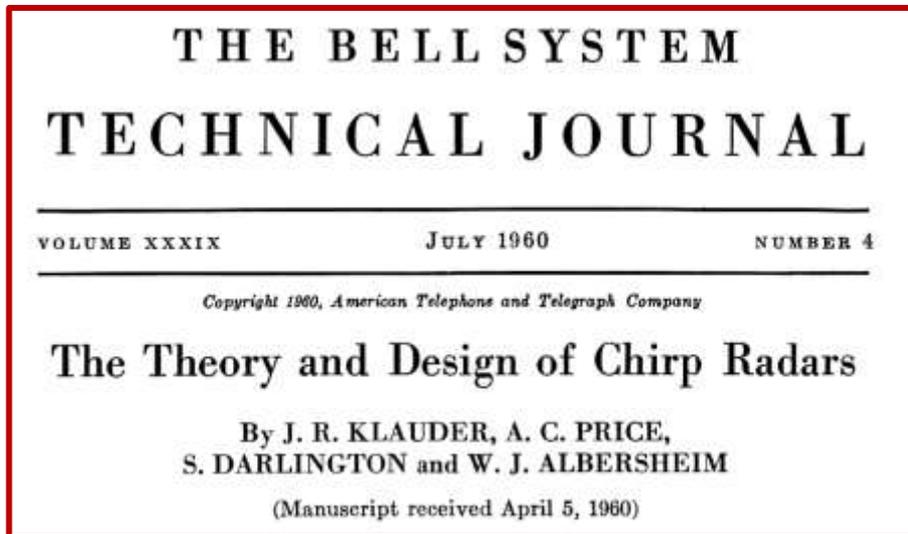
- Linear Processing: Image analysts understand and accept the *structured and predictable* artifacts of linear processing
- Nonlinear processing artifacts are unpredictable and foreign



Bah! Humbug! Part 5



- CS is an imposter: it's been around for seven decades or more...



CS as Hype



Compressive Sensing is hype, suited to carnival criers, research funding chasers, and academic navel gazing.

As far as RF sensing is concerned, it belongs in a *dust bin*.



Rebuttal:

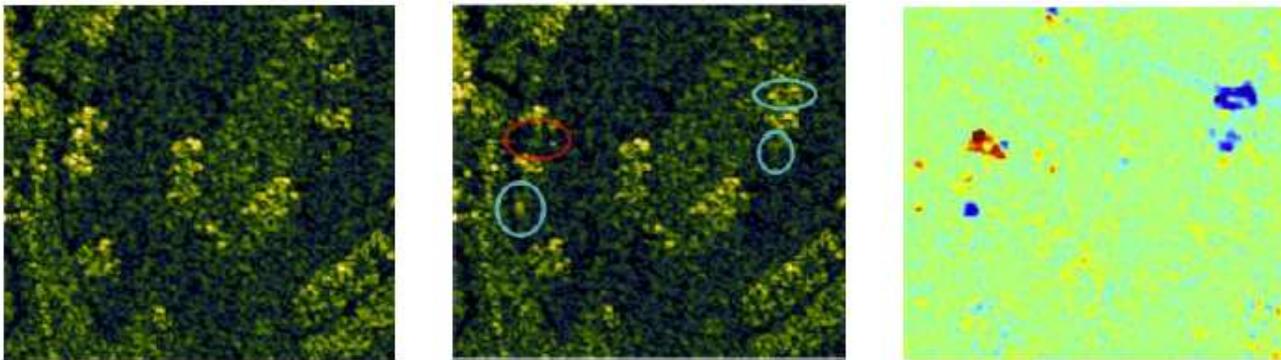
Why Compressed Sensing matters
for practical radar



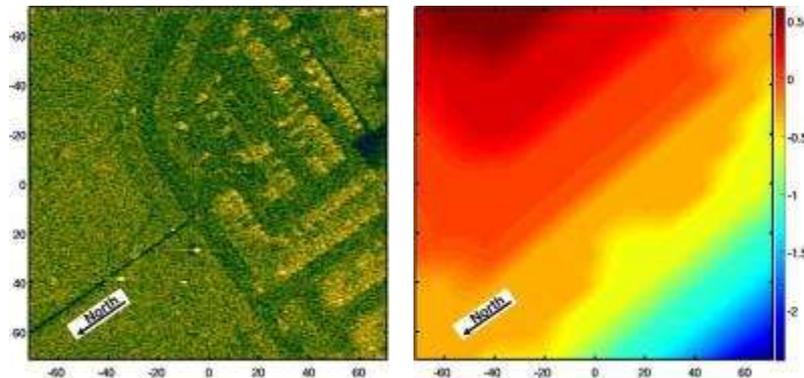
Rebuttal 1: Low Entropy

While radar images are on the whole high entropy, many applications have low entropy signals or components.

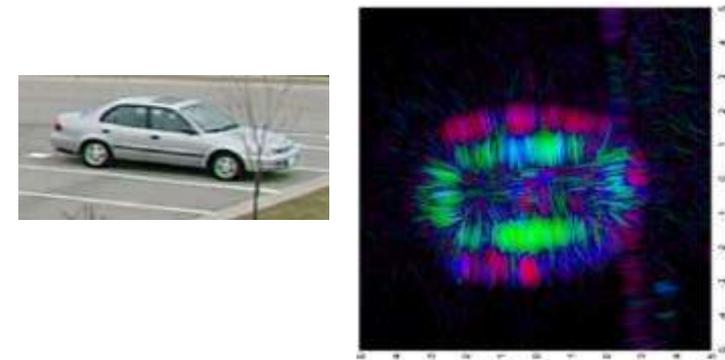
Change Detection



Autofocus (phase tracking)



Target Chips

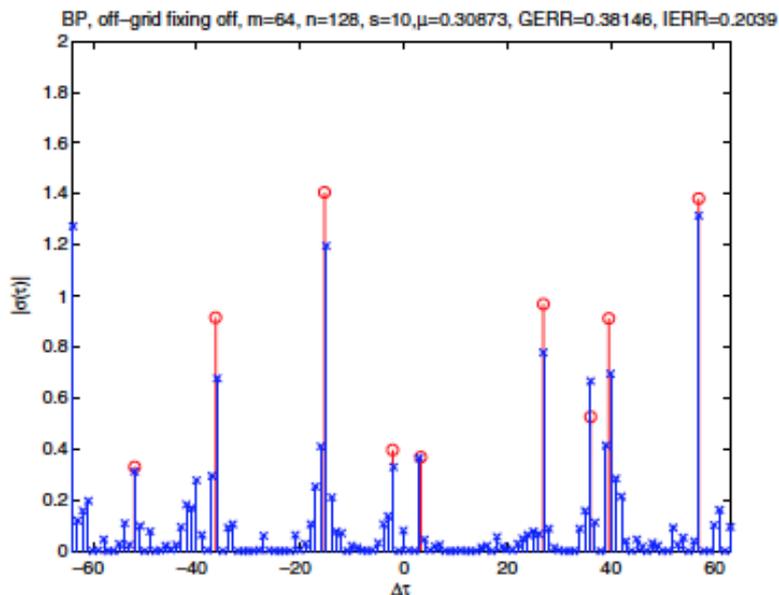




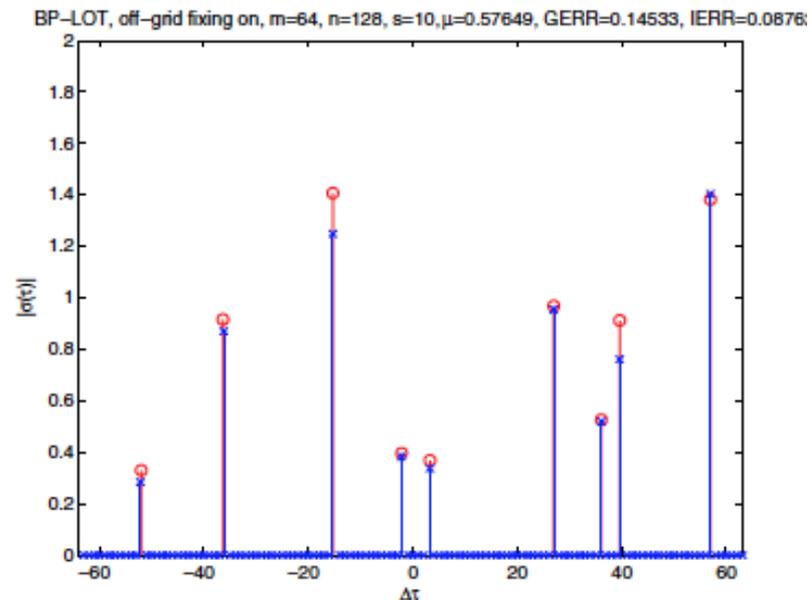
Rebuttal 2:

- Recent advances effectively address grid quantization
 - Fannjiang
 - Austin

BP



BP-LOT



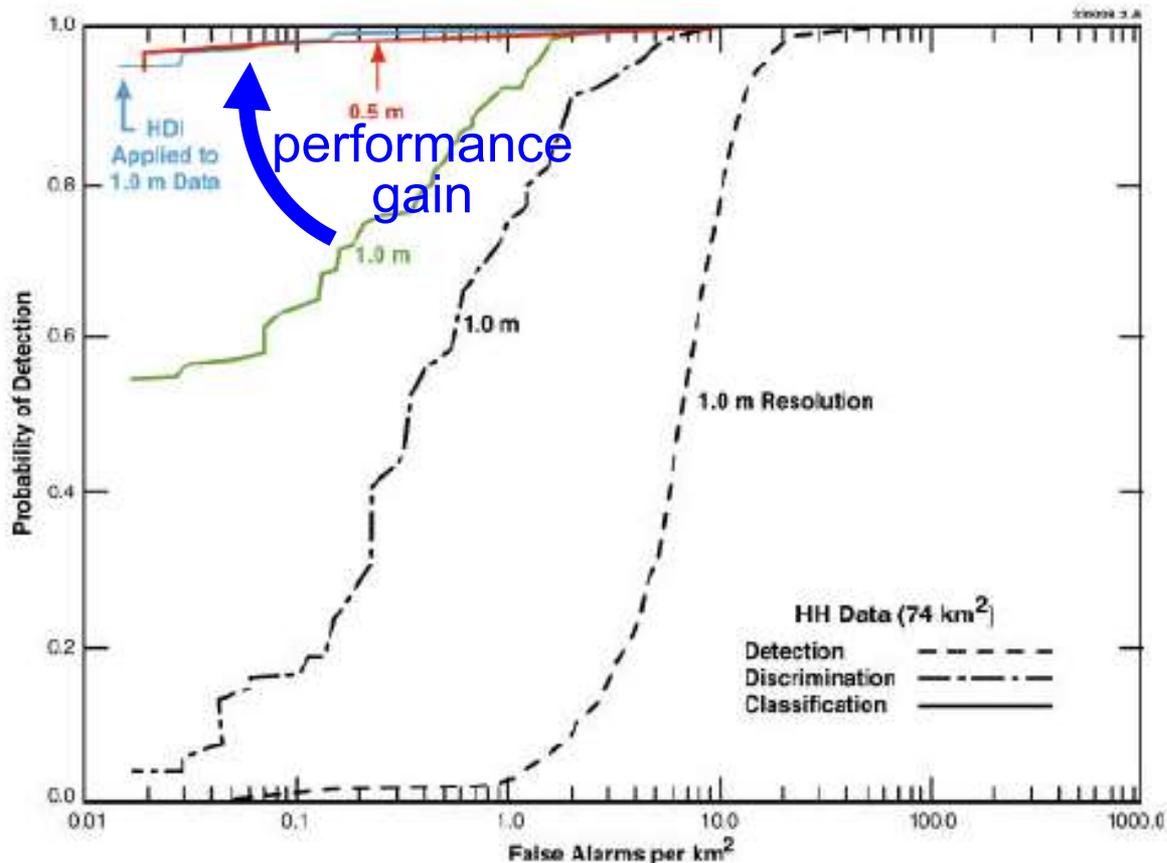
VS

From: A. Fannjiang and H-C Tseng, "Compressive radar with off-grid targets: a perturbation approach," *Inverse Problems* **29** (2013) 054008.



Rebuttal 3: Performance Gains

- In *quantitative* ATR performance, ~2x effective resolution enhancement is observed using sparse recovery methods.



