

SAR Imaging of Dynamic Scenes

IPAM SAR Workshop

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Rensselaer

- ▶ Need
 - ▶ All weather, day/night, sensor system
 - ▶ Situational awareness
 - ▶ Extend moving target indicator radar (MTI) to scene reconstruction
- ▶ Problem
 - ▶ Synthetic aperture radar images assume rigid scenes
 - ▶ Moving image elements are mis-located, distorted, or *not imaged at all*

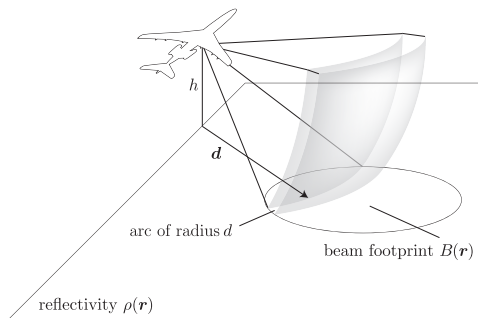
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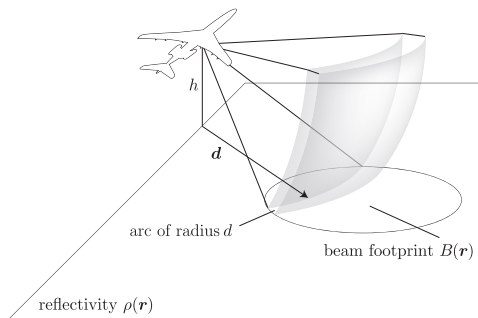
Radar pulse illumination (high range resolution)



- ▶ Spherical pulse radiates at speed c
- ▶ Echo from all reflectors in arc returns to radar at the same time
- ▶ Radar collects energy as function of time:

$$\mathcal{E}(t) \sim \int \rho(\mathbf{r}) B(\mathbf{r}) \delta \left(t - 2\sqrt{h^2 + d^2}/c \right) dA$$

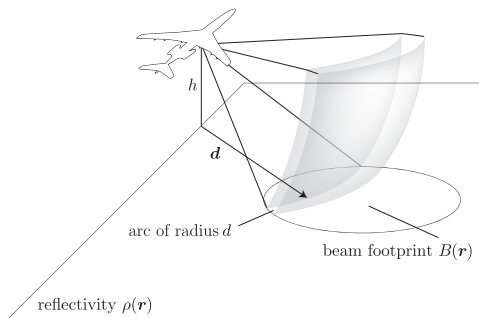
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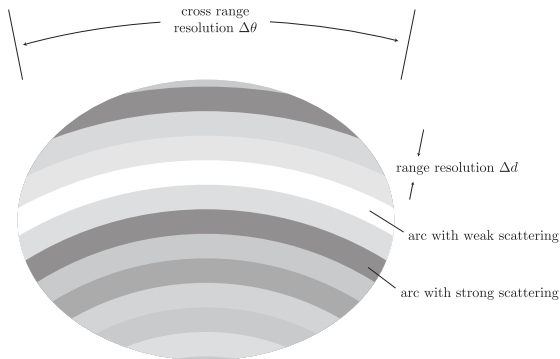
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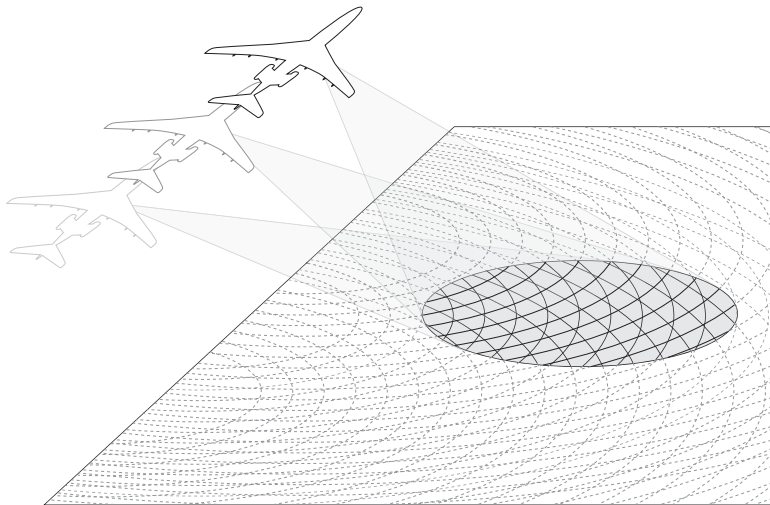
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Image from stationary radar

