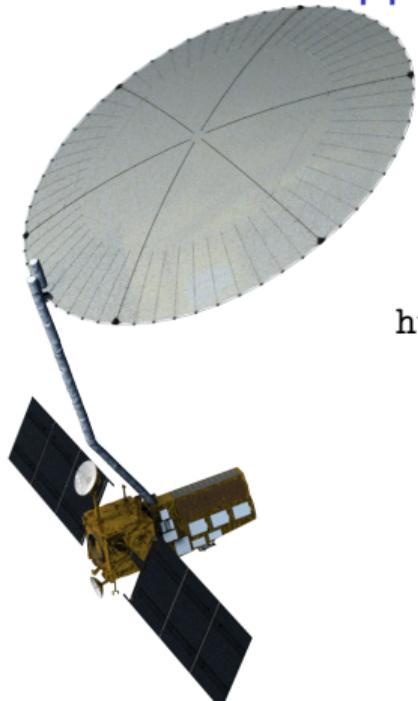


# MAX2771 broadband SDR: impact of low bit resolution and application to passive radar measurements



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[https://github.com/jmfriedt/NISAR\\_pbr](https://github.com/jmfriedt/NISAR_pbr)  
[https://github.com/jmfriedt/max2771\\_fx2lp](https://github.com/jmfriedt/max2771_fx2lp)

February 1, 2026



# Outline

1. Low-bit resolution ADCs (1 or 2 bits for MAX2771<sup>1</sup>) and pulse-compression ratio
2. MAX2771 local oscillator phase drift: impact on passive radar and frequency stacking
3. Coherence loss from local oscillator phase fluctuation
4. L-band NISAR reception

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<sup>1</sup>J.-M Friedt, *Broadband data transfer over USB for GNU/Linux: 1-2 GHz (L-band) SDR receiver dedicated to GNSS (and other) reception, interfacing with PocketSDR, GNU Radio and gnss-sdr*, FOSDEM 2025 at <https://archive.fosdem.org/2025/schedule/event/fosdem-2025-4150-broadband-data-transfer-over-usb-for-gnu-linux-1-2-ghz-l-band-sdr-receiver-dedicated-to->

# Low bit-resolution ADC

- ▶ fast (comparator), no successive approximation
- ▶ efficient communication & storage (packed bits)
- ▶ multiple receiving locations

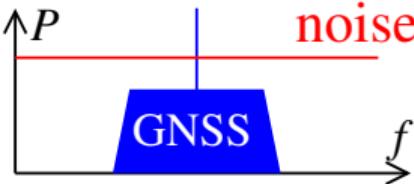
## GNSS

Signal: 50 W = 47 dBm from 20000 km away  $\Rightarrow$  FSPL =

$20 \log_{10}(f) + 20 \log_{10}(d) - 147.55 =$  Make an antenna believe it is as wide as the distance between receiver sites  
182 dB at L1  $\Rightarrow$  received power  $47 - 182 = -135$  dBm + antenna gains ( $\simeq 13$  dB<sup>a</sup>)

Noise:  $k_B \cdot T = -174$  dBm/Hz  $\times 2$  MHz  
(L1 bandwidth) = -111 dBm

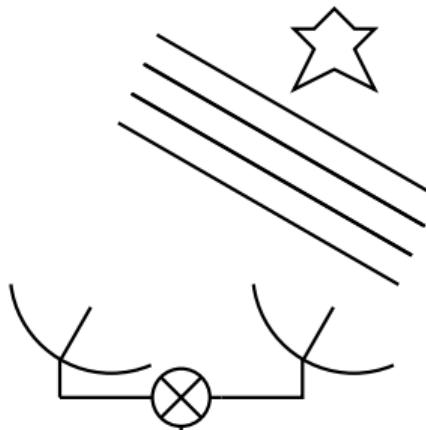
$$SNR = -11 \text{ dB}$$



<sup>a</sup>J.E. Donaldson & al.,  
*Characterization of On-Orbit GPS Transmit Antenna Patterns for Space*,  
NAVIGATION 67(2) 411–438 (2020)

## Radio-astronomy

Make an antenna believe it is as wide as the distance between receiver sites



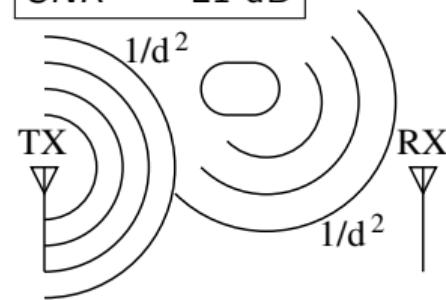
## Short range RADAR

DVB-T: 25 kW = 74 dBm illuminating a point-like target acting as a new source:

$1/d^4$  link budget  $\Rightarrow$  FSPL =  
 $40 \log_{10}(f) + 40 \log_{10}(d) - 2 \times 147.55 = 200$  dB at 490 MHz and  $d = 5$  km and received power is  $74 - 200 = -126$  dBm

Noise: 8 MHz DVB-T bandwidth so  $-174 + 69 = -105$  dBm

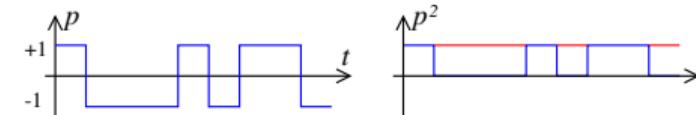
$$SNR = -21 \text{ dB}$$



# Using low-SNR signals

From  $< 0$  dB SNR to strong SNR: cross-correlate a known reference signal with the pattern buried in noise:

$$xcorr(p, s)_n = \sum_0^{N-1} p_k \cdot s_{k+n}^*$$



improves the SNR by  $10 \cdot \log_{10}(N)$

## Case of a clean reference signal (GNSS, noise RADAR)

received signal  $r(t) = A \cdot p(t) + n(t)$  with  $p = \pm 1$

$$\Rightarrow xcorr(r, p) = A \underbrace{\sum p \cdot p}_{\langle \cdot \rangle = A \cdot N} + \underbrace{\sum p \cdot n}_{var = ^a N \cdot \sigma^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\text{signal}}{\text{noise}}(\text{out}) = \frac{(A \cdot N)^2}{\sigma^2 \cdot N} = N \frac{A^2}{\sigma^2} \text{ v.s. } \frac{\text{signal}}{\text{noise}}(\text{in}) = \frac{A^2}{\sigma^2}$$

gain by  $N$

<sup>a</sup>since  $p^2 = 1$  in both cases,  $\langle p \cdot p \rangle$  and  $\sigma^2$

## Case of a noisy reference signal (passive RADAR)

received signal  $r(t) = A \cdot p(t) + n(t)$  with  $p = \pm 1$

$$\Rightarrow xcorr(r, p + n') =$$

$$A \underbrace{\sum p \cdot p}_{\langle \cdot \rangle = A \cdot N} + \underbrace{\sum p \cdot n}_{var = N \cdot 1^2 \cdot \sigma^2} + A \underbrace{\sum p \cdot n'}_{var = A \cdot N \cdot \sigma'^2} + \underbrace{\sum n \cdot n'}_{var = ^a N \cdot \sigma^2 \cdot \sigma'^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow SNR(out) = \frac{(A \cdot N)^2}{N \cdot (\sigma^2 + A \sigma'^2 + \sigma^2 \sigma'^2)} \propto N$$

output to input SNR ratio remains  $\propto N$  but penalty from  $\sigma'^2$

If  $\sigma' = 0$ , returns to the previous case.