Ka Band 1-meter SAR ROC curves for the 74 km² Stockbridge NY and Ayer MA clutter data and 192 TEL target images (Lincoln Lab, 1996)

Rebuttal 4: New insights, algorithms



- Semi-definite programming formulation gives tractable computation
 - Impressive gains in speed, convergence in a few short years
- Convex formulation yields provable finite-sample performance guarantees
- Seamlessly tackles model order selection

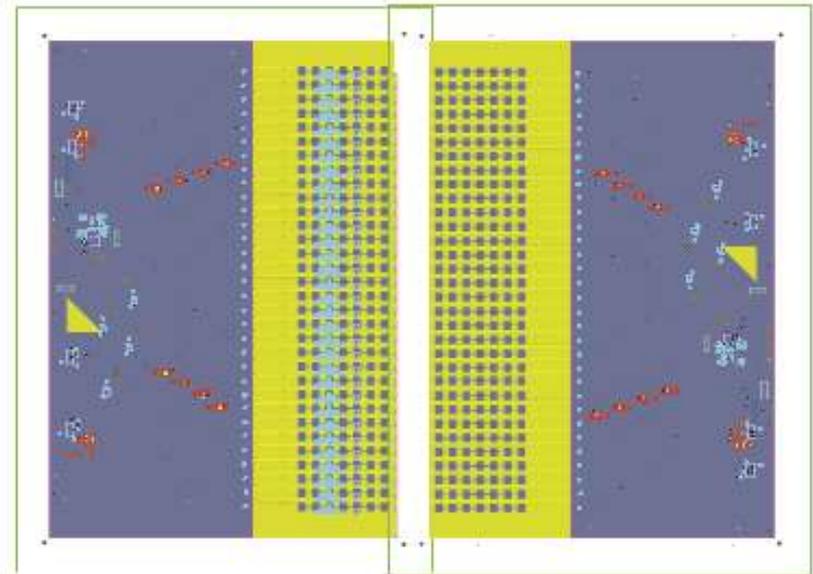
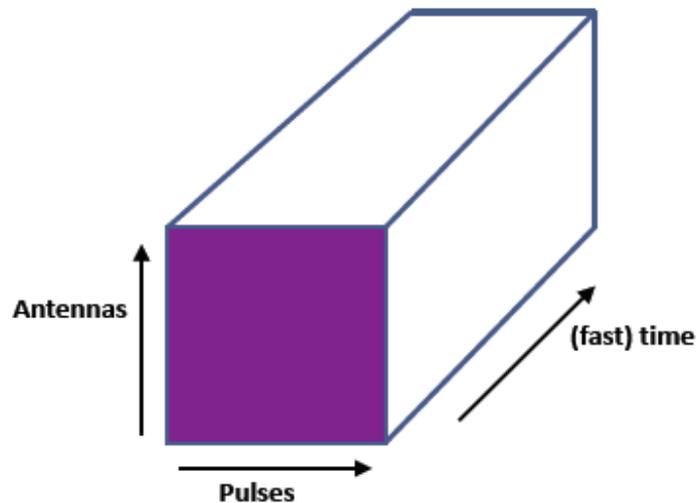
Algorithm	Error	Time (sec)
Singular value thresholding [Cai/Candes/Shen08]	3.4e-4	877
Dual method [Ganesh/Wright/Wu/Chen/Ma'09]	1.6e-5	177
Accelerated proximal gradient [Ganesh/Wright/Wu/Chen/Ma'09]	1.8e-5	8
Alternating direction methods [Yuan/Yang'09]	2.2.e-5	5
Inexact augmented Lagrange method [Lin/Chen/Wu/Ma'09]	4.3e-8	2
Bilinear generalized AMP [Schniter/Parker/Cevher'12]	3.8e-8	1

Recovery of 400x400
rank-20 matrix corrupted
by 5%-sparse amplitudes
uniform on [-50,50]

Rebuttal 5: multi-mode enabler



- Sampling across space (antenna arrays) and slow-time (pulses) provide avenues for compression beyond stretch processing
- Compression across antennas and pulses provides flexibility for multi-mode RF system operation



The Front Porch

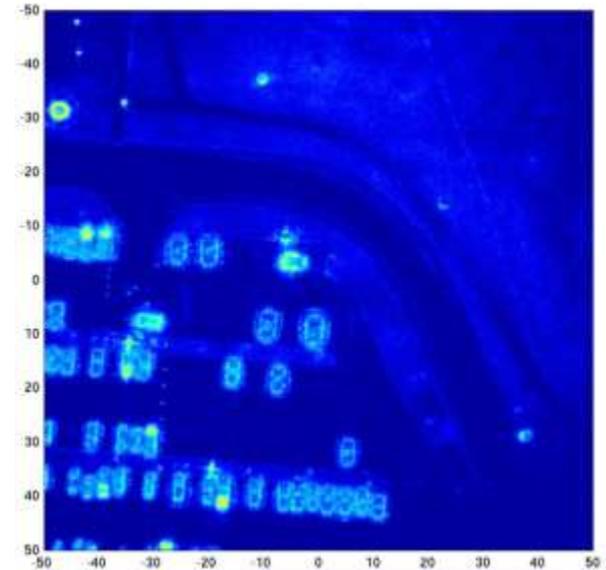
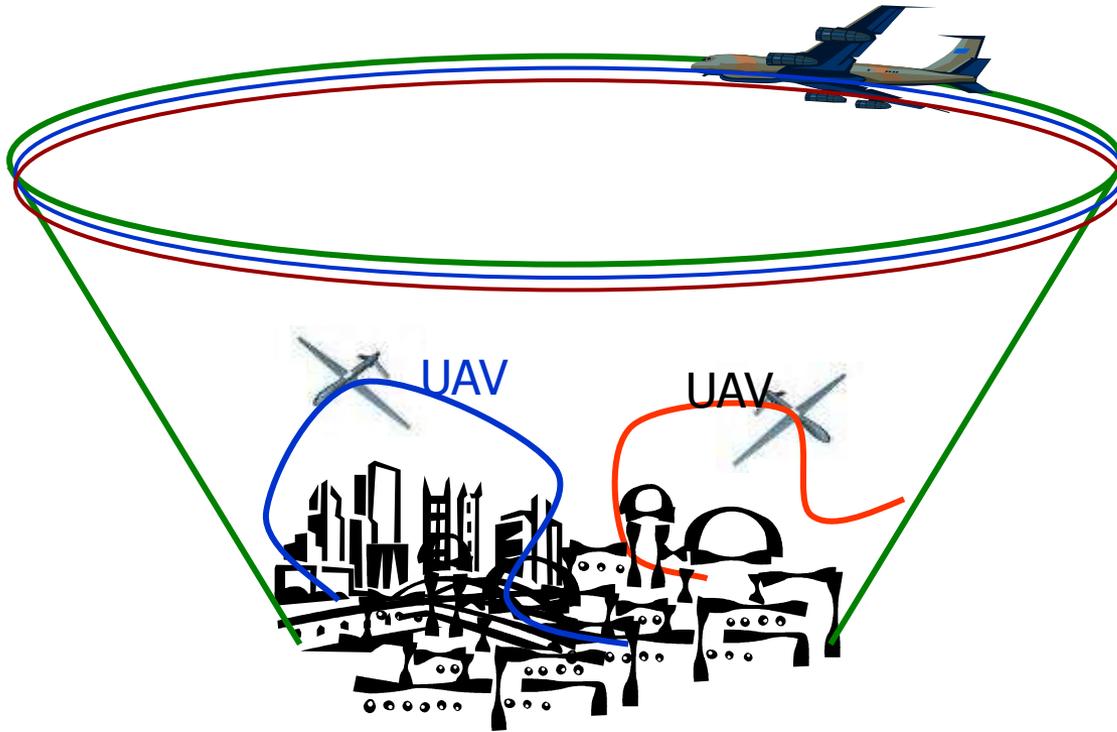


The *accessibility* and *popularity* of compressive sensing provides a format for rich *cross-disciplinary interactions* and an invitation for practitioners to *reconsider data acquisition and nonlinear processing*.

- Vocabulary of *linear algebra* to consider inverse problems and estimation tasks
- Invitation to consider *signal structure* or parsimony beyond bandlimitedness
- Invitation to consider *non-uniform sampling strategies*
- Good *convex programming codes*.



How Can Sparsity Play a Role?



Persistent Sensing enables:

- ***High resolution, volumetric imaging of stationary objects and scenes***
- ***Continuous tracking of moving objects***



Scattering Model

$$S(f, \phi, \theta) = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} A_{HH} & A_{HV} \\ A_{VH} & A_{VV} \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{Polarization Dependence}} \underbrace{\left(\frac{jf}{f_c}\right)^\gamma}_{\text{Frequency Dependence}} \underbrace{M(\phi, \theta)}_{\text{Aspect Dependence}} \underbrace{e^{j\frac{4\pi f}{f_c}\Delta R(x,y,z;a)}}_{\text{Location Dependence}}$$

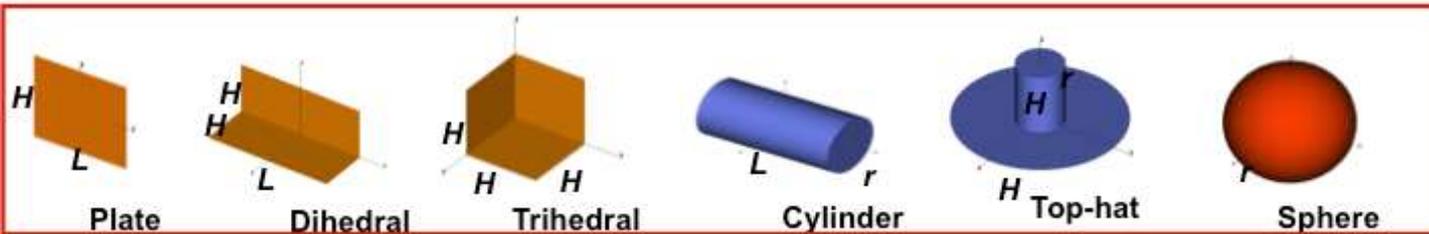
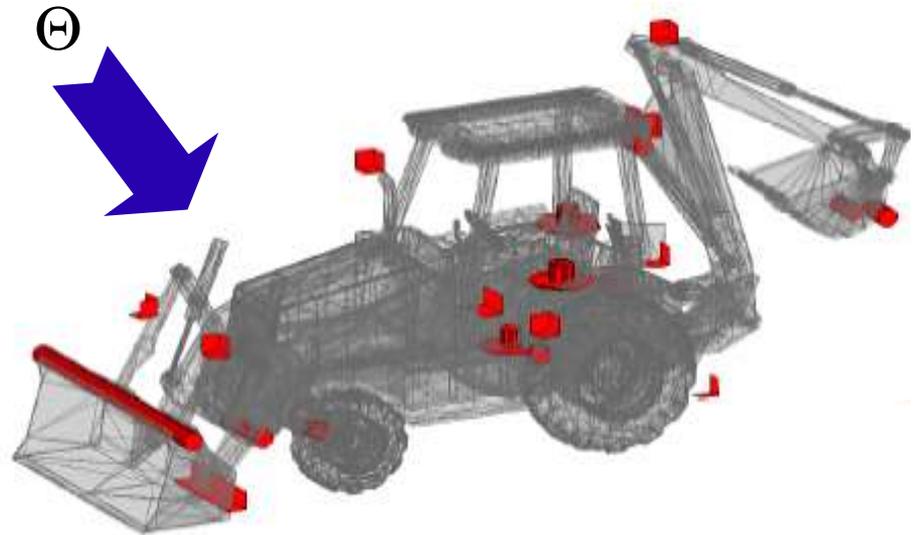
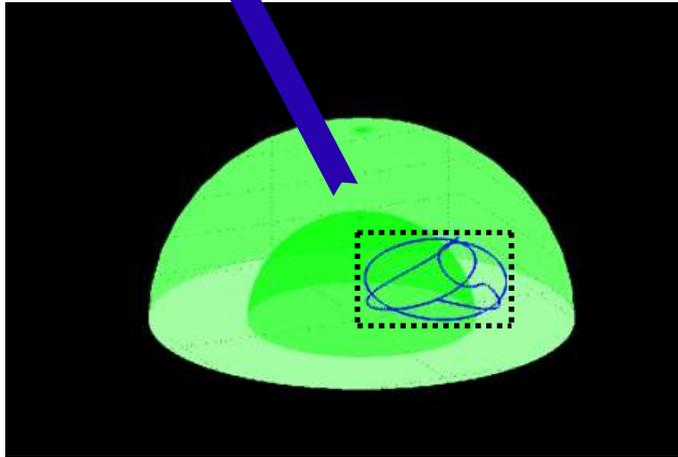
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Cylinder		odd	$M_{\text{cyl}}(\Theta_{\text{cyl}}) = jk\sqrt{\cos \hat{\phi}} A \text{sinc} [kL \sin \hat{\phi}] \hat{\phi} \in [-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$	$L\sqrt{r}$	$2r \cos \phi$
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Sphere		odd	$M_{\text{sphere}}(\Theta_{\text{sphere}}) = A\sqrt{\pi r}$	1	$2r$