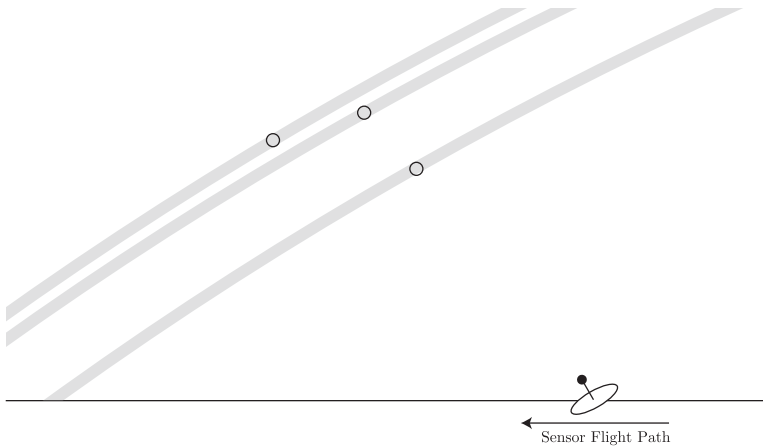


- ▶ A (stationary) radar has no knowledge of angular position within the beam
- ▶ Best image is arcs “painted” by range intensity values

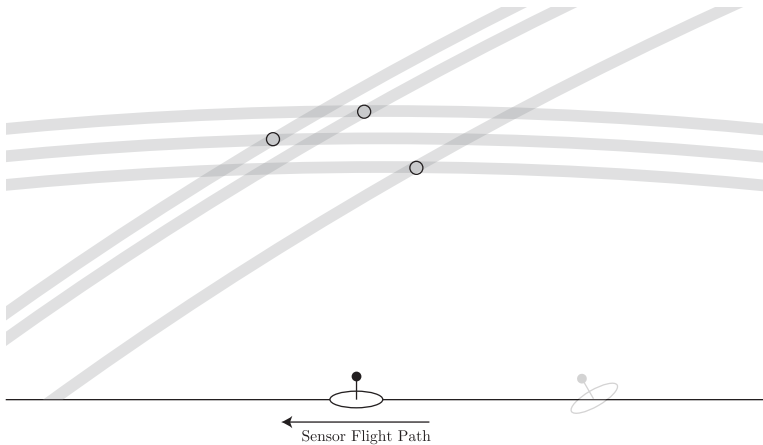
Spotlight SAR



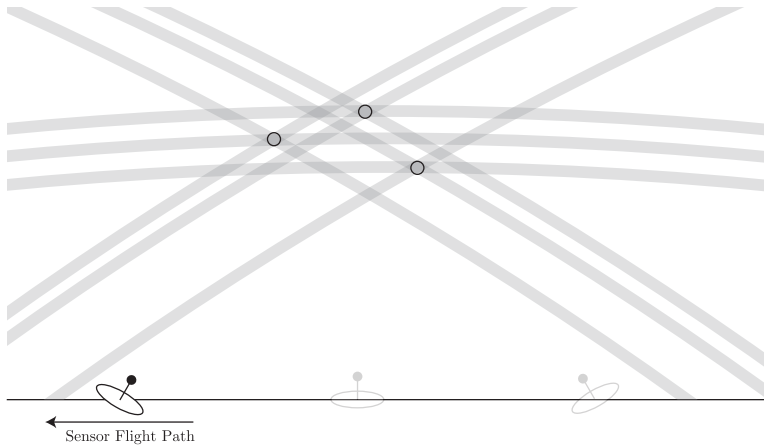
SAR imaging of stationary scenes



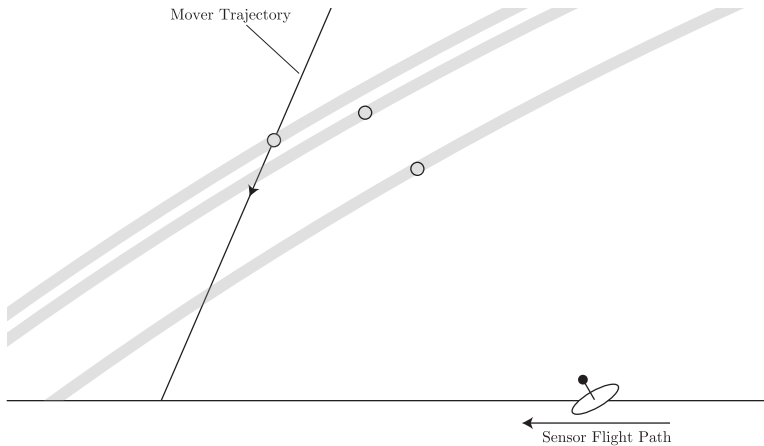
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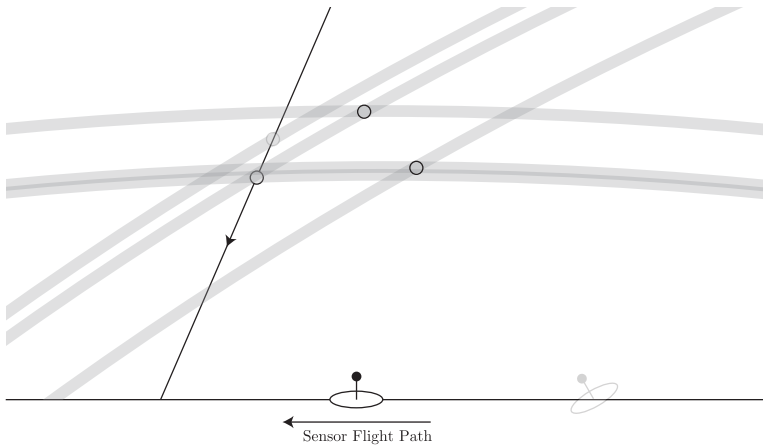
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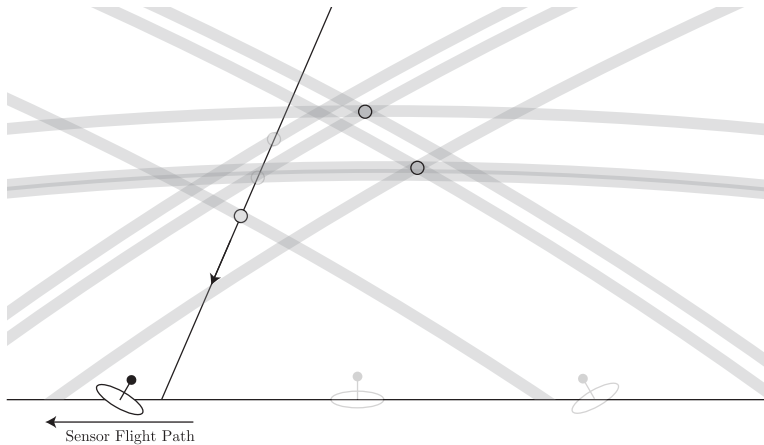
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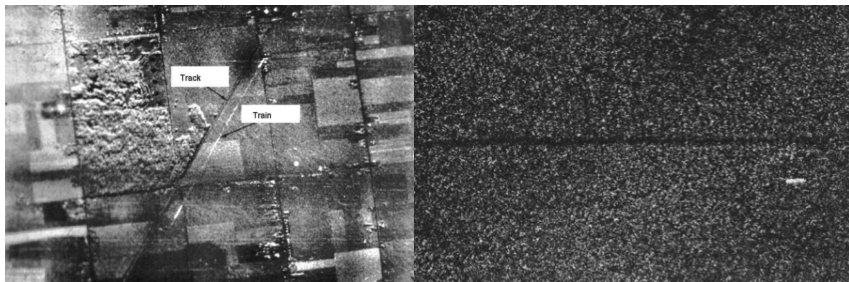
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Examples



Train off the track

Ship off its wake

Example



Image from Sandia National Laboratories

Past approaches

- ▶ Don't fix it, *exploit it!*
- ▶ Phase history analysis
- ▶ Sub-aperture images to isolate motion
- ▶ Ground moving target indicator (GMTI), Space-time adaptive processing (STAP), etc...

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The radar problem: What does radar data look like?