Degrades as  $\frac{A^2 \cdot N}{\sigma^4}$  at low SNR ( $A \ll \sigma$ ) if  $\sigma \simeq \sigma'$

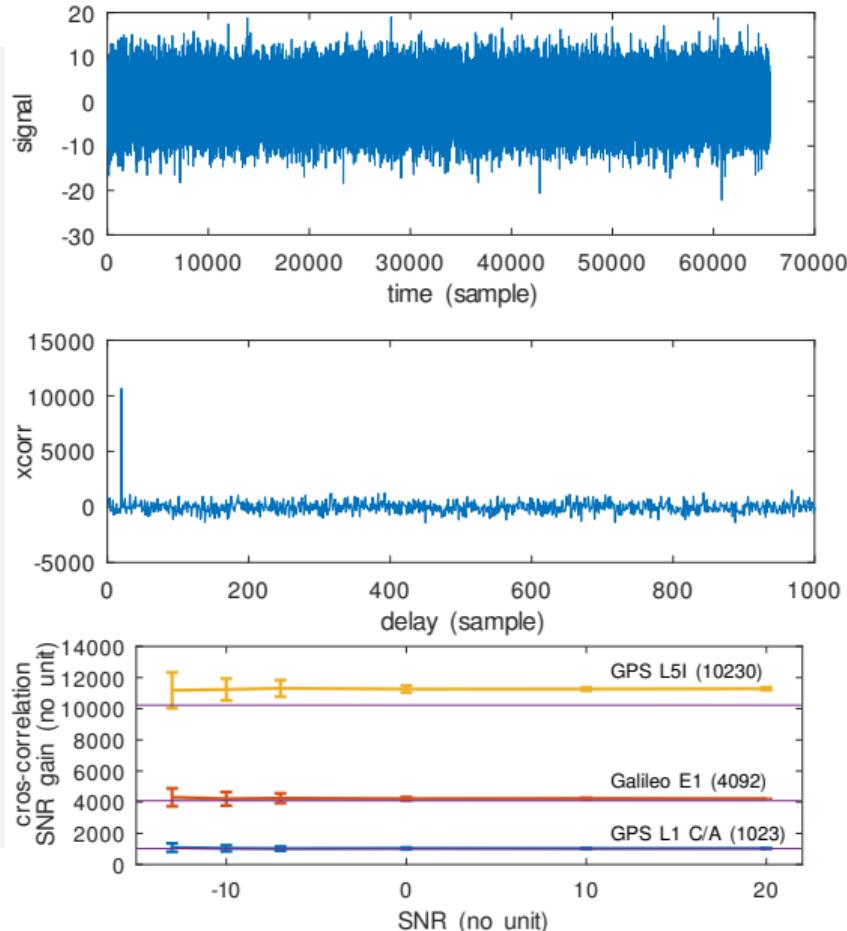
<sup>a</sup>E. Rubiola, *The Magic of Correlation Measurements*, p.19 at [rubiola.org/pdf-slides/2014T-IFCS--Cross-spectrum.pdf](http://rubiola.org/pdf-slides/2014T-IFCS--Cross-spectrum.pdf)

- ▶ **Hypothesis:** signal/scene/conditions remain stationary during processing duration
- ▶ **Case of moving targets:** compensate for frequency offset  $xcorr(\tau, f) = \sum p_k \cdot s_{k+n} \exp(-j2\pi \cdot df \cdot k)$

# Pulse compression SNR gain: demonstration

```
pkg load signal
load codes_L1CA.mat; % GPS L1 C/A: 1023 chips [1]
load codes_E1B.mat; % Galileo E1: 4092 chips [1]
load codes_L5I.mat % GPS L5I: 10230 chips [1]
pos=20; avg=100; % time delay + num. of avg
Nsequence=[.01 .1 1 5 10 20]
for iter=1:3
if (iter==1) x=codes_L1CA(:,1)';end
if (iter==2) x=codes_E1B(:,1)';end
if (iter==3) x=codes_L5I(:,1)';end
x=x-mean(x);
for N=Nsequence
    for iter=1:avg % !\ randn() and not rand()
        s=randn(1,65536); s=s-mean(s); s=s*sqrt(N);
        SNRbefore=var(x)/var(s); % ^amp*sqrt(N) => pow*N
        s(pos:pos+length(x)-1)=s(pos:pos+length(x)-1)+x;
        sol=(xcorr(s,x))(length(s):end); % after xcorr
        signl=sol(pos).^2; % SNR=max(xcorr)^2/var(xcorr)
        noise=var(sol(pos+length(x)+10:end));
        SNRafter=signl/noise; % ^^^ xcorr bg noise power
        sm(iter)=(SNRafter/SNRbefore);
    end
end
errorbar(-10*log10(Nsequence),mean(sm),std(sm));
end
```

[1] GNSS codes from <https://github.com/danipascual/GNSS-matlab>



## Low bit-resolution ADC impact on SNR

- ▶ high SNR signal<sup>2</sup>: quantization noise limited  $\sigma_V^2 = V_q^2/12$ ,

$$SNR = 20 \times \log_{10}(2) \times N + 20 \log_{10}(\sqrt{3/2}) = 6.02 \times N + 1.76 \leq 8 \text{ dB if } N = 1$$

- ▶ few bits encode information in **time only**, not amplitude = 3 dB SNR loss (1/2 energy)
- ▶ better analysis<sup>34</sup>: SNR loss for Gaussian noise distribution<sup>5</sup> and **low SNR** ( $\sigma_x \simeq \sigma_n$ )

$$2/\pi = 1.96 \text{ dB}$$

- ▶ at low SNR, **cross correlation** (xcorr) extracts signal from noise
- ▶ xcorr to retrieve bit resolution (SNR improvement = pulse compression ration  $B \times T = \text{code length}$ , e.g. 30 dB for GPS L1)
- ▶ dataflow: bits/s with accumulation of successive bits (bits \* BW)

---

<sup>2</sup>W. Kester, *Taking the Mystery out of the Infamous Formula, "SNR = 6.02N+1.76dB," and Why You Should Care* (2008) at <https://www.analog.com/media/en/training-seminars/tutorials/MT-001.pdf>

<sup>3</sup>M.S Stein & al., *Performance Analysis for Channel Estimation with 1-bit ADC and Unknown Quantization Threshold*, IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing **66**(10) 2557–2571 (2018) at arXiv:1703.02008v2

<sup>4</sup>J.H. Van Vleck & al., *The Spectrum of Clipped Noise*, Proc. IEEE **54**(1) 2–19 (Jan. 1966)

<sup>5</sup> $x\text{corr}(x, \text{sign}(x)) = \langle |x| \rangle = \sqrt{2/\pi} \Rightarrow \text{power loss} = 2/\pi$ : see “Bussgang Theorem”: J.J. Bussgang, *Cross-correlation function of amplitude-distorted Gaussian signals* MIT Tech. Rep. **216** March 1952 at <https://dspace.mit.edu/handle/1721.1/4847>

# MAX2771 based SDR receiver<sup>6</sup>

- ▶ Based on Tomoji Takasus's PocketSDR<sup>a</sup> with a firmware update to use exclusively opensource tools (sdcc)<sup>b</sup>
- ▶ Gain access to current GNSS constellation full bandwidth (up to 44 MS/s, maximum MAX2771 sampling rate accessed by USB2 FX2LP)
- ▶ LO ∈ [1 – 2] GHz (L-band)
- ▶ MAX2771: 1 or 2-bit quantization (= 2 IQ streams on 8 bit FIFO)
- ▶ Common clock driving both chips

<sup>a</sup><https://github.com/tomojitakasu/PocketSDR>

<sup>b</sup>[https://github.com/jmfriedt/max2771\\_fx2lp](https://github.com/jmfriedt/max2771_fx2lp)