Jackson & RLM: 2009

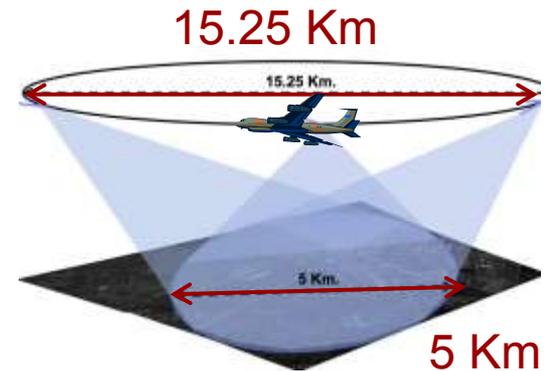


Parametric: Canonical Scattering Model

$$S(f, \phi, \theta) = \sum_{k=1}^K \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} A_{HH} & A_{HV} \\ A_{VH} & A_{VV} \end{bmatrix}_k}_{\text{Polarization Dependence}} \underbrace{\left(\frac{jf}{f_c} \right)^{\gamma_k}}_{\text{Frequency Dependence}} \underbrace{M_k(\phi, \theta)}_{\text{Aspect Dependence}} \underbrace{e^{j \frac{4\pi f}{f_c} \Delta R(x_k, y_k, z_k; a_k)}}_{\text{Location Dependence}}$$



AFRL Gotcha Radar

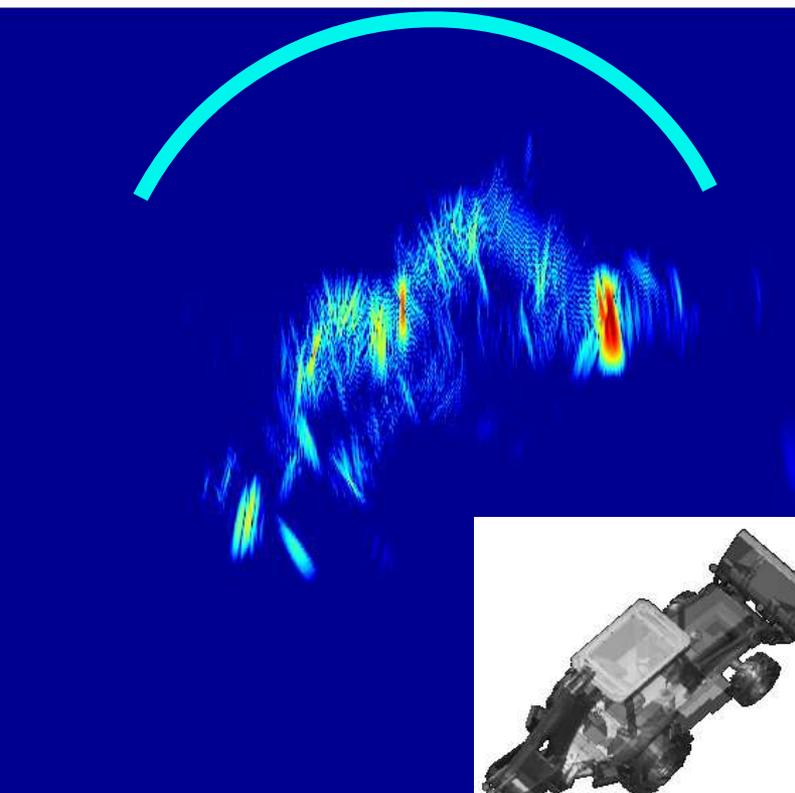


Data Storage:
90 G samples/circle

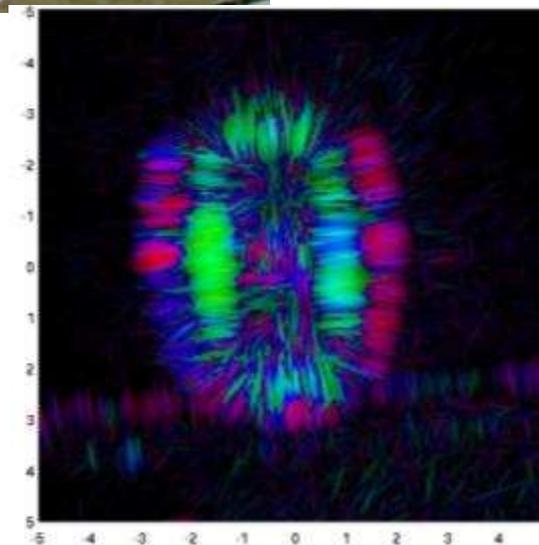
Image formation:
45 Tflops/sec

Communications:
190 M samples/sec

Coherent wide-angle SAR Images



500 MHz Bandwidth
110 degrees az

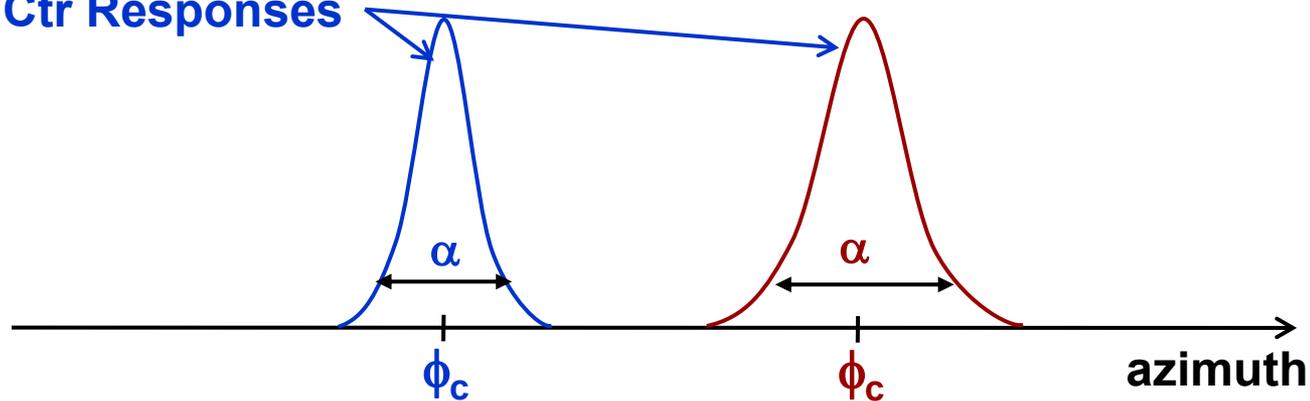


**Coherent wide-angle image is not well-matched
to limited persistence scattering behavior**

Wide-Angle Data Collections

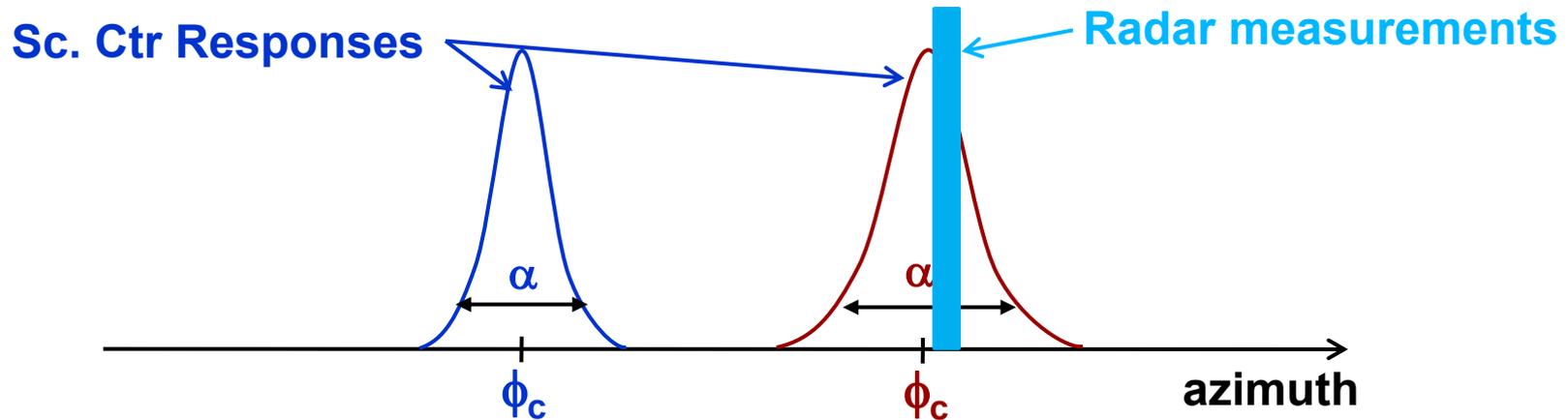


Sc. Ctr Responses



- Most backscatter does NOT behave like a point scatterer over wide angles
- Most scattering centers have limited response persistence
 - 20° or less at X-band [Dudgeon et al, 1994]
- Standard imaging is not statistically (close to) optimal

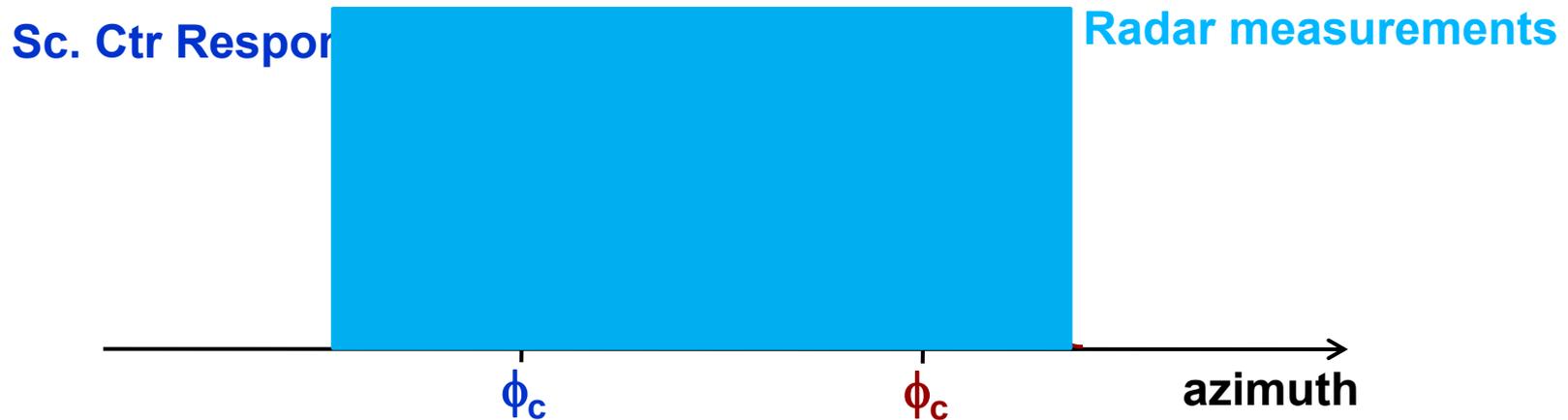
Wide-Angle Data Collections



When the radar measurement extent is \leq scattering persistence, the isotropic assumption is \sim satisfied, and tomographic imaging is \sim a matched filter.