- ▶ The echo signal at radar receiver

$$s_{\text{rec}}(t) = s_{\text{scatt}}(t) + n(t)$$

- ▶ EM radiation decays as R^{-1} , energy as R^{-2} , and radar echo energy as R^{-4} . Signal energy is proportional to field energy.
- ▶ Echo signals compete with system noise $n(t)$ (and are often swamped by it).
- ▶ “Raw” radar data is usually the result of significant signal processing.

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Correlation reception

- Usually, the received signal is compared to the ideal echo signal model

$$s_{\text{scatt}}(t) = \iint \rho(\tau, \nu) s_{\text{inc}}(t - \tau) e^{i\nu(t - \tau)} d\tau d\nu$$

where $\rho(\tau, \nu)$ is the reflectivity of a point isotropic scatterer at distance $R = c\tau/2$ and radial velocity $\dot{R} = \nu\lambda/2$.

- Output of correlation receiver is

$$\eta(\tau, \nu) = \int s_{\text{rec}}(t) s_{\text{inc}}^*(t - \tau) e^{-i\nu(t - \tau)} dt$$

- Local maxima of $|\eta(\tau, \nu)|^2$ define target's range and radial velocity.
- The parameters τ and ν define a two-dimensional search space *appropriate to single pulses*.

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Ambiguity function

- ▶ If the ideal scattering model is the actual model, the substitution for $s_{\text{rec}}(t) = s_{\text{scatt}}(t) + n(t)$ yields

$$\eta(\tau, \nu) = \iint \rho(\tau', \nu') \chi(\tau - \tau'; \nu - \nu') d\tau' d\nu' + \underbrace{\text{correlation noise}}_{\text{small}}$$

(up to a phase factor in the integrand)

- ▶ The kernel here is the *radar ambiguity function*:

$$\chi(\tau; \nu) = \int s_{\text{inc}}(t - \tfrac{1}{2}\tau) s_{\text{inc}}^*(t + \tfrac{1}{2}\tau) e^{i\nu t} dt$$

- ▶ $\chi(\tau; \nu)$ characterizes the radar's ability to estimate R and $\dot{R}$
- ▶ "Radar data" usually means

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- ▶ Coordinate change from radar-centric to geo-centric coordinates $\mathbf{r}$. If $\gamma(\theta)$ denotes radar flight path, then

$$\mathbf{d} \rightarrow \gamma(\theta) - \mathbf{r}$$

$$\chi(\tau; \nu) \rightarrow \chi_\theta(\tau(\mathbf{r}); \nu(\mathbf{r}))$$

$$\Rightarrow \eta(\tau, \nu) \rightarrow \eta_\theta(\tau(\mathbf{r}), \nu(\mathbf{r})) = \iint \rho(\mathbf{r}') \chi_\theta(2(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')/c; 0) \, dx' \, dy'$$

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$$\begin{aligned} I(\mathbf{r}) &= \int \eta_\theta(\tau(\mathbf{r}), \nu(\mathbf{r})) \, d\theta \\ &= \iiint \rho(\mathbf{r}') \chi_\theta(2\hat{\mathbf{d}} \cdot (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')/c; 0) \, dx' \, dy' \, d\theta \end{aligned}$$

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Imaging via filtered adjoint

- ▶ SAR correlates echo field with model at each step of the data collection process. What if we wait until the end?
- ▶ Point scattering model:

$$s_{\text{scatt}}^{(\theta)}(t) = s_{\text{inc}}^{(\theta)}(t - \tau_{\theta})e^{i\nu(t - \tau_{\theta})}$$

where $\tau_{\theta, \mathbf{r}} = 2|\gamma(\theta) - \mathbf{r}|/c$

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Revised scattering model

- ▶ The two parameter model can be modified to include any *image-dependent* parameters.
- ▶ Target-specific velocities:

$$\begin{aligned}\tau_{\theta} &\rightarrow \tau_{\theta, \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v}} = 2|\gamma(\theta) - \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{v}t|/c \\ \rho(\mathbf{r}) &\rightarrow \rho_{\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{r}) \\ \chi_{\theta}(\tau(\mathbf{r}), \nu(\mathbf{r})) &\rightarrow \chi_{\theta}(\tau(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v}); \nu(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v}))\end{aligned}$$

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Extended image generation

- ▶ (Hyper) image as:

$$I(\mathbf{r}; \mathbf{v}) = \iint \mathbf{s}_{\text{scatt}}^{(\theta, \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v})}(t') \mathbf{s}_{\text{rec}}^{(\theta)*}(t') dt' d\theta$$

