

Next-Generation Ground-Based Planetary Radar

Arecibo Observatory Colloquium



Jet Propulsion Laboratory California Institute of Technology

Joseph Lazio

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Outline

Me, as summer student, with Arecibo dish in the background!

- Scientific Motivation
- Radar Arrays
 - Technical Aside
 - Radio Astronomy Arrays
 - Radar Astronomy Arrays
 - Calibration of Radar Astronomy Arrays
- Looking toward the Future

Scale of the Solar System

Relative sizes of planetary orbits known for centuries



Radar provided absolute sizes of planetary orbits at precision needed for interplanetary navigation

Precision measurements from DSIF [DSN] radar measurements Reduced uncertainty to about 400 km (~ 0.0003%)

Planetary Radar Accomplishments

- Discovered Venus retrograde rotation (1962)
- Probing the surfaces of asteroids (1976)
- First radar returns from Titan (1989-1993), suggestive of icy surface but with potential liquids
- Anomalous reflections from Mercury (1991), indicative of polar ice







Magellan radar image of Venus (NASA/Caltech/JPL)



Cassini radar image of Titan (NASA/JPL/USGS)

Science Case - Near-Earth Asteroids and Planetary Defense

- Radar delivers size, rotation, shape, density, surface features, precise orbit, nongravitational forces, presence of satellites, mass, ...
 - Science: Decipher the record in primitive bodies of epochs and processes not obtainable elsewhere
 - Robotic missions: Navigation, orbit planning, observations
 - Planetary defense: Precise orbit determination, size, shape for hazard assessment





Radar Contributions to Space Missions



Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect



journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/icarus

Shape model and surface properties of the OSIRIS-REx target Asteroid (101955) Bennu from radar and lightcurve observations



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International Radar Assets



Goldstone Solar System Radar (DSN) 70 m antenna, 450 kW transmitter, 4 cm wavelength (X band)



Arecibo (NAIC)



Green Bank Telescope (GBO) 100 m antenna, no transmitter (yet!)

Canberra DSS-43 (DSN) 70 m antenna, 80 kW transmitter, 4 cm wavelength (C band) + Australia Telescope Compact Array





W. M. Keck Institute for Space Studies Next-Generation Planetary Radar Study



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Science Case – Next-Generation Planetary Radar

Driving use cases identified at KISS Workshop

- Near-Earth Asteroids and Planetary Defense
- Venus
- Outer Solar System satellites
 - **Other potential targets**
 - Mini-moons
 - Interstellar objects
 - Earth Trojans

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Venus / Sif Mons





Future Aside: Modular, Solid-State Amplifiers

1 inch



State of the Art: high-power amplification via klystrons (vacuum tubes)

- Planetary radar klystrons have challenging power densities and manufacturing tolerances (~ 1 MW/mm²)
 - Only 50% efficient
 - Even small beam deviations lead to potentially damaging heat dissipation

Future Aside: Modular, Solid-State Amplifiers



64 kW SPCA Assembly

1 kW Spatial Power Combining Amplifier (SPCA)

- Klystrons have challenging power densities and manufacturing tolerances (~ 1 MW/mm²)
- Solid-state amplifiers
 - Modular / scalable, a.k.a. graceful degradation
 - Reliable: Device lifetimes > 100 yr in optimal operating conditions
 - Used in commercial and military communications/radar systems
- Technology Development
 - JPL: 16 × 80 W (commercial)
 MMICs, 90% combining efficiency
 → 1 kW output @ 8.56 GHz
 - JAXA: 30 kW solid-state system transmitter
 - Need to scale to ~ 1 MW

How Do Telescopes Work?



Exercise for the reader:

Consider a parabolic surface.

Show that initially parallel light rays, all traveling at the speed of light *c*, reach a common point, *the focus*, at the same time no matter where they reflect from the surface of the reflector.

Extra credit: Repeat for a spherical reflector such as Arecibo and show that the focus is a line.

Aperture Synthesis



- 1. Record signals at individual antennas
- 2. Bring them together "at the same time" (coherently)
- 3. Then ...

Interferometry or Aperture Synthesis



- 1. Record signals at individual antennas
- 2. Bring them together "at the same time" (coherently)
- 3. Then synthesize aperture!

a.k.a. build a telescope that's mostly holes!

Aperture Synthesis



Interferometry or Aperture Synthesis

The 1974 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded jointly to Sir Martin Ryle and Antony Hewish "for their pioneering research in radio astrophysics: Ryle for his observations and inventions, in particular of the aperture synthesis technique, and Hewish for his decisive role in the discovery of pulsars."