Wide-Angle Data Collections

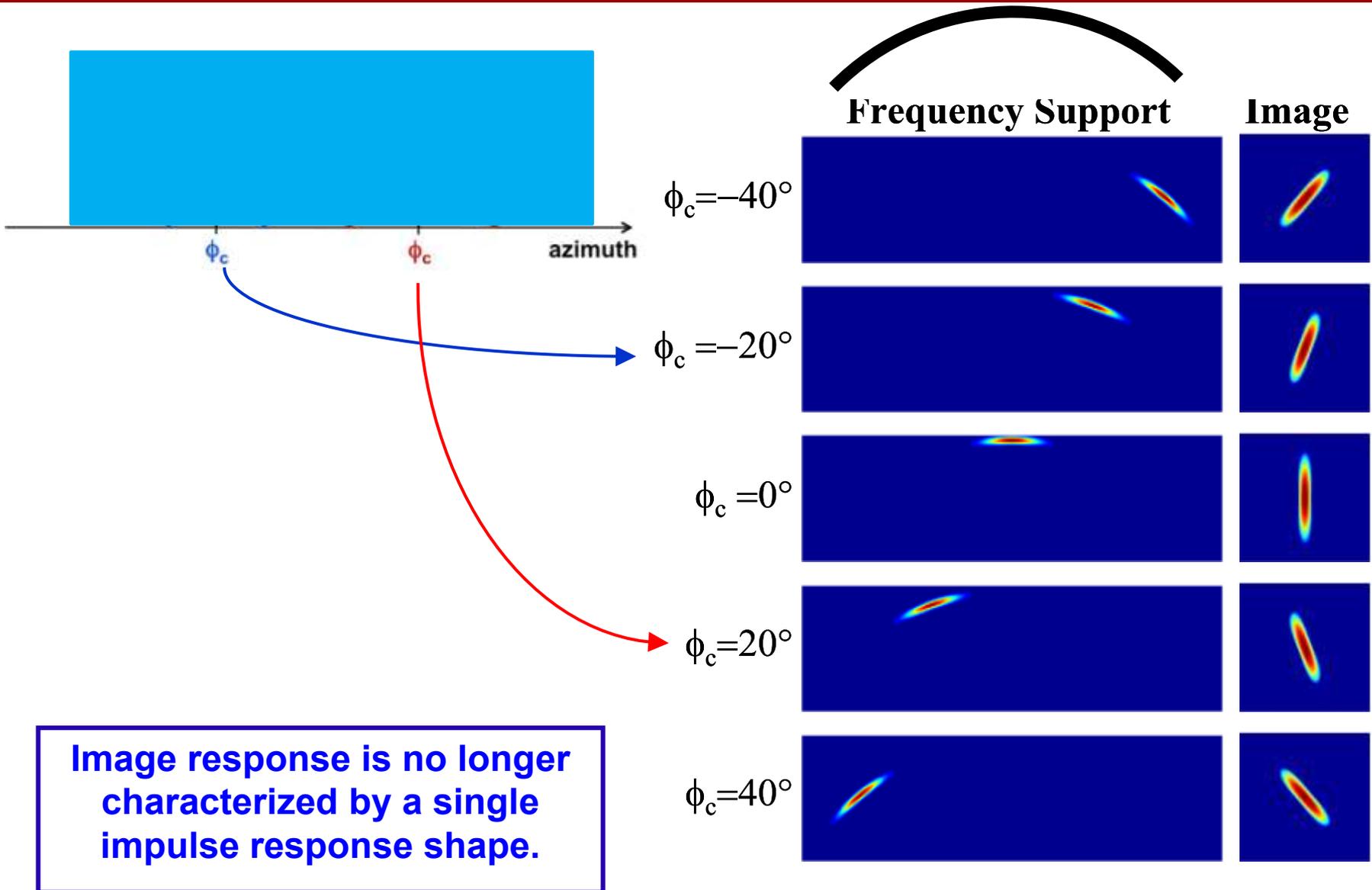


For wide-angle measurements the isotropic scattering assumption breaks down.

- Tomography is no longer a matched filter

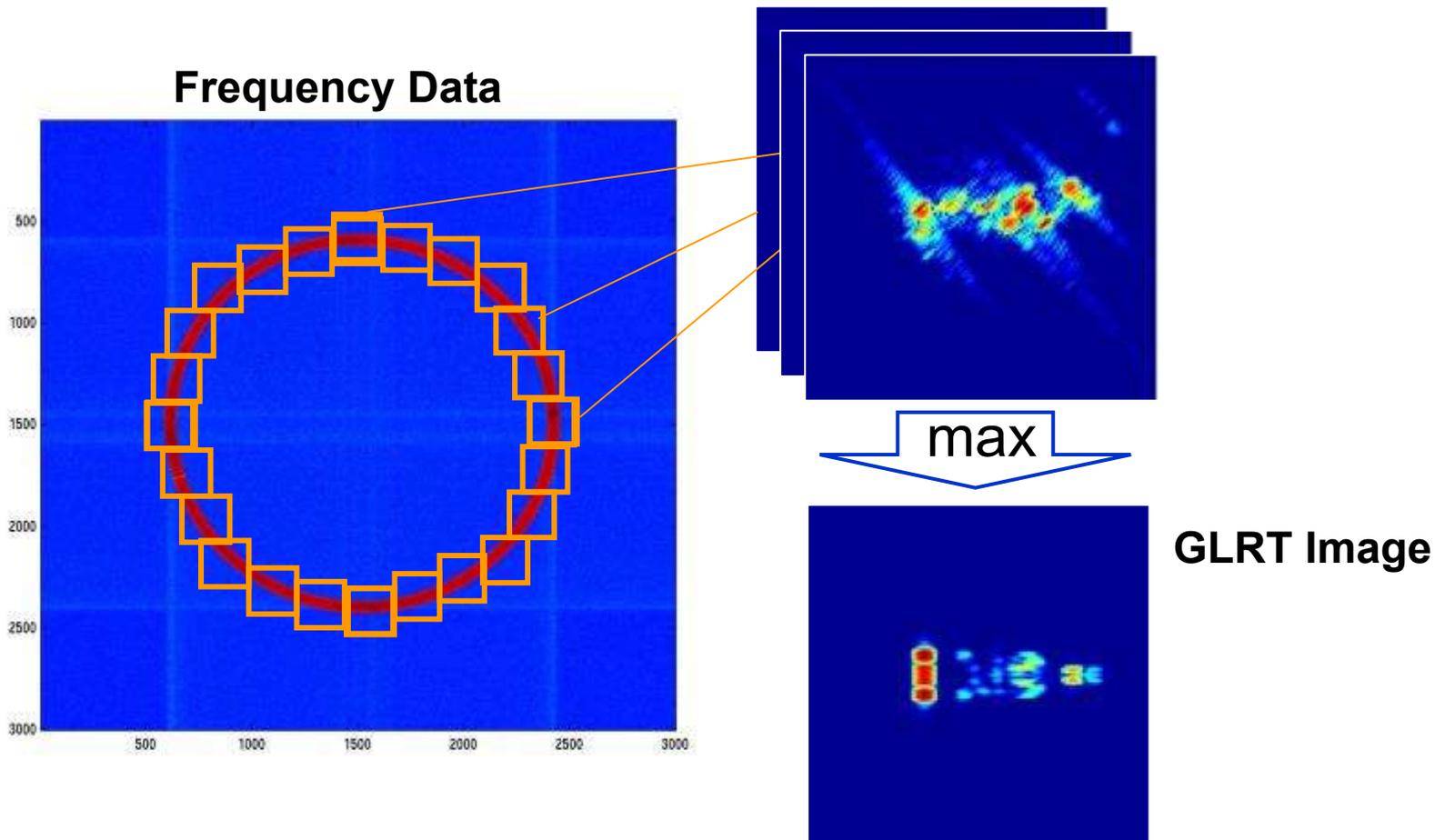


Scattering Aspect Dependence





GRLT Imaging



Generalizes Rossi+Willsky matched filter result to wide-angle imaging with limited-persistence scattering

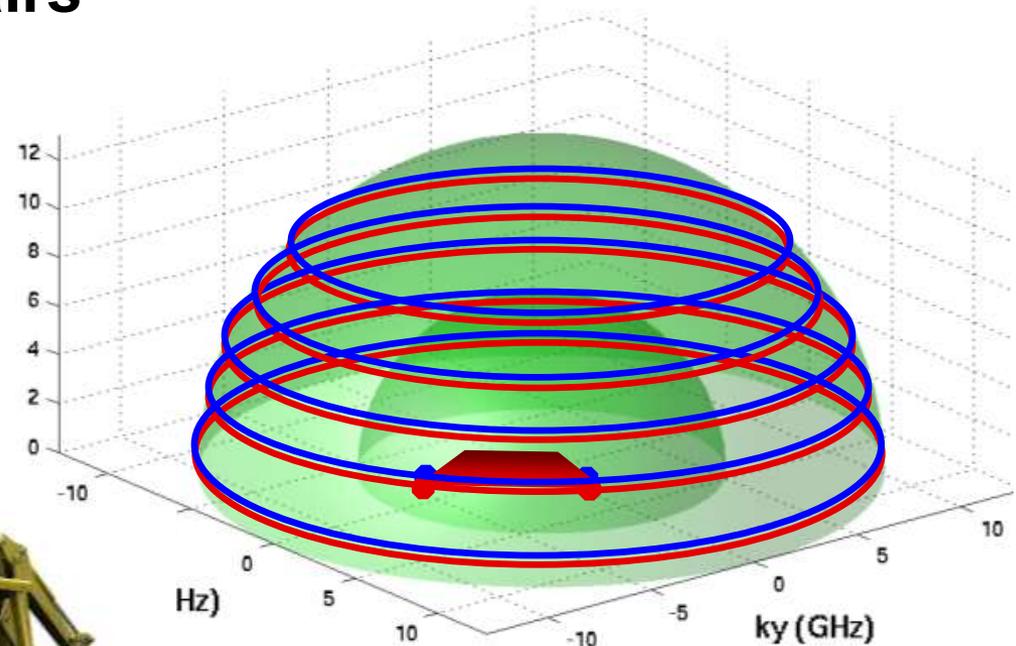
Sparse 3D Reconstruction, Take 1

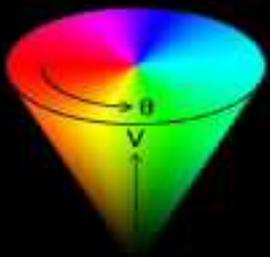
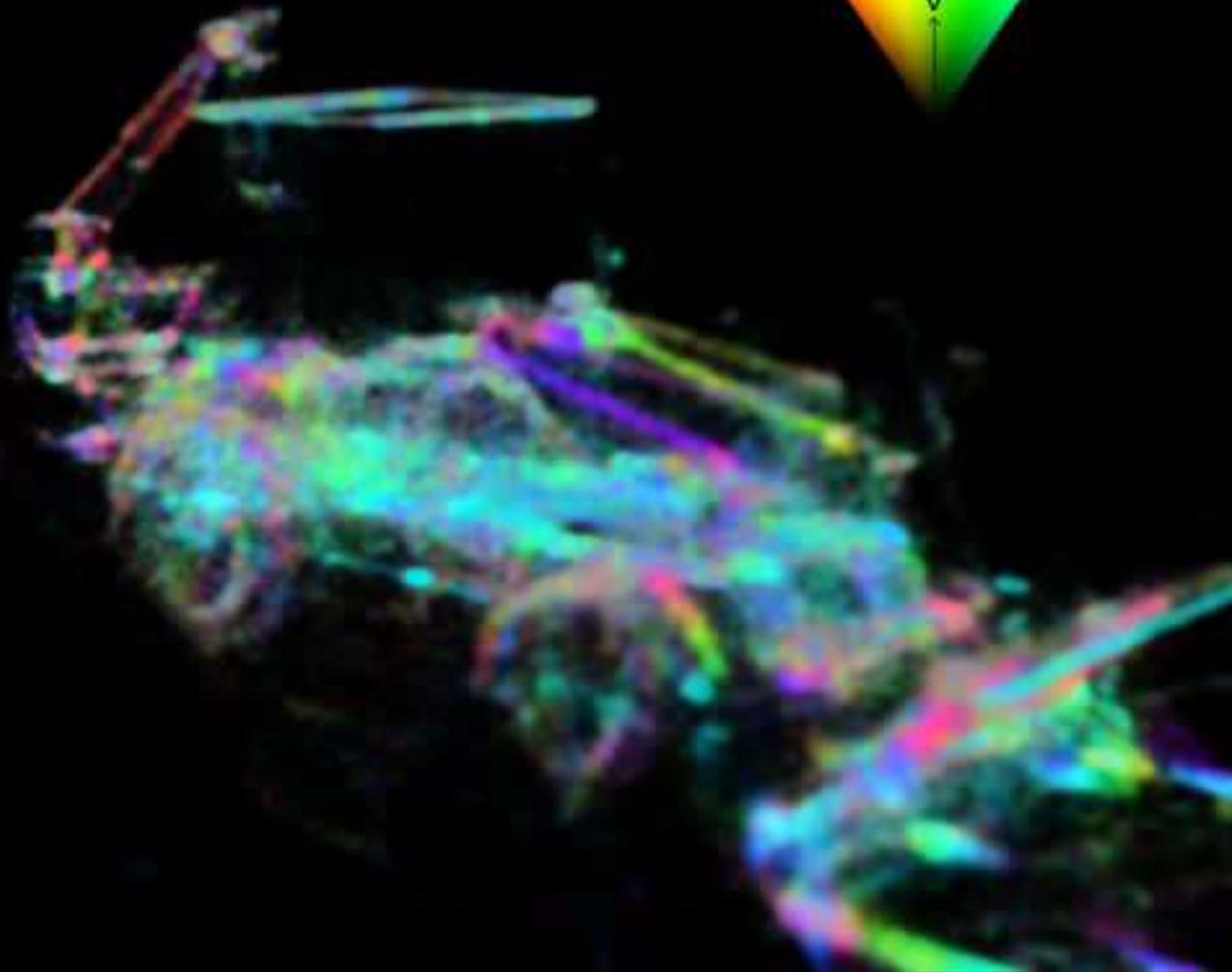