- ▶ Define the imaging kernel

$$K(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v}') \equiv \int \mathbf{s}_{\text{inc}}^{(\theta)}(t - \tau_{\theta, \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v}}) e^{i\nu(t - \tau_{\theta, \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v}})} \mathbf{s}_{\text{inc}}^{(\theta)*}(t' - \tau_{\theta, \mathbf{r}', \mathbf{v}'}) e^{-i\nu(t' - \tau_{\theta, \mathbf{r}', \mathbf{v}'})} d\theta$$

- ▶ Can show (slow mover approximation)

$$K(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v}') = \dots = \int \chi_{\theta}(2\hat{\mathbf{d}} \cdot (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')/c, 2\hat{\mathbf{d}} \cdot (\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}')/\lambda) d\theta$$

$$I(\mathbf{r}; \mathbf{v}) = \iint \rho_{\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{r}') \tilde{K}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}', \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}') dx' dy' dv'_x dv'_y$$

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Implementation: Choice of $s_{\text{inc}}(t)$?

- ▶ “Impulse radar” uses

$$s_{\text{inc}}(t) \sim \delta(t) \quad \text{and so} \quad \chi(\tau, \nu) \sim \delta(\tau)$$

⇒ May not be the best choice (especially for slow movers).

- ▶ Same appears to be true for high Doppler resolution waveforms (for which $\chi(\tau, \nu) \sim \delta(\nu)$)
- ▶ Ideally, we want

$$K(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}', \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v}') = \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}', \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}')$$

- ▶ But new (extended) imaging kernel is no longer even guaranteed to be shift-invariant.
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Other applications: “Start-Stop” error

- ▶ Scheme allows for straightforward introduction of a variety of complex imaging configurations
- ▶ Start-stop accuracy?

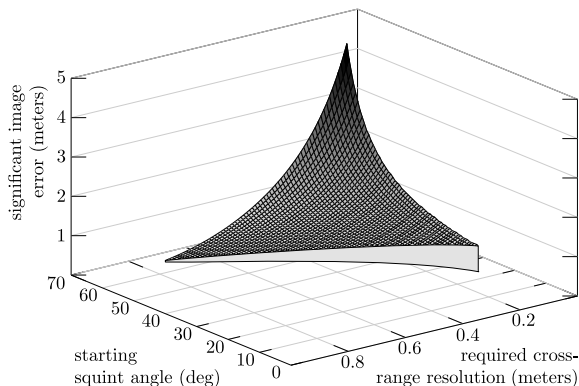


Figure: Error as a function of squint and resolution for a target traveling 100km/hr in the direction opposite to the platform velocity (8 km/sec). (X-band illumination.)

Other applications: Multistatic imaging

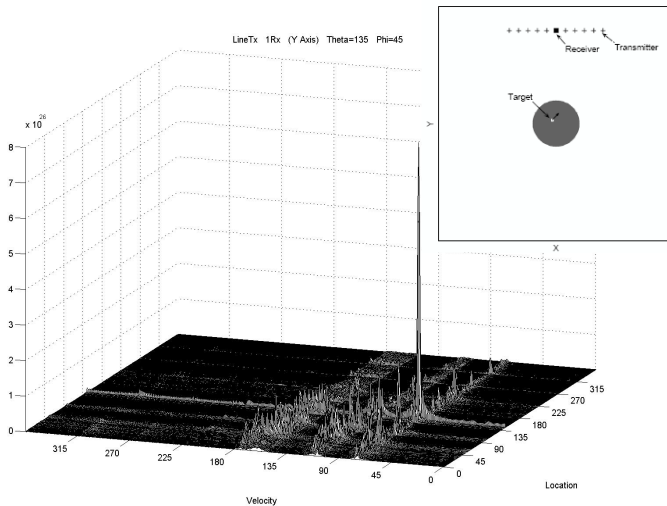


Figure: The geometry (not to scale) for a linear array 11 transmitters and a single receiver and the corresponding combined point-spread function.

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 - ▶ Nature of its shift-variance.
 - ▶ Expect that K will also characterize effects of non-uniqueness of solutions.
- ▶ Extend to accelerating image elements
- ▶ Can other target-specific parameters be introduced?

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