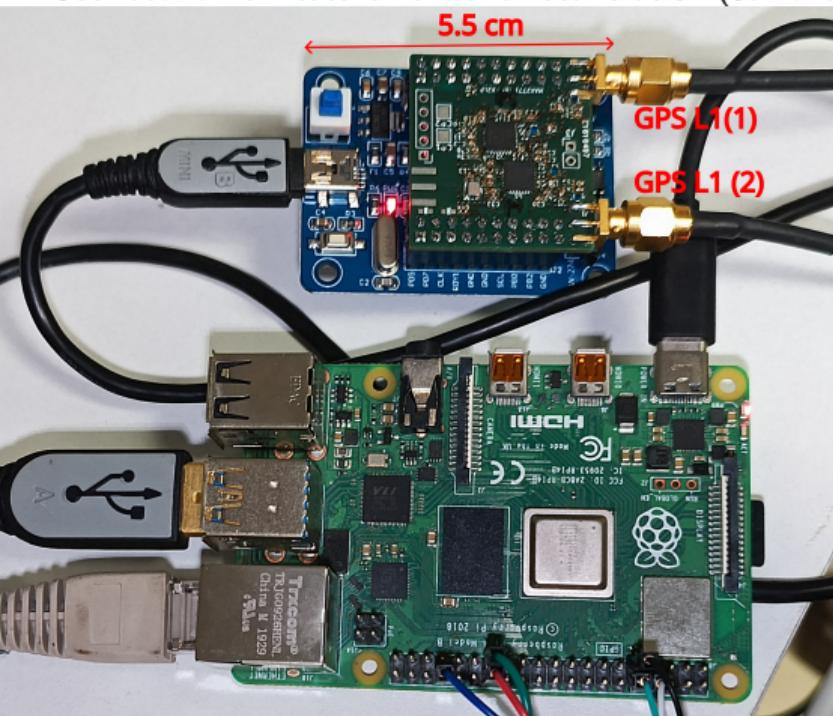


PocketSDR validation setup

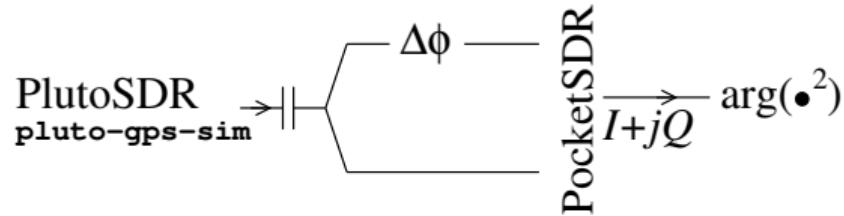
<sup>6</sup>J.-M Friedt, *Broadband data transfer over USB for GNU/Linux: 1-2 GHz (L-band) SDR receiver dedicated to GNSS (and other) reception, interfacing with PocketSDR, GNU Radio and gnss-sdr*, FOSDEM 2025 at <https://archive.fosdem.org/2025/schedule/event/fosdem-2025-4150-broadband-data-transfer-over-usb-for-gnu-linux-1-2-ghz-l-band-sdr-receiver-dedicated-to->

# Dual MAX2771 for GNSS spoofing detection and direction of arrival

- ▶ Low power, low cost GNSS spoofing detection, but too few bits for CRPA
- ▶ Codeless decoding for BPSK/BOC spoofing detection and direction of arrival measurement, but...
- ▶ ... DoA drift from PLL warming up<sup>7</sup>
- ▶ Oscillator drift measurement and **recalibration** (5th overtone of 312.5 MHz oscillator<sup>8</sup>) or stabilization after some time<sup>9</sup>



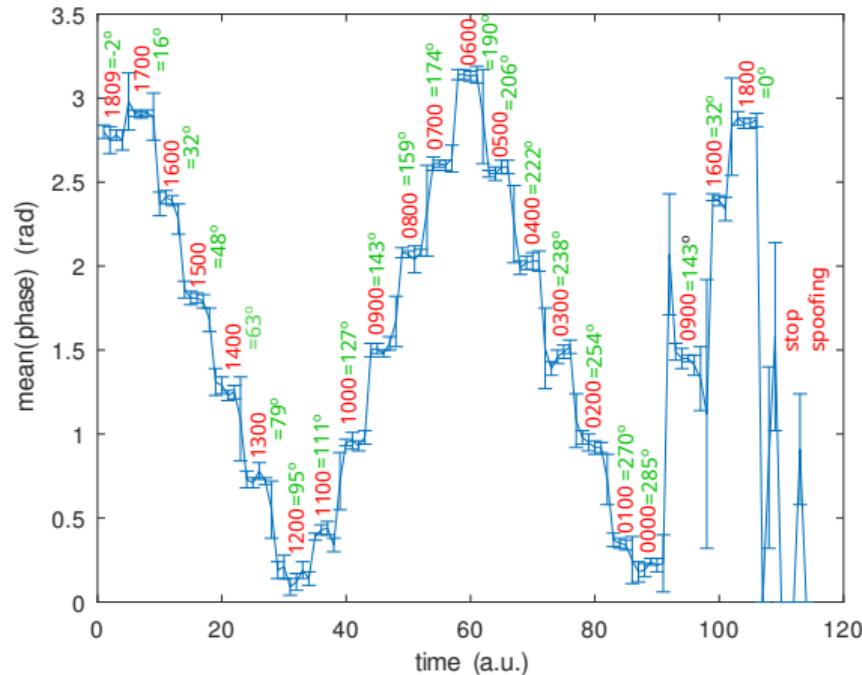
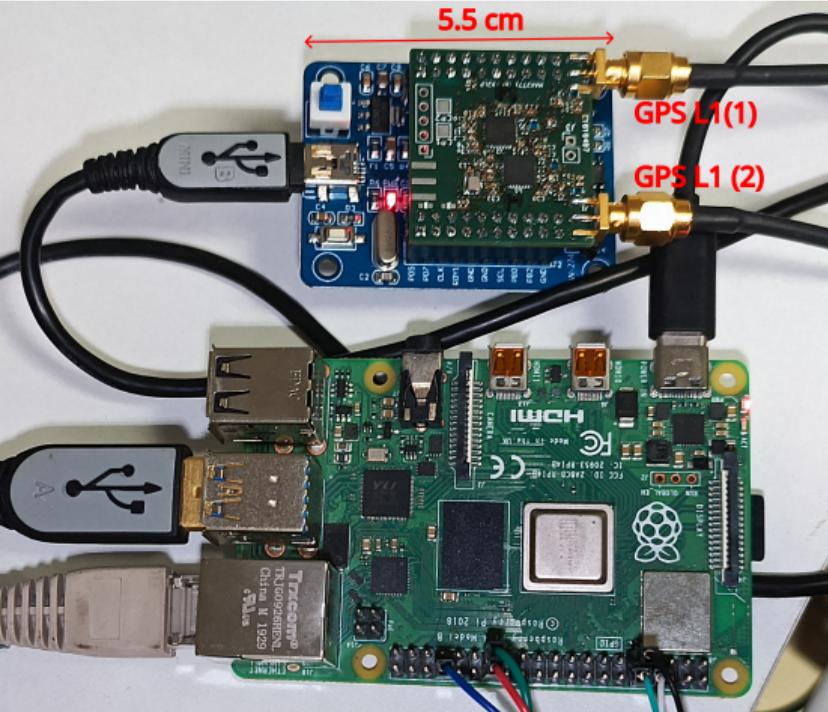
Simulate direction of arrival (DoA) with phase shifter between the two antenna inputs



Codeless decoding: squaring the BPSK modulated signal removes spectrum spreading and accumulates energy in a single spectral component at  $2\delta f_{doppler}$