Coherent IFSAR image pairs

- 1.5"x1.5" resolution
 - 8-12 GHz
 - 24° aperture
- Every 5° elevation
 - $\Delta\theta=0.05^\circ$ elevation spacing
- 1296 total image pairs
- 2% of data used

'Data Dome' Representation in k-space

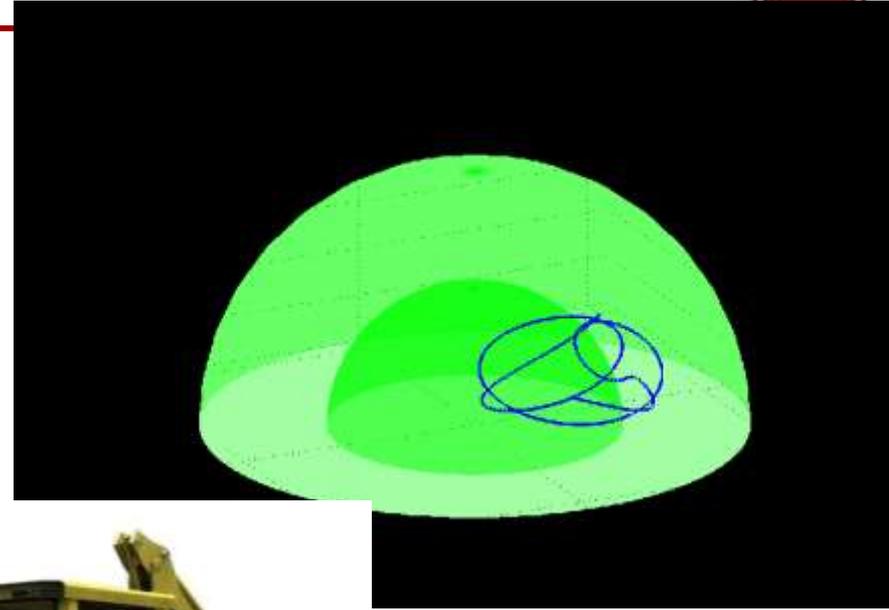




Sparse 3D Reconstruction: Take 2



- 3D radar reconstruction necessarily will use (very) sparse measurements
- Is the radar reconstruction sufficiently sparse to overcome measurement sparsity?

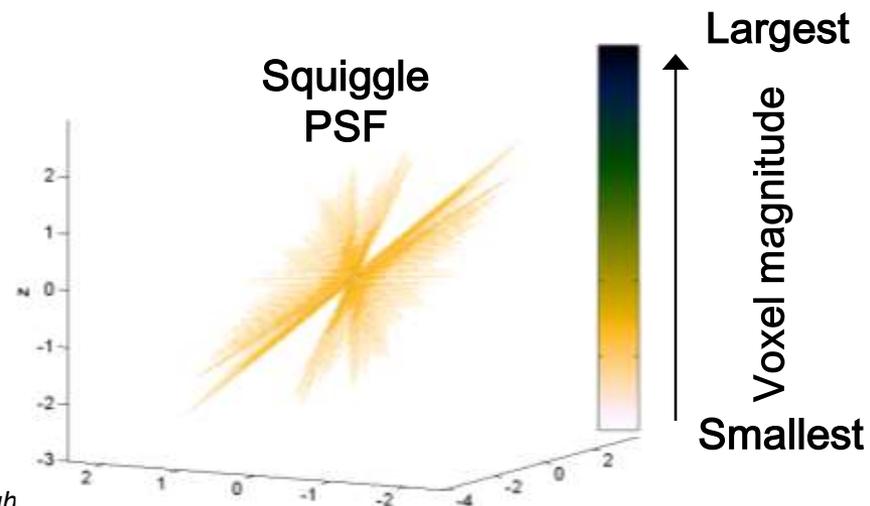
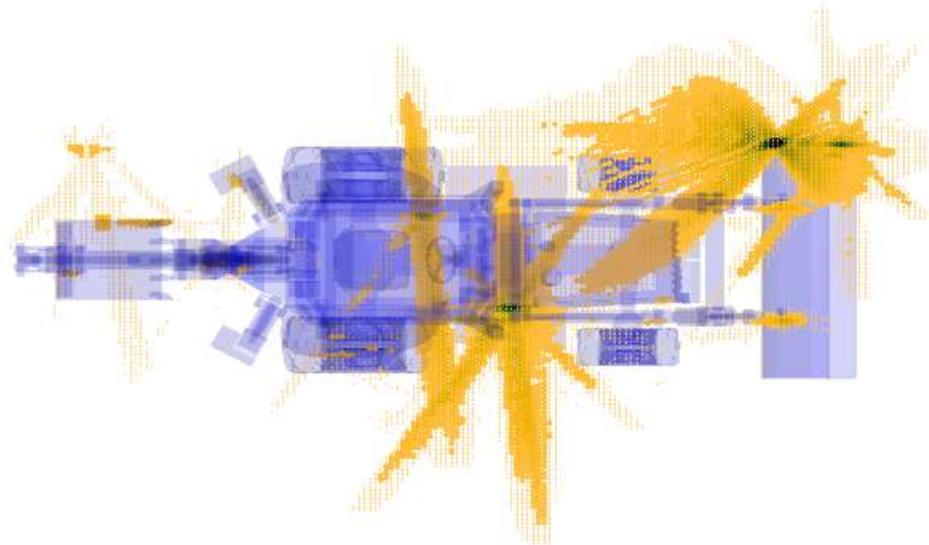
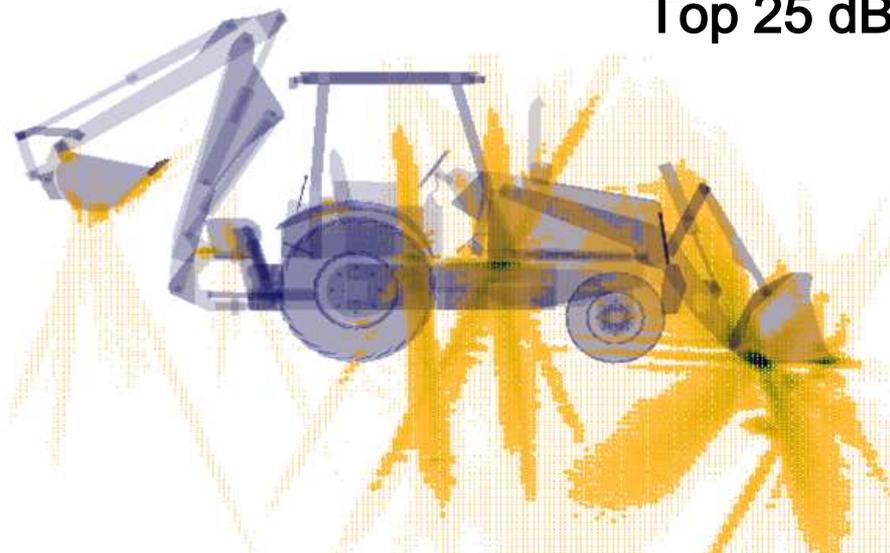


AFRL Backhoe Data Dome, with sparse “squiggle path” shown

Squiggle Path 3D Tomographic Reconstruction



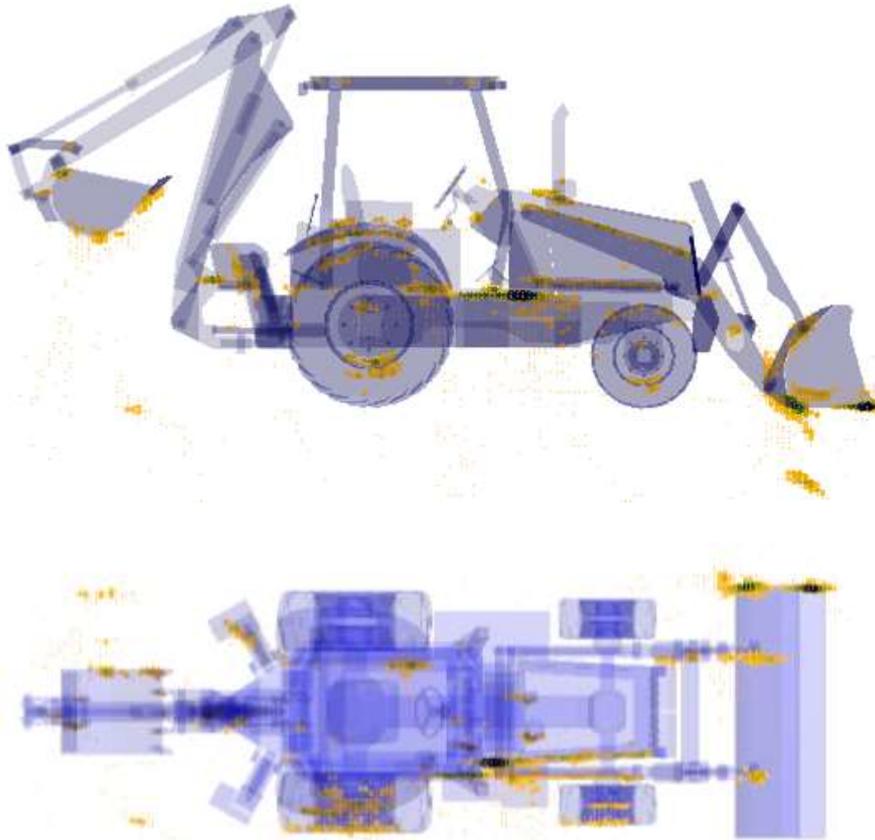
Top 25 dB voxels shown



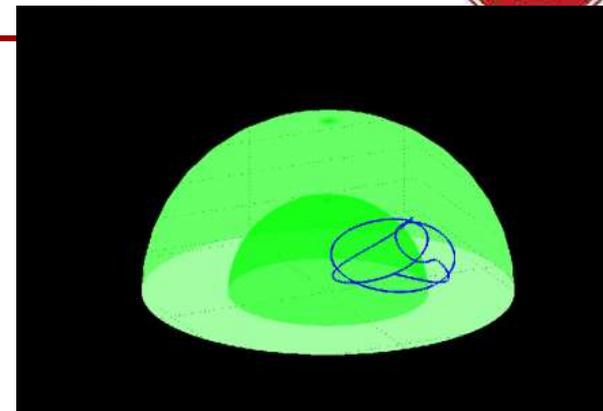
Squiggle Path Collection: l_p Regularized LS Reconstruction



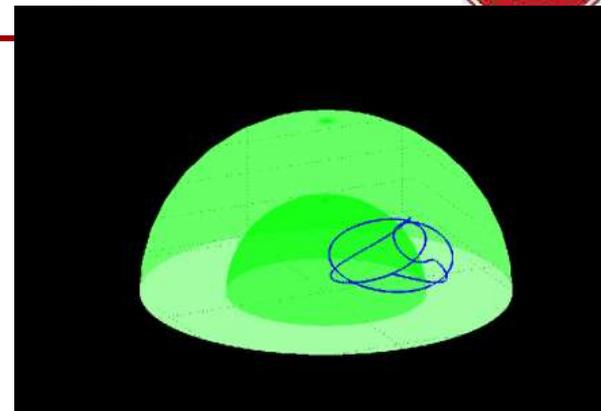
Top 30 dB voxels shown; $p=1$



Backhoe Squiggle Image



Backhoe Squiggle Image

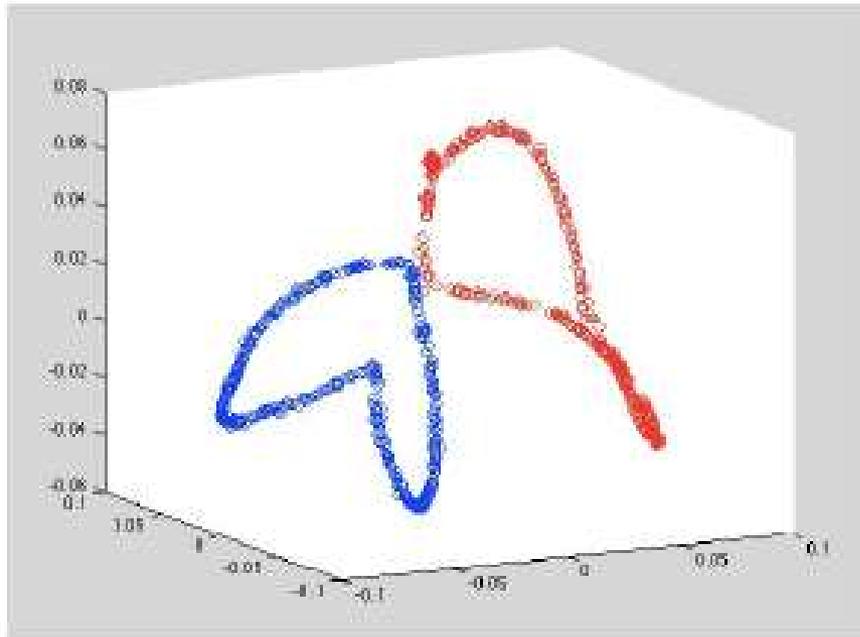


Gotcha I_p Reconstructions: Camry



- AFRL Gotcha Radar
- X-band circular SAR
- 500MHz bandwidth
- Public data releases