Arrays are generally approach being adopted for current and future radio telescopes

- LOFAR
- MWA
- HERA
- MeerKAT
- ASKAP
- SKA1-Mid and SKA1-Low
- ngVLA





Next-Generation Planetary Radar

How Do Telescopes Work?



Reciprocity

Antennas work equally well as transmitters or receivers

e.g., "feed illuminates subreflector" for radio telescope for which no transmitter exists

Radar!

Radar Array



By reciprocity, in principle, adding transmitters and injecting appropriate delays can enable phased transmissions

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Radar Array





Need ephemeris to compensate for relative velocities of antennas

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Planetary Radar

Huygens–Fresnel principle



Radar transmitter transmits toward target ...

Target reflects, a.k.a. re-transmits, radar signal.

Received Power (a.k.a. Radar Equation, and Tyranny of)



Radar transmitter transmits toward target ...

Target reflects, a.k.a. re-transmits, radar signal.

Received Power (a.k.a. Radar Equation)





Monolithic single dish

- *P*_{TX} limited by high-power transmitter and amplifier engineering
- G_{TX} limited by size of antenna
- Many single point failures

* G = 1 (= 0 dBi) for isotropic radiator $G > 10^7$ (70 dBi) for Goldstone, Arecibo

Received Power (a.k.a. Radar Equation)





Monolithic single dish

- *P*_{TX} limited by high-power transmitter and amplifier engineering
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Array of N antennas

- $P_{TX} = N p_{TX}$, with p_{TX} smaller and much more feasible
- $G_{TX} = N g_{TX} \propto N a_{eff} \propto N d^2$, more feasible to manufacture
- More graceful degradation
- Is same array used to transmit and receive? G_{TX} = G_{RX}

Arrays of Transmitting Antennas





Loop Canyon test site

Vilnrotter et al.; D'Addario et al. Next-Generation Planetary Radar

Three-Antenna Uplink Array Demonstration

EPOXI Spacecraft



Vilnrotter et al.

Arecibo Observatory



Uplink Array Demonstration: 3 antennas vs. 1 antenna

Delay-Doppler Improvement

2007 WV4 Image using 3-antenna Uplink Array



2007 WV4 Image using Single Antenna (DSS-26)



DSS24 + DSS-25 + DSS-26 (20 kW) (20 kW) (80 kW)

DSS-26 (80 kW)

... but only 750 m resolution

Next-Generation Planetary Radar

Radio Astronomy Array Calibration



Phase: $\phi = 2\pi v \tau_g$ Need phase errors << 1 Synthetic aperture needs to be "smooth"

Radio Astronomy Array Calibration





Observe point source (reference emitter) at infinity **Deviation from** point source used to derive phase corrections

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Radar Array Calibration



Need electric fields in phase at infinity Need reference receiver

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Arrays of Transmitting Antennas

Calibration, calibration, calibration

- Use Moon as reflector
- Use receiver on spacecraft
- Use terrestrial receiver





Loop Canyon test site

Vilnrotter et al.; D'Addario et al.

Radar Array Calibration



- Use Moon as reflector
- Use receiver on spacecraft



Arrays of Transmitting Antennas



Place reference receiver on tower



Loop Canyon test site

D'Addario et al.

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Arrays of Transmitting Antennas



Place reference receiver on tower



Loop Canyon test site

Science Case – Next-Generation Planetary Radar

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Venus / Sif Mons



Ariel

Radar and NEA Detectability





Ostro & Giorgini

Received Power (a.k.a. Radar Equation)



Maximize P_{RX} subject to cost cap, including operations!

- \succ Operations $\propto N$
- Using array for both transmit and receive changes result

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Transmitter Power P_{TX}



Focus on "lower power," more reliable systems

Antenna Diameter D

Focus on smaller, deployed or to be deployed, antennas



Radar Array Performance and Optimization



Planetary Radar Array Performance: 20 m asteroid

Cost Cap ~ Discovery-class mission



Summary



Multi-antenna array transmit-receive system feasible

- Benefits
 - Enable diverse science portfolio
 - Individual transmitters would be lower power, (much) higher reliability projected
 - Graceful degradation
 - Today: loss of one klystron = 50% decrease
 - Array: Loss of one antenna/transmitter decreases EIRP by ~ (1-1/N)
 - Potential synergies with radio astronomy array projects requiring new antennas

Callisto