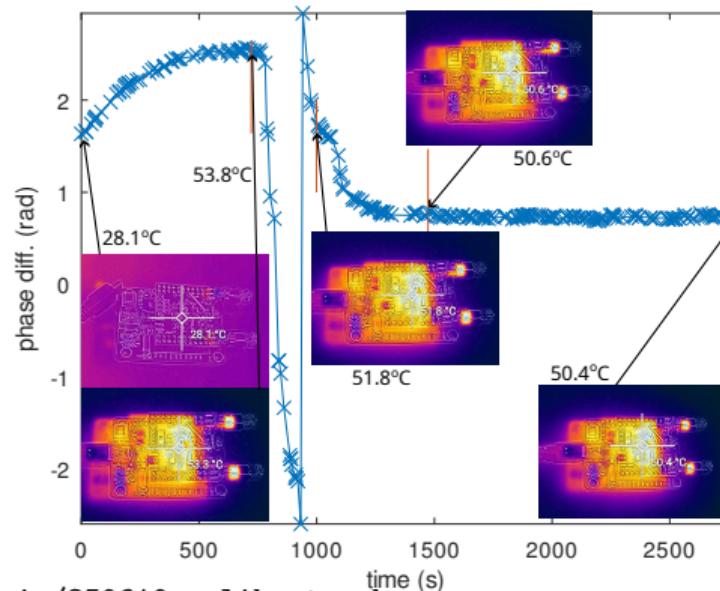
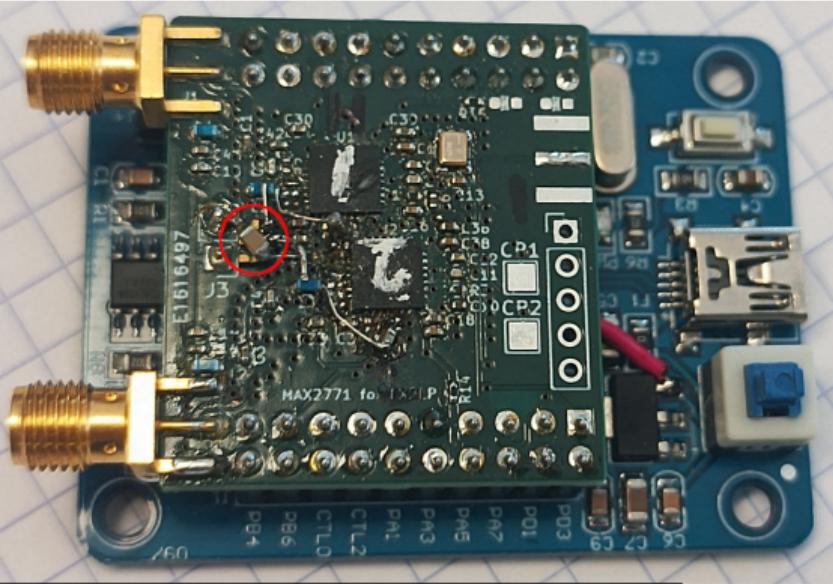
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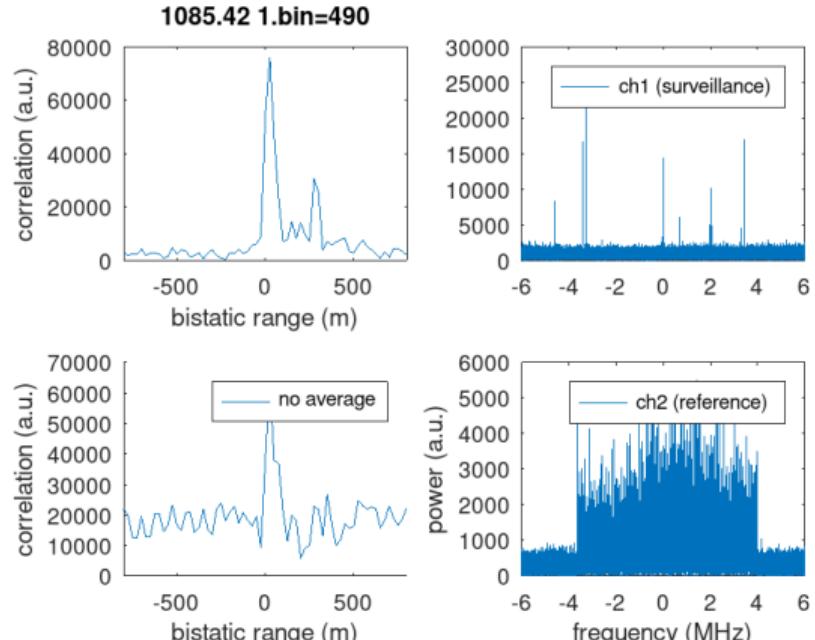
<sup>7</sup>[https://github.com/jmfriedt/max2771\\_fx2lp/tree/main/250610\\_calibrate\\_phase](https://github.com/jmfriedt/max2771_fx2lp/tree/main/250610_calibrate_phase)

<sup>8</sup><https://www.mouser.fr/c/passive-components/frequency-control-timing-devices/oscillators/?frequency=312.5>

<sup>9</sup>T. Takasu: <https://ez.analog.com/rf/f/q-a/600152/phase-coherence-with-multiple-max2771-front-ends>

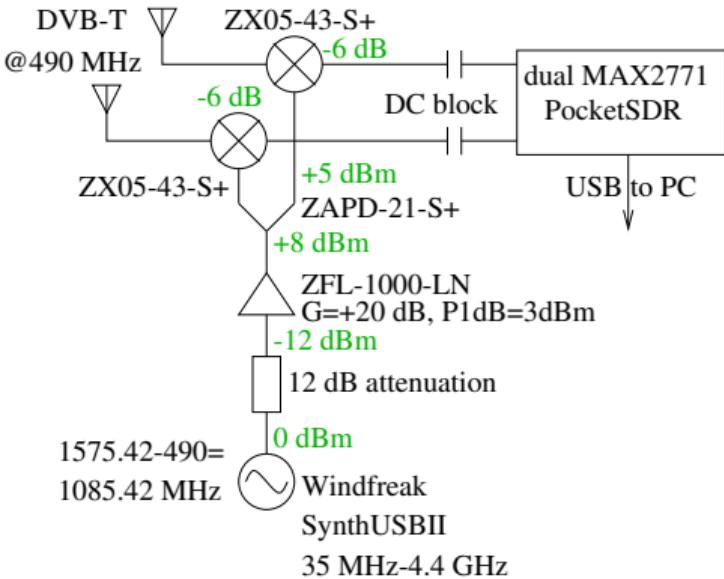
# Dual MAX2771 for passive radar

- ▶ passive radar using DVB-T signals of opportunity: external frequency transposition (mixer) from UHF to L-band<sup>10</sup>
- ▶ Range is a comparison of emitted and received at frequency offset inverse of time of flight
- ▶ Improve range resolution with frequency stacking: collecting from successive frequency bands assumes **stable phase** (time domain → FFT → stack spectra →  $\times^*$  (xcorr) → iFFT)
- ▶ SAR processing: iFT along the antenna position (azimuth) requires **stable phase** during acquisition



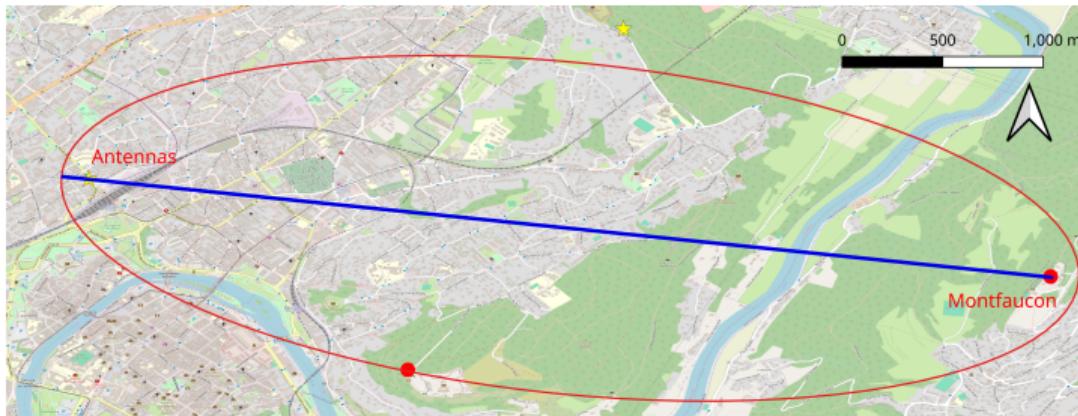
<sup>10</sup>[https://github.com/jmfriedt/max2771\\_fx2lp/blob/main/250608\\_no\\_preamplifier/2\\_490MHz.png](https://github.com/jmfriedt/max2771_fx2lp/blob/main/250608_no_preamplifier/2_490MHz.png)

# MAX2771 based passive RADAR

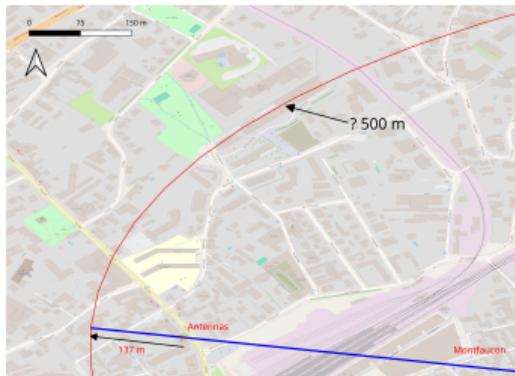


- ▶ bistatic range analysis: transmitter at  $(-L/2, 0)$  and receiver at  $(L/2, 0)$
- ▶ transmitter-target-receiver time  $dt$ :  $(R_T + R_R)/c$  v.s  $L/c$  direct signal
- ▶  $R_R + R_T = c \cdot dt + L = 2a$  constant is an ellipse  $x, y$  since  

$$\sqrt{(-L/2 - x)^2 + y^2} + \sqrt{(L/2 - x)^2 + y^2} = 2a$$



Polygon drawing in QGIS: ellipse through focal points and 1 target



# MAX2771 phase stability: generalization

## ► DoA

phase drift so that the angle of arrival drifts

$$s_r(t) \cdot s_s^*(t) = \exp(j2\pi\delta ft + j\varphi_1) \cdot \exp(-j2\pi\delta ft + j\varphi_2) = \exp(j(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2))$$