Vehicle Classification; Attributed Point Sets



Camry:



Maxima:



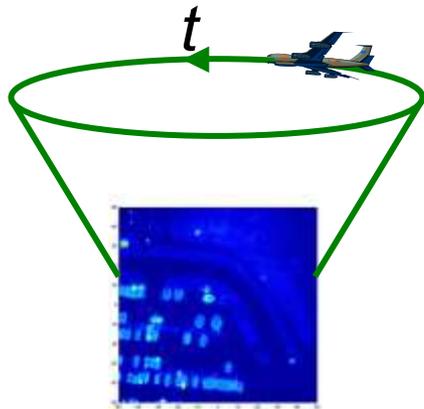
Using standard feature classifiers, >95% correct classification is obtained for 10-class GOTCHA vehicle set using 500 MHz X-band circular SAR

Newer Directions 1: Probabilistic



- Develop a Bayesian approach to Sparse Modeling
 - Output are full posterior distributions
 - Belief propagation using probabilistic factor analysis
 - Robust co-estimation of ‘tuning’ parameters
 - Computation is comparable to CS

Modeling Azimuth Dependence

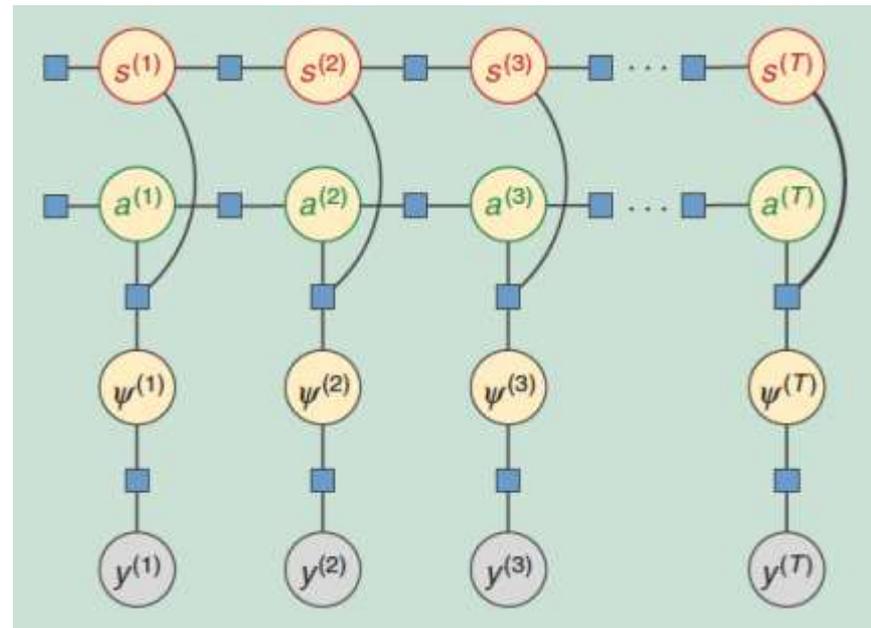


0 or 1

Pixel ampl.

Forward model

Phase History msmts

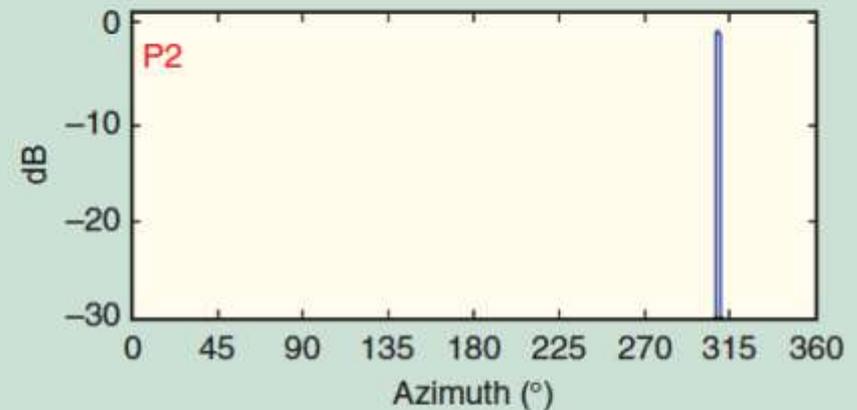
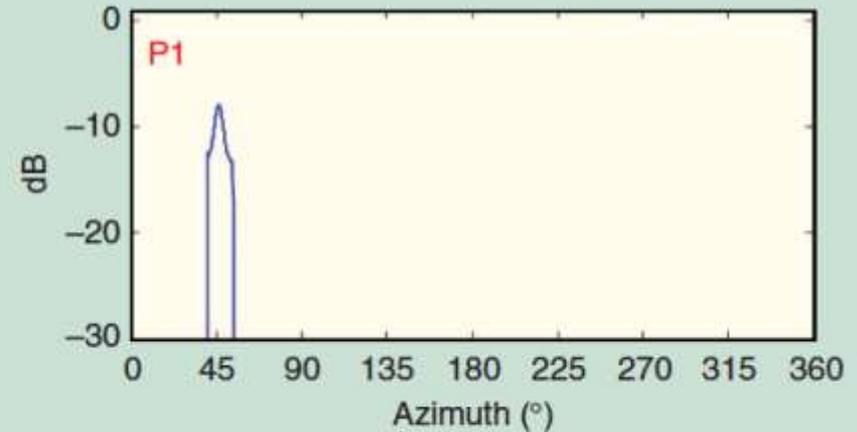
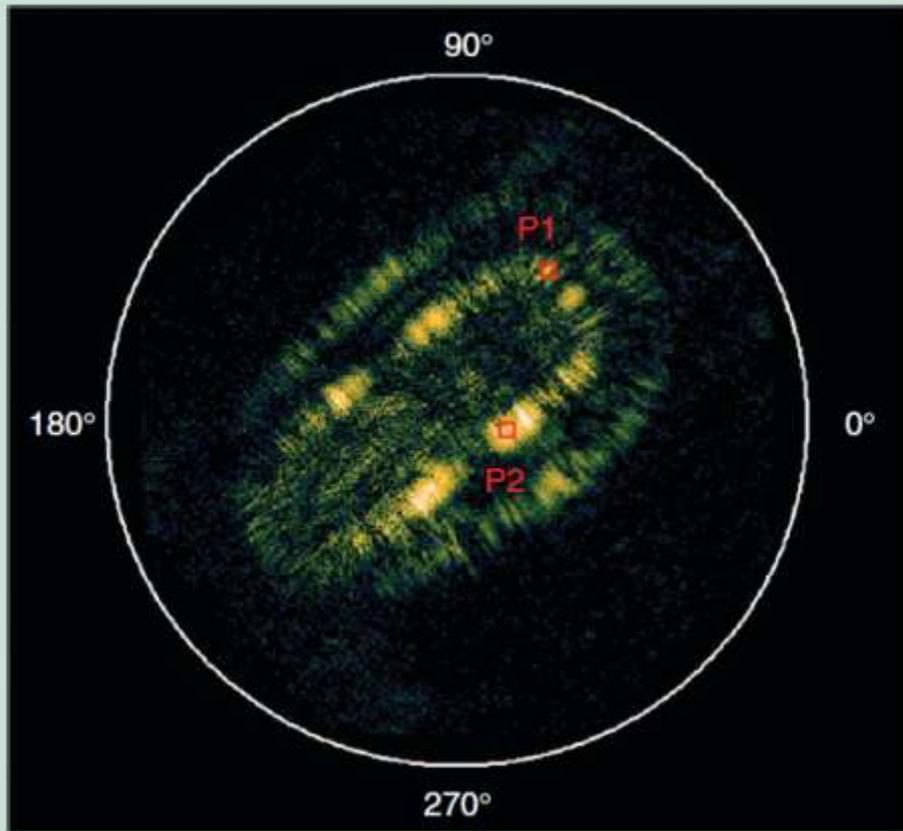


■ Develop a Bayesian approach to Sparse Modeling

- Temporal (=azimuth) dependence model on aspect amplitude
- Estimate of pdf for each variable

From: J. Ash, E. Ertin, L. Potter, E. Zelnio, "Wide Angle Synthetic Aperture Radar," IEEE Signal Processing Magazine, **31**, 4, July 2014.

Azimuth Dependence Example

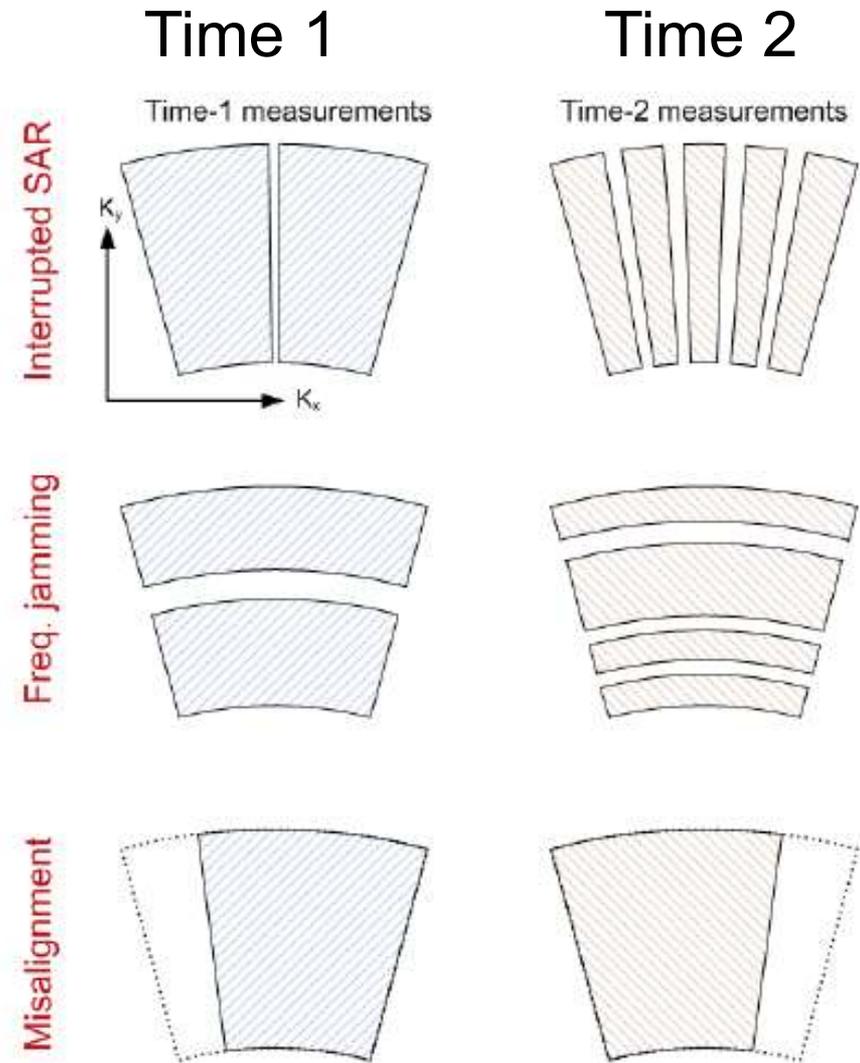


From: J. Ash, E. Ertin, L. Potter, E. Zelnio, "Wide Angle Synthetic Aperture Radar," IEEE Signal Processing Magazine, **31**, 4, July 2014.