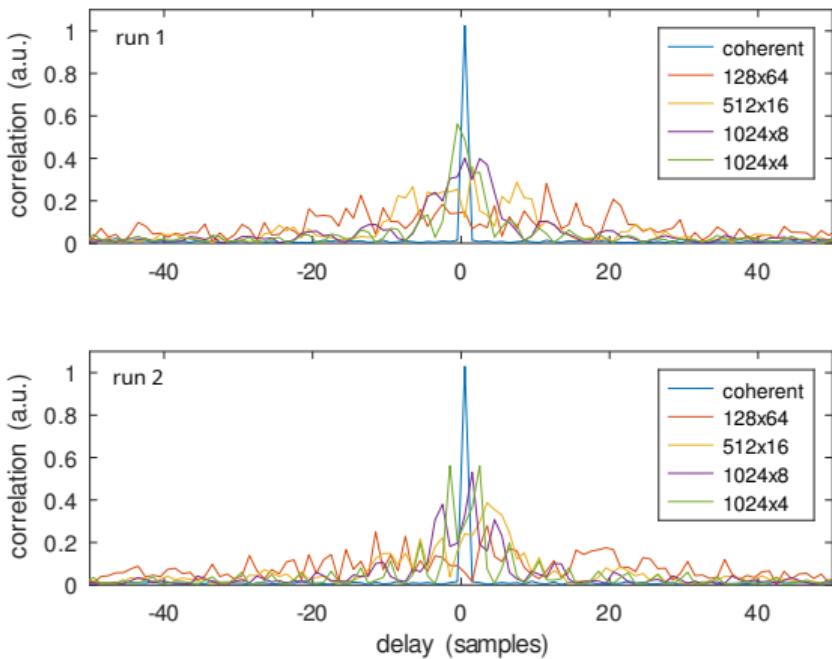
with  $\varphi_1 - \varphi_2 = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \sin \vartheta + \varphi_{12}(t)$

## ► Frequency stacking →

$xcorr(s_r, s_s) = iFT(FT(s_r) \cdot FT(s_s)) \Rightarrow$  stack the narrowband spectra  $FT(s)$  before performing the  $iFT$  on the broadband spectra

## ► Synthetic Aperture RADAR (SAR)

$iFT$  along the antenna motion since moving the RADAR by  $d$  constant adds at position  $nd$  a phase  $\frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \cdot 2nd \cdot \sin(\varphi)$  at far field



```
for N=[128 512 1024 2048]
fcoh=[]; fincoh=[];
for k=1:floor(8192/N)
sr=rand(N,1); sr=sr-mean(sr);
fsr=fftshift(fft(sr));
fcoh=[fcoh ; fsr];
ph=(rand(1)-0.5)*4*pi;
fincoh=[fincoh ; fsr.*exp(j*ph)];
end
plot(tau , abs(fftshift(ifft(fftshift(fcoh.*conj(fcoh)))))/N)
plot(tau , abs(fftshift(ifft(fftshift(fincoh.*conj(fcoh)))))/N)
```

## Coherence loss from phase noise during correlation

So far: impact of ADC resolution. Now: impact of **ADC clock instability**

- ▶ Correlation

$$\int_T s(t) \cdot c^*(t + \tau) \cdot dt$$

accumulates energy when  $c$  matches  $s$  delayed by  $\tau$

- ▶ Static phase:  $\int_T s(t) \exp(j\varphi) \cdot c^*(t + \tau) \cdot dt = \exp(j\varphi) \cdot \int_T s(t) \cdot c^*(t + \tau) \cdot dt$  i.e. (GNSS PSK)

$$xcorr(s \cdot \exp(j\varphi), c) = \exp(j\varphi) \cdot xcorr(s, c)$$

- ▶ If some residual LO at  $df$  remains with respect to local copy of code/reference signal:

$$\int_T s(t) \exp(j2\pi \cdot df \cdot t) \cdot c^*(t + \tau) \cdot dt$$

vanishes unless  $1/df \ll T$

- ▶ **What about  $\int_T s(t) \exp(j\varphi(t)) \cdot c^*(t + \tau) \cdot dt$  when  $\varphi(t)$  random?**

## Allan deviation to phase noise to jitter to coherence loss <sup>12</sup>

- ▶ Radio-astronomy: integration over seconds to hours  $\Rightarrow$  coherence related to **Allan deviation** (long term oscillator characteristics  $\sigma(\tau)$ )
- ▶ Short range RADAR: time delays in the microsecond ( $300 \text{ m}/\mu$ ) to ms range
- ▶ Short term oscillator characteristics: **phase noise measurement**  $S_\varphi(f) = \sigma_\varphi^2/B$  ( $\text{dBrad}^2/\text{Hz}$ )<sup>11</sup>
- ▶ Phase noise  $S_\varphi(f) \rightarrow$  Allan deviation  $\sigma(\tau)$  in frequency offset range  $f$  to  $\tau$  with  $f \cdot \tau \simeq 0.45$  using the associated transfer function  $H(f)$  (p.57):

$$\sigma_y^2(\tau) = \int S_y(f) \cdot |H(f)|^2 \cdot df$$

with  $S_y(f) = \frac{f^2}{\nu_0^2} S_\varphi(f)$  the fractional frequency spectral density

- ▶  $\sigma_{ADEV}(\tau)$ :  $|H(f)|^2 = 2 \frac{\sin^4(\pi\tau f)}{(\pi\tau f)^2}$  maximum around  $\tau \cdot f \simeq 0.45$
- ▶  $\sigma_{MDEV}(\tau)$ :  $|H(f)|^2 = 2 \frac{\sin^6(\pi\tau f)}{(\pi\tau f)^4}$
- ▶ phase noise to jitter:  $\varphi = 2\pi \cdot \nu_0 \cdot \tau \Rightarrow \sigma_\tau = \frac{1}{2\pi\nu_0} \sigma_\varphi = \frac{1}{2\pi\nu_0} \sqrt{\int_B S_\varphi(f) \cdot df} \simeq \frac{1}{2\pi\nu_0} \sqrt{B \times 10^{S_\varphi(\text{dB})/10}}$

<sup>11</sup> dB $\text{rad}^2/\text{Hz}$ =dB $\text{c}/\text{Hz}+3 \text{ dB}$

<sup>12</sup> U.L. Rohde, E. Rubiola, J.C. Whitaker, *Microwave and Wireless Synthesizers 2nd Ed.*, Wiley (2021) p.57 at

<https://rubiola.org/pdf-lectures/Scient-Instrum-Files/Phase%20noise%20Wiley%2C%20Ch2%20updated%20draft.pdf>

Rather than using analytical solutions, numerical integration:

► Numerical applications:

$$S_\varphi \rightarrow AVAR^{13}$$

```
avar(m)=2*sum(Syint(1:end-1).*(fFint(2:end)-fFint(1:end-1)).*sin(pi*tau*fFint(1:end-1)).^4./((pi*tau*fFint(1:end-1)).^2);  
mvar(m)=2*sum(Syint(1:end-1).*(fFint(2:end)-fFint(1:end-1)).*sin(pi*tau*fFint(1:end-1)).^6./((pi*tau*fFint(1:end-1)).^4);
```

► Numerical applications:

$$S_\varphi \rightarrow \sigma_\tau$$

```
rad=sqrt(10.^4*(SdBrad(1:end-1)/10).*(fFint(2:end)-fFint(1:end-1))); % dBrad^2/Hz -> rad  
res=rad/2/pi/fc; % rad -> s  
withweight=sqrt(sum((res.^2.*sin(2*pi*fFint(1:end-1)*1/2).^2)))
```

► Coherence time<sup>1415</sup>  $T$ :

$$C(T) = \left| \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \exp(j\varphi(t)) \cdot dt \right| \rightarrow \langle C^2(T) \rangle = \frac{1}{T^2} \int_0^T \int_0^T \langle \exp(j(\varphi(t) - \varphi(t'))) \rangle \cdot dt \cdot dt' = \dots$$

<sup>13</sup><https://rubiola.org/pdf-lectures/Scientific%20Instruments%20L06-10,%20oscillators.pdf>

<sup>14</sup>A.R. Thompson & al., *Interferometry and Synthesis in Radio Astronomy*, Springer Open (2017) p.434 at <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-319-44431-4>

<sup>15</sup>E.P. Boven & al., *White Rabbit in radio interferometry*, Experimental Astronomy **61**(3) (2026)

# Coherence loss from phase noise during correlation

$$\dots = \frac{2}{T} \int_0^T \left(1 - \frac{\tau}{T}\right) \exp \left[ -2(\pi\nu_0\tau)^2 \int S_y(f) H_I^2(f) \cdot df \right] d\tau \text{ with } H_I^2(f) = \left( \frac{\sin(\pi f \tau)}{\pi f \tau} \right)^2$$

- ▶ "Since  $S_y(f)$  is often not available, it is useful to relate  $\langle C^2(T) \rangle$  to  $\sigma_y^2(\tau)$ "<sup>16</sup>...  $S_y$  is available to us !



Abracon Phase Noise Plot

[View ASA Series Information](#)

Series: X0

Product Type: ASA

Output Logic: CMOS

Carrier Frequency: 12

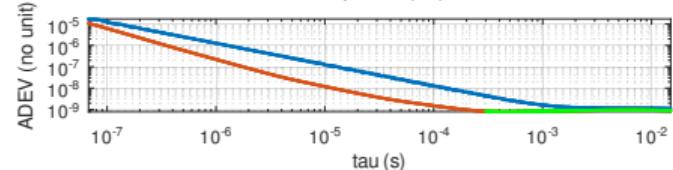
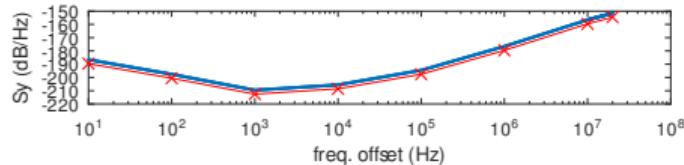
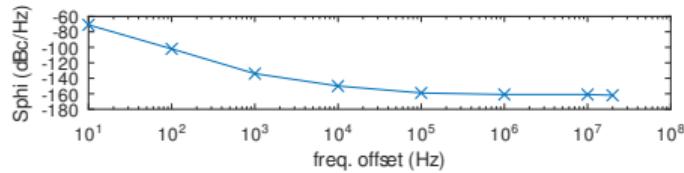
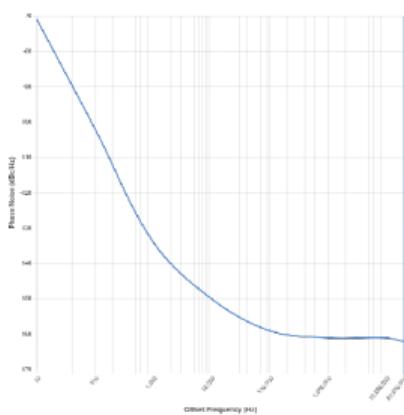
VDD: 1.8

Integration Bandwidth: 12 Hz to 20 MHz

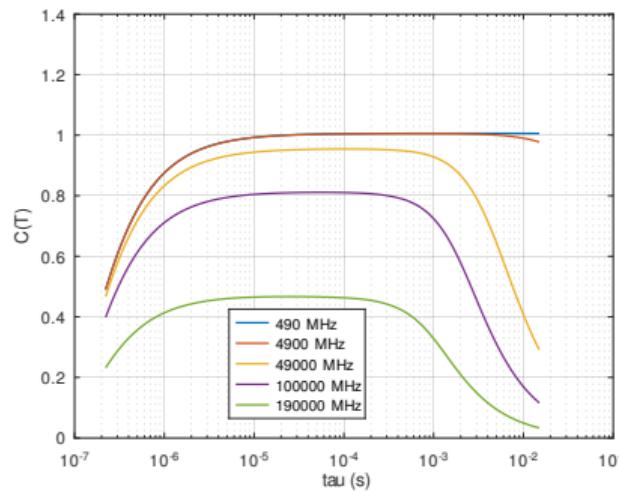
Calculated RMS Phase Jitter: 736.4 fs

Calculated RMS Noise: 5.518e-5 rad

Offset Frequency (Hz)	Phase Noise (dBc/Hz)
10	-71.0
100	-102.0
1,000	-134.0
10,000	-150.0
100,000	-159.0
1,000,000	-161.0
10,000,000	-161.0
20,000,000	-162.0



$S_\varphi \rightarrow S_y \rightarrow \text{interpolated } S_y \rightarrow A(\text{blue})/M(\text{red})DEV$



$S_y \rightarrow C(T)$

<sup>16</sup>A.R. Thompson & al., *Interferometry and Synthesis in Radio Astronomy*, Springer Open (2017) at

<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-319-44431-4>

# Receiving NISAR<sup>18</sup>: emission in L5/E6/G2 band

- NISAR is the **only** spaceborne satellite looking left (Antarctica<sup>17</sup>)  $\Rightarrow$  search for east ascending passes and west descending passes
- over Western Europe: L-band background land mode (L:DH:20M+05M:FS:B4:D01)

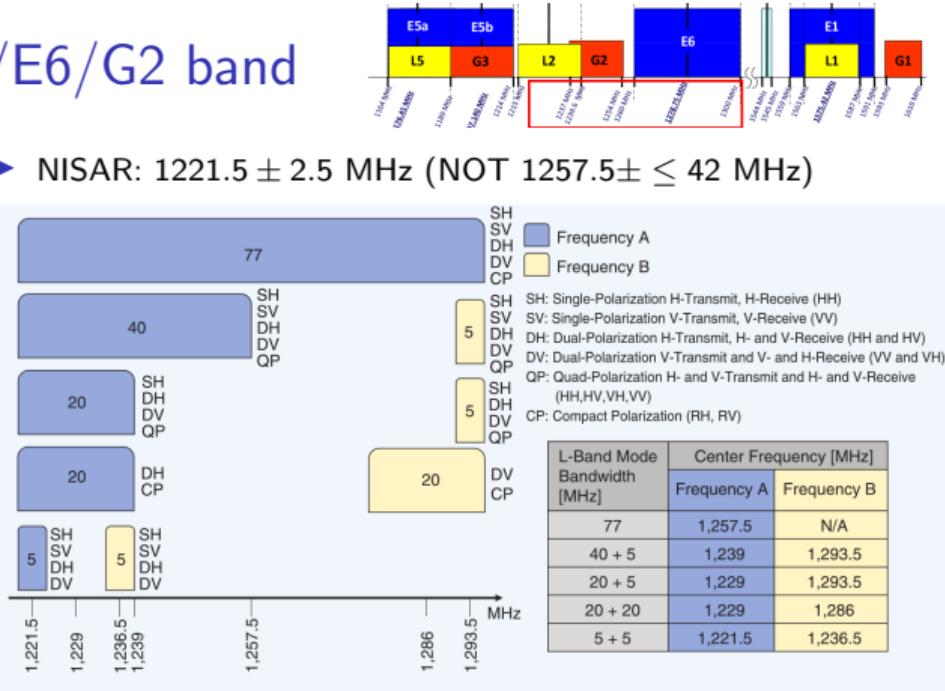
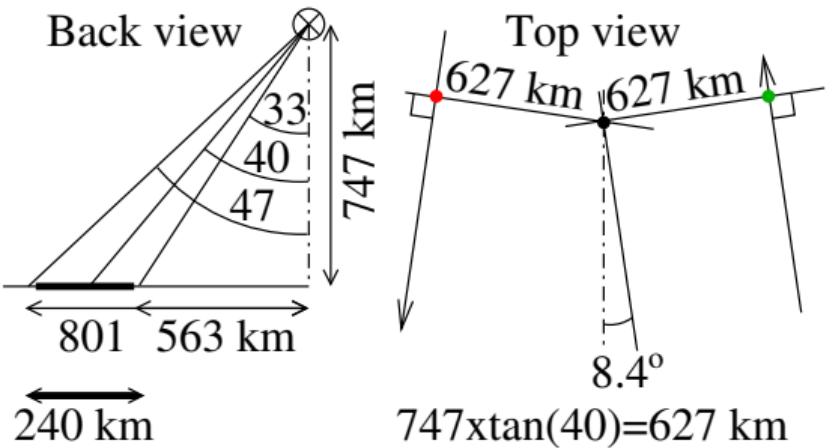
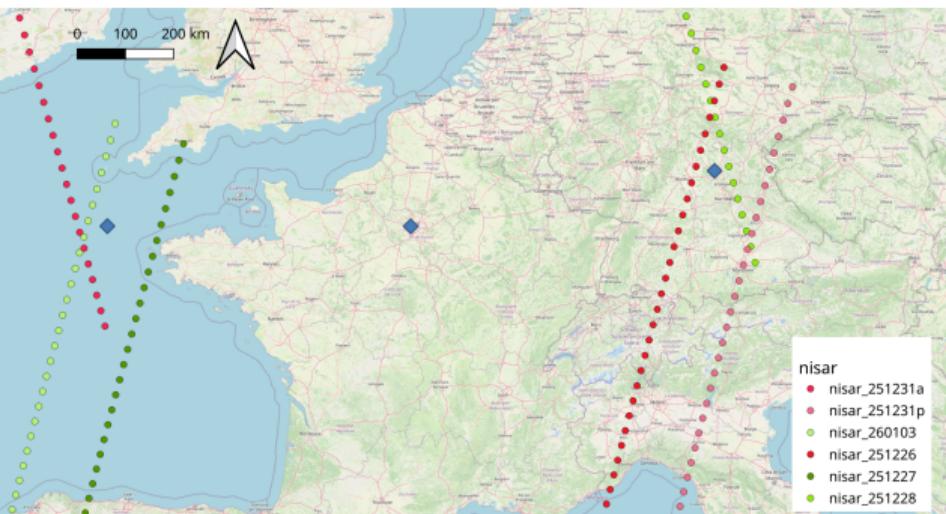