Newer Directions 2: Change Detection



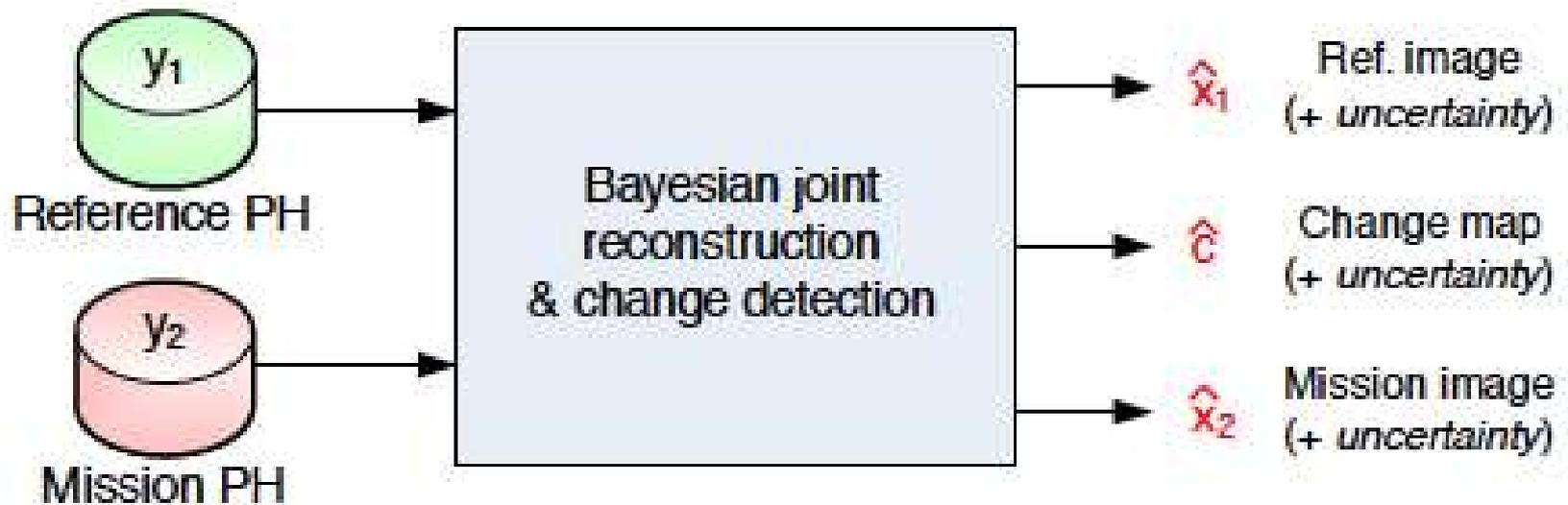
- Objective: Robust SAR change detection
 - under mixed sampling geometries
 - Interrupted apertures
 - Frequency jamming
 - Pass-to-pass misalignment



Newer Directions 2: Change Detection



Proposed



Newer Directions 2: Change Detection



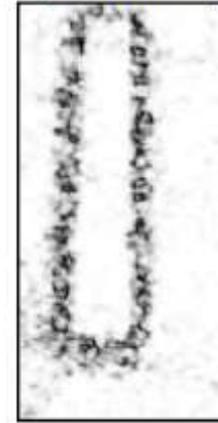
Time-1 image



Time-2 image



Uninterrupted coherent CD
(benchmark)

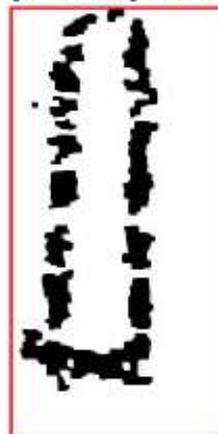


Discard 5% of Time1 data, 58% of Time2 data:

Matched filter
trad. CCD



Proposed
joint Bayesian



From: J. Ash, "A unifying perspective of coherent and non-coherent change detection," Proc. SPIE. **9093**, Algorithms for Synthetic Aperture Radar Imagery XXI, 909309, June 2014.

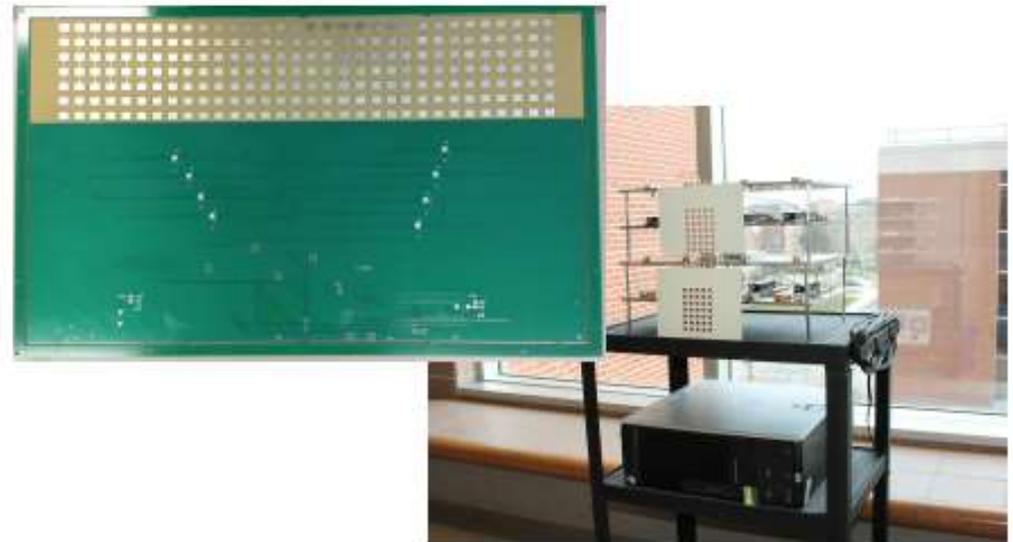
Newer Directions 3: Low-Cost Hardware



- Distributed radar testbed consisting of 14 Micro SDRs.
 - Mobile form-factor, lightweight, fully digital programmable
- Colocated MIMO Radar system with 4 TX And 4 RX channels
 - airborne collection emulation using 32 TX and 32 RX antenna array
- Stand-alone, high-performance stationary infrastructure



Micro SDR



MIMO Radar System

Prof. Emre Ertin, ertin.1@osu.edu

Newer Directions 3: Low-Cost Hardware



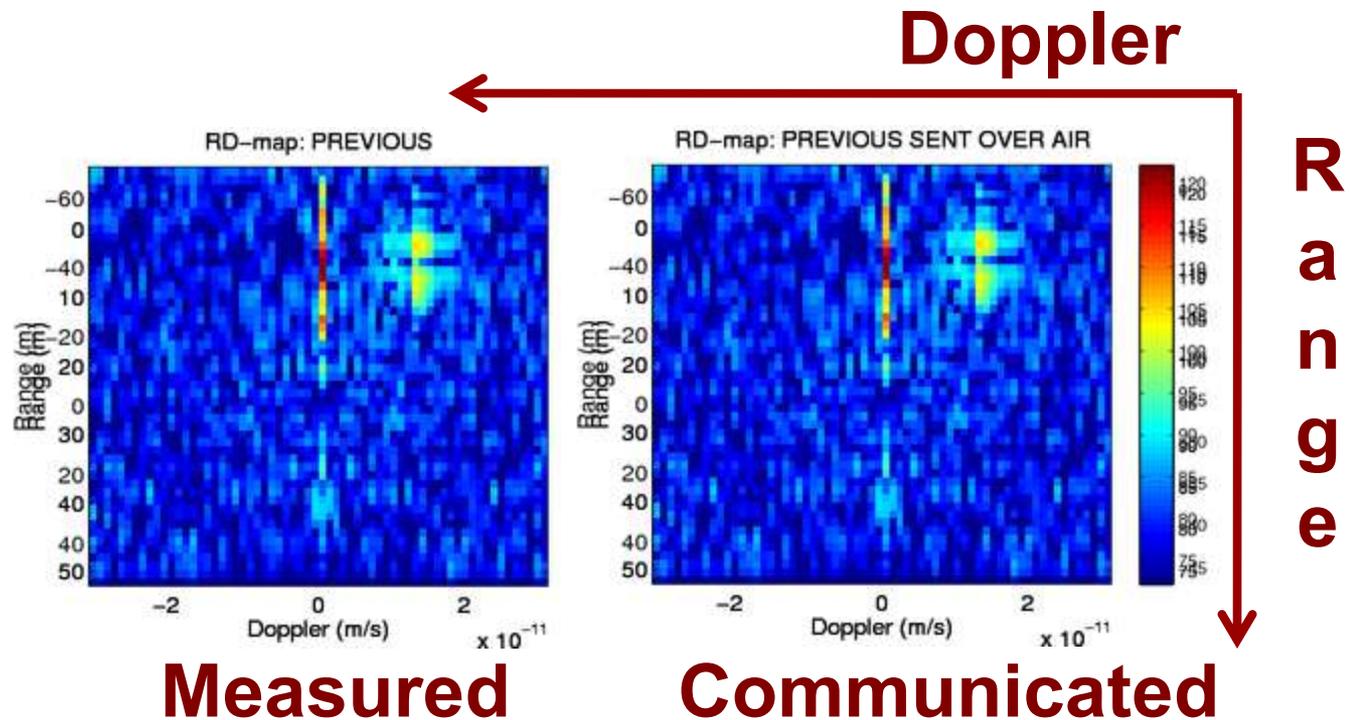
- 250 MHz Signal Bandwidth (60 cm resolution)
 - • Dual 250 MS/sec 14 bit A/D
 - • Dual 1 GS/sec oversampling 16 bit D/A
- Embedded Virtex-6 LX240T FPGA
- 215 mm (W) x 96 mm (H) x 290 mm (D)
- Custom X-Band RF-Frontend with switchable 4TX and 4RX Antenna Matrix
 - ability to chain for multiple units

Prof. Emre Ertin, ertin.1@osu.edu



Joint Sensing-Comm Experiment

- Self-adaptive joint radar/communication system
 - PN transmit signal waveform
- Measured and communicated range-Doppler maps
 - n^{th} range-Doppler map used to adapt $(n+1)^{\text{st}}$ waveform set.



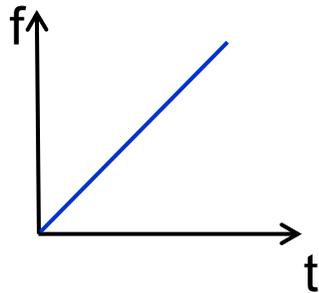
Newer Directions 4: Transmit Design



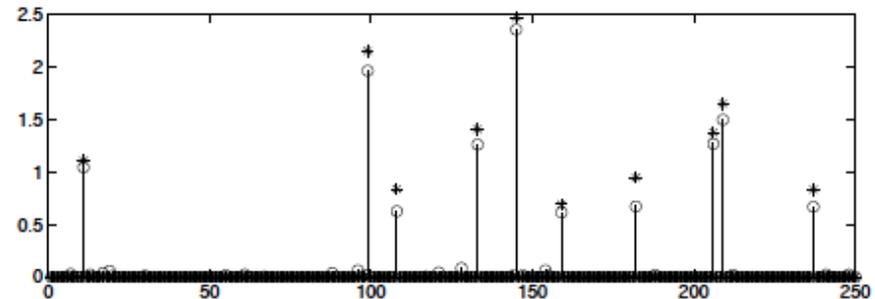
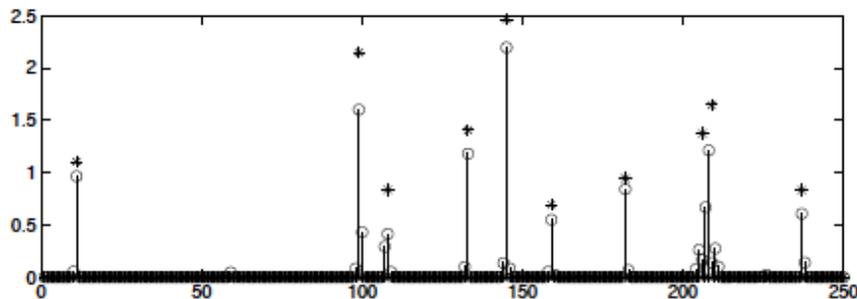
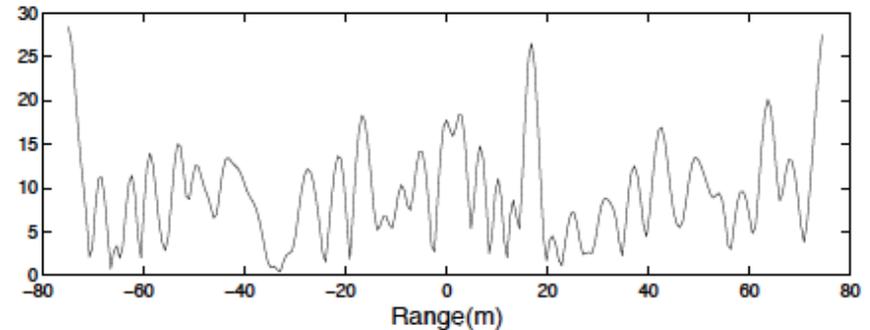
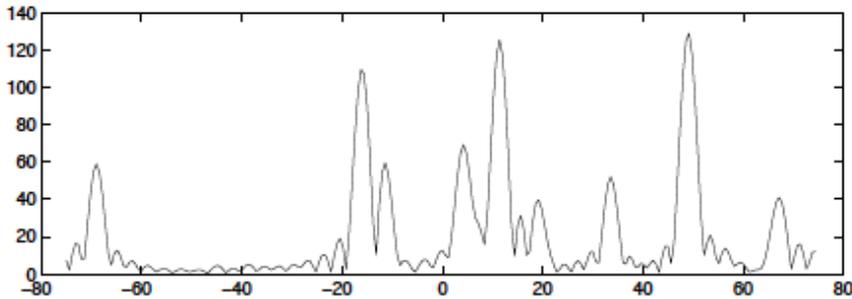
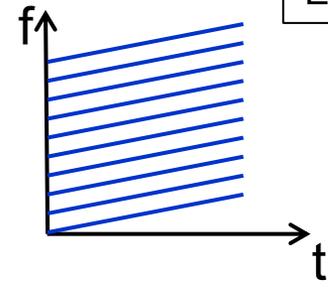
- Transmit signal design can alter A coherence properties
- Ex: 10 targets; 2 tx designs; 10:1 basis pursuit undersampling