FIGURE 16. A schematic representation of the L-SAR bandwidths used by NISAR, some of which are split bands. The pulsedwidth associated with each bandwidth generally corresponds to a chirp rate of 1 MHz/ms, though other pulsedwidth/bandwidth combinations are possible.

<sup>17</sup>A. Witze, *Arctic scientists iced out by radar mission*, Nature **566** (7 Feb. 2019) “Most other SAR missions are right-looking [... but...] NISAR science team decided to make its satellite left-looking for its entire primary mission” and <https://science.nasa.gov/mission/nisar/observation-strategy/>: As NISAR will be only left-looking – a change in observation tactics since the early planning stages – the mission will rely on data from the international constellation of SAR satellites to supplement its coverage around the Arctic pole... (last updated Jul 23, 2025)

<sup>18</sup>P.A. Rosen & al., *The NASA-ISRO SAR Mission – a summary*, IEEE Geoscience & Remote Sensing Mag. (June 2025)

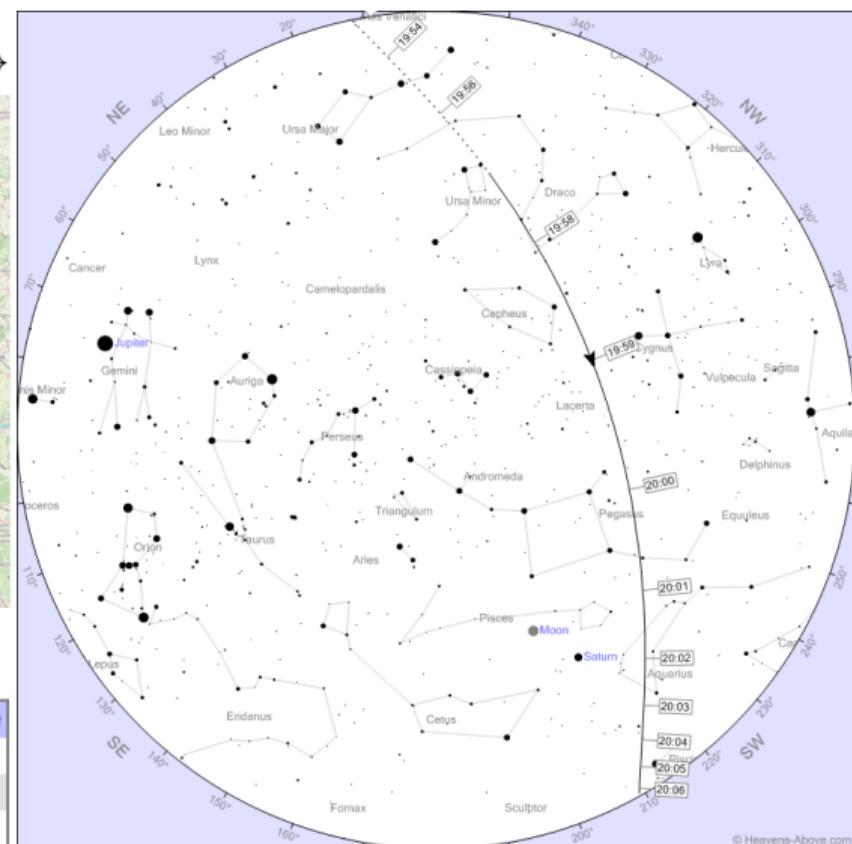
- ▶ Download NORAD's TLE from Celestrak
- ▶ Predict pass according to beam geometry and altitude
- ▶ Check ascending/descending pass & verify on Heavens Above→



Date: 27 December 2025

Orbit: 749 x 751 km, 98.4° (Epoch: 24 December)

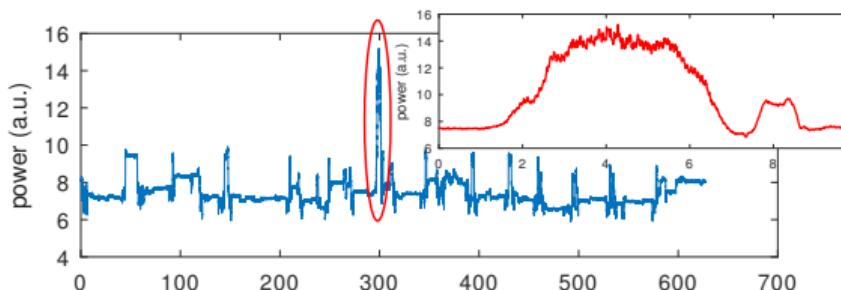
Event	Time	Altitude	Azimuth	Distance (km)	Brightness	Sun altitude
Rises	19:51:51	0°	10° (N)	3,211	-	-26.9°
Reaches altitude 10°	19:54:12	10°	6° (N)	2,282	-	-27.3°
Exits shadow	19:57:09	34°	348° (NNW)	1,235	?	-27.8°
Maximum altitude	19:59:04	53°	291° (WNW)	918	?	-28.1°
Drops below altitude 10°	20:03:55	10°	215° (SW)	2,267	?	-28.9°
Sets	20:06:14	0°	211° (SSW)	3,187	?	-29.3°



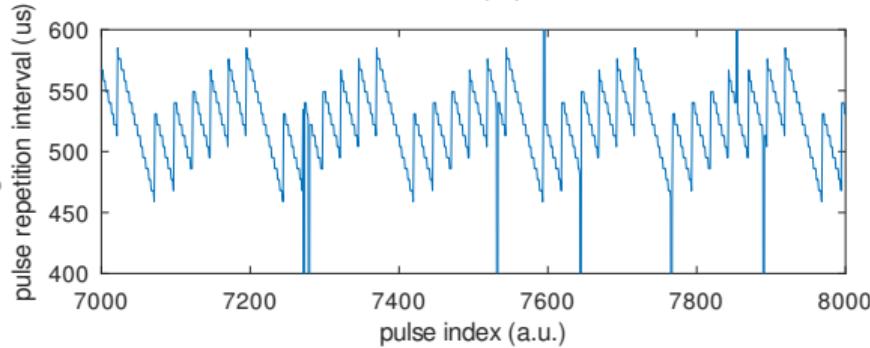
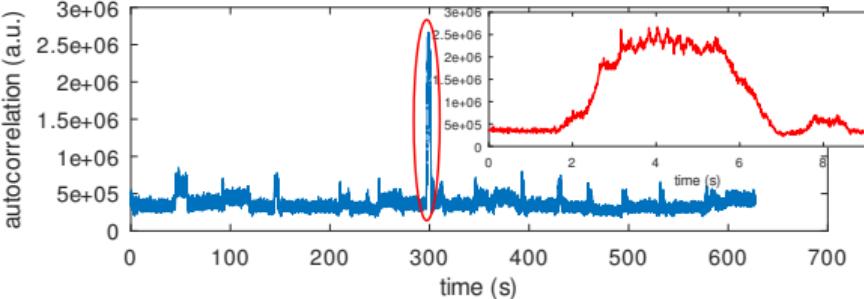
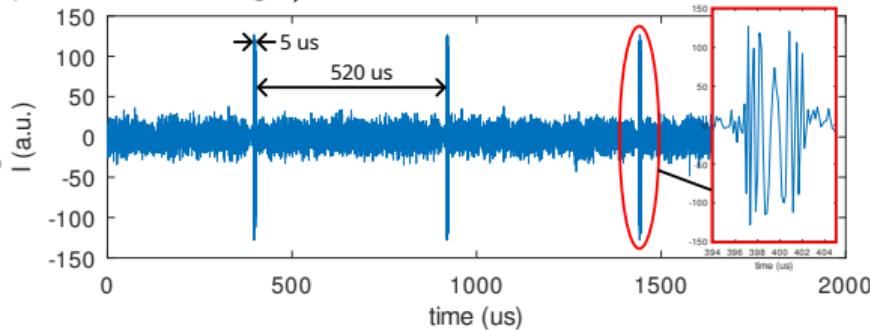
[https://github.com/jmfriedt/NISAR\\_pbr](https://github.com/jmfriedt/NISAR_pbr)