Ertin, SIAM 2012

1 chirp



15 chirps

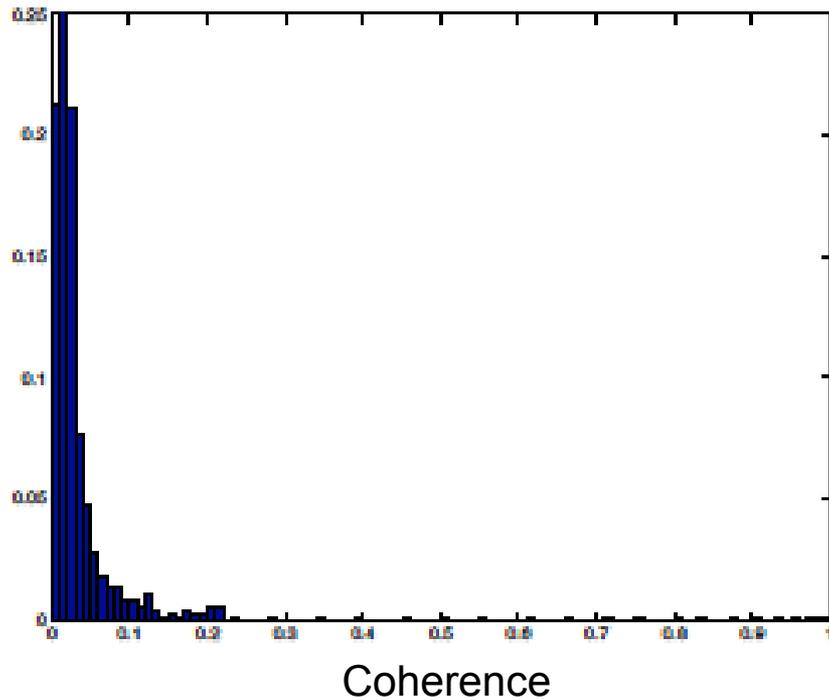


Transmit Designs for Coherence

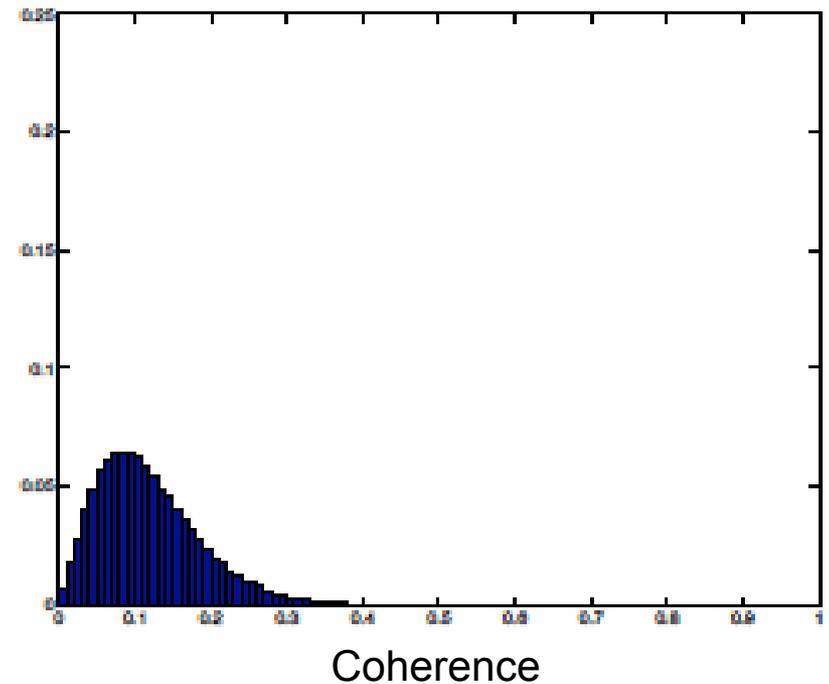


Histogram of $A^H A$ magnitudes

1 Chirp



15 Chirps



Newer Direction 5: Relating CS to ML/MDL



- Can we related Sparse Reconstruction to parameter estimation?

$$\hat{x} = \arg \min_x \|y - Ax\|_2^2 + \lambda \|x\|_p^p \quad p \leq 1$$

- MDL selection given by:

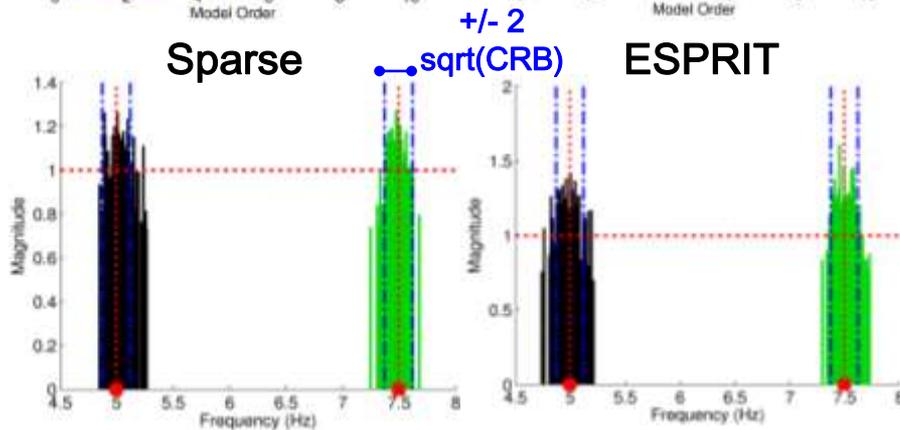
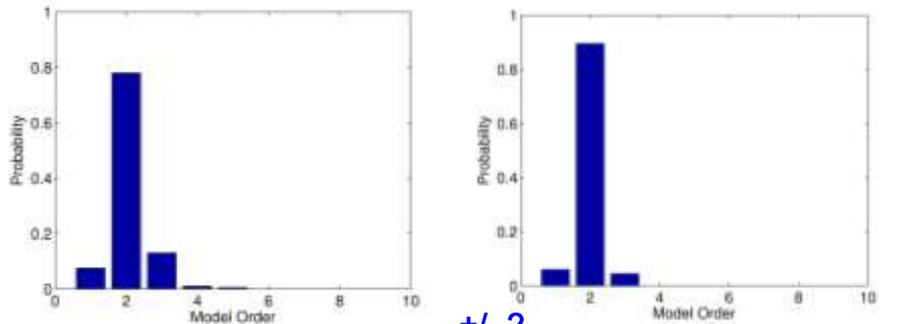
$$\lambda^* = \arg \min_{\lambda} J(\hat{x})$$

$$J(x) = \|y - Ax\|_2^2 + \frac{n_c \ln(N)}{2} \|x\|_0$$



Well-Separated Sinusoids

0 dB SNR



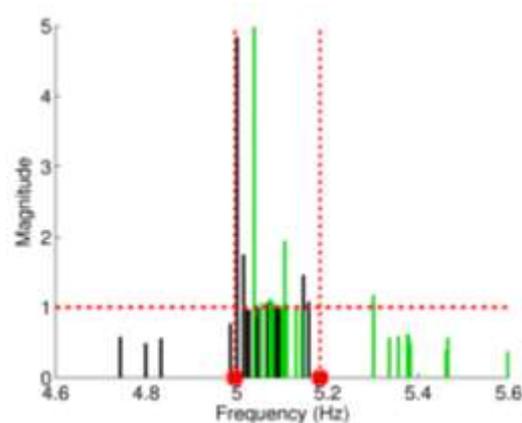
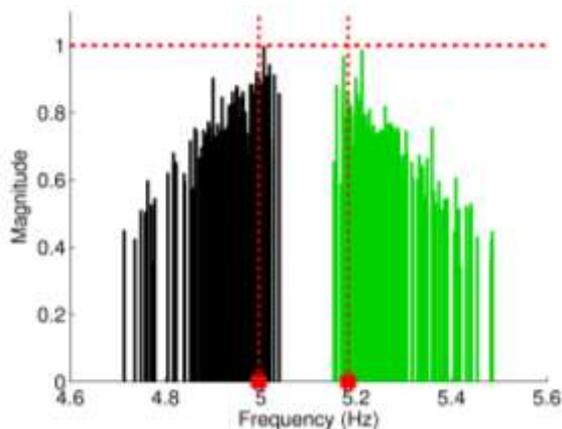
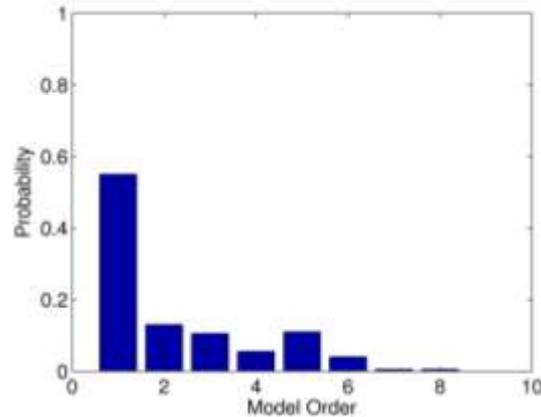
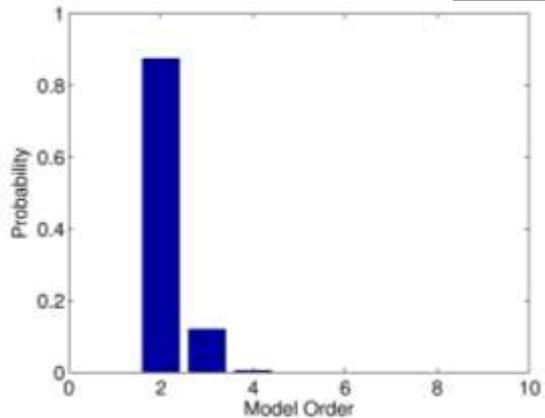
θ_1 \longleftrightarrow θ_2
4 X Rayleigh Resolution

$\frac{\sqrt{\text{CRB}}_{f_1} + \sqrt{\text{CRB}}_{f_2}}$	$\frac{\text{RMSE}_{f_1} + \text{RMSE}_{f_2}}$
	Sparse ESPRIT
0.1236	0.1642 0.1642



Closely-Spaced Sinusoids (Superresolution)

10 dB SNR



θ_1 θ_2
 \longleftrightarrow
 0.3 X Rayleigh
 Resolution

$\frac{\sqrt{\text{CRB } f_1} + \sqrt{\text{CRB } f_2}}{\sqrt{\text{CRB } f_2}}$	RMSE f_1 + RMSE f_2	
	Sparse	ESPRIT
0.1772	0.1951	1.6572

Closing Points



- Advances in sampling and digital processing are moving radar systems more firmly in the digital realm.
 - Much broader set of signaling and waveform adaptation possibilities
- Persistence and wide-angle sensing motivate rethinking the models and algorithms for radar processing.
 - Sparse nonparametric and parametric solutions
 - New opportunities for using the time dimension
- A rich collaboration across diverse research communities are steadily producing algorithms and enabling hardware proving effective on real-world radar challenges.



Thank you!