# NISAR: results<sup>19</sup> Dec. 27, 2025 (B210, 8 bits)

Top: signal power



Top: real part of received signal (demonstrating chirped pulse: red rectangle)  
pulse: red rectangle



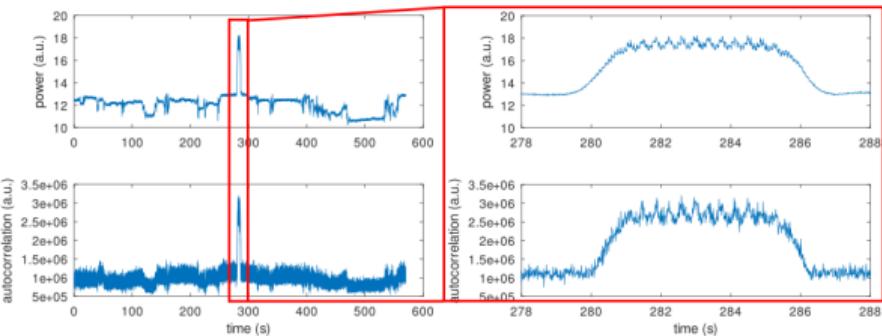
Bottom: signal off-center auto-correlation

Predicted elevation maximum: 19:59:04, observed peak power: 19:59:01.6±2 s

<sup>19</sup>[https://github.com/jmfriedt/NISAR\\_pbr](https://github.com/jmfriedt/NISAR_pbr)

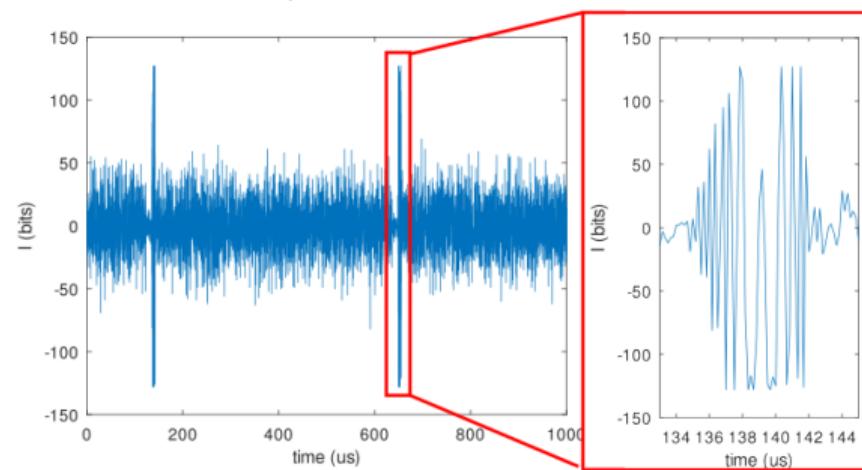
# NISAR: results<sup>20</sup> Jan. 3, 2026 (B210, 8 bits)

Top: signal power



Bottom: signal off-center auto-correlation

Top: real part of received signal (demonstrating chirped pulse: red rectangle)



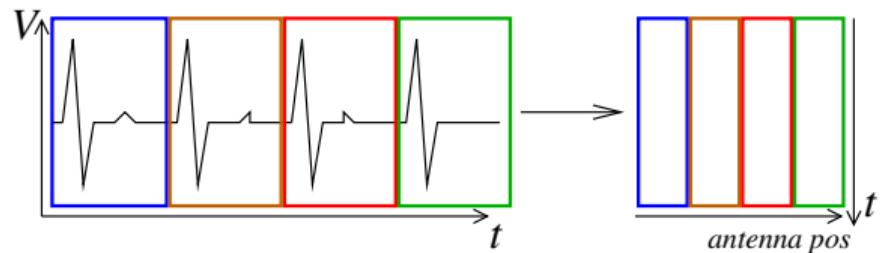
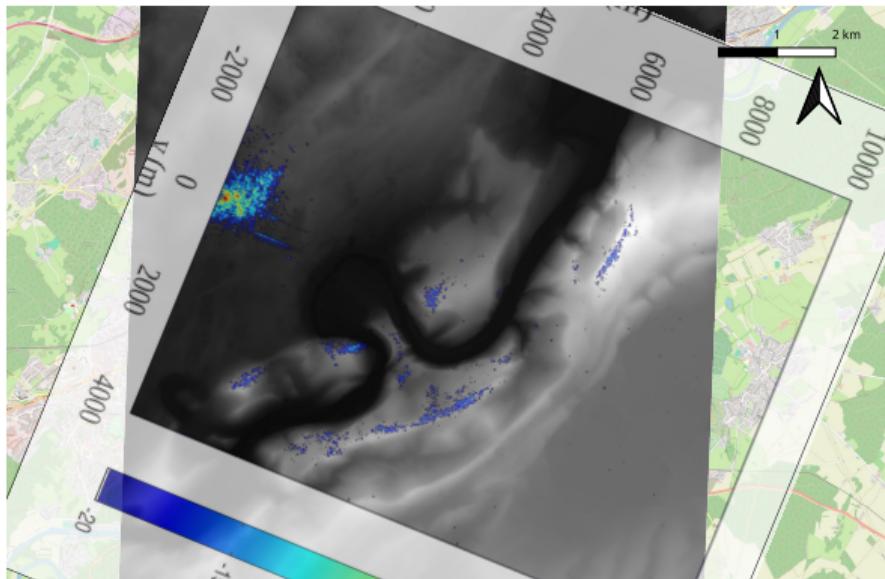
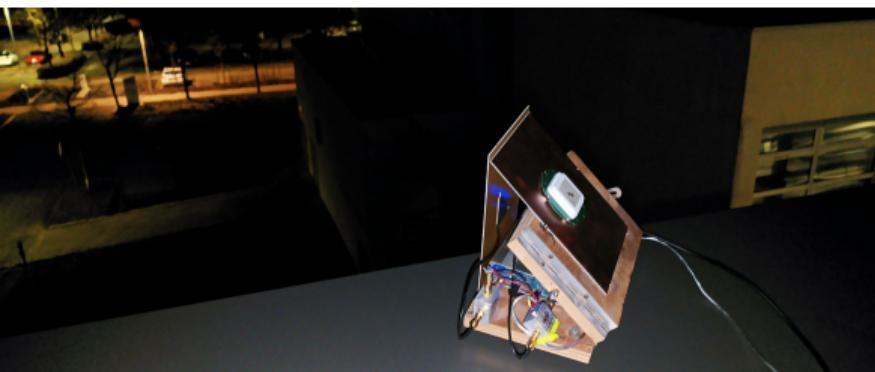
Predicted elevation maximum: 20:07:16, observed peak power: 20:07:14.7±2 s

⇒ no need to record 10 min of data, a few seconds around the predicted maximum elevation is enough

<sup>20</sup>[https://github.com/jmfriedt/NISAR\\_pbr](https://github.com/jmfriedt/NISAR_pbr)

# NISAR passive RADAR imaging

- ▶ One multiband GNSS antenna facing the sky (reference antenna)
- ▶ One multiband GNSS antenna facing the opposite direction (surveillance)
- ▶ Record both **coherently** (same LO)
- ▶ Cross-correlate for range compression
- ▶ Inverse Fourier transform along satellite position (pulse index) for azimuth compression
- ▶ Image formation by converting range  $R$ -wavevector  $\sin(\vartheta)$  to polar coordinates  $(R, \vartheta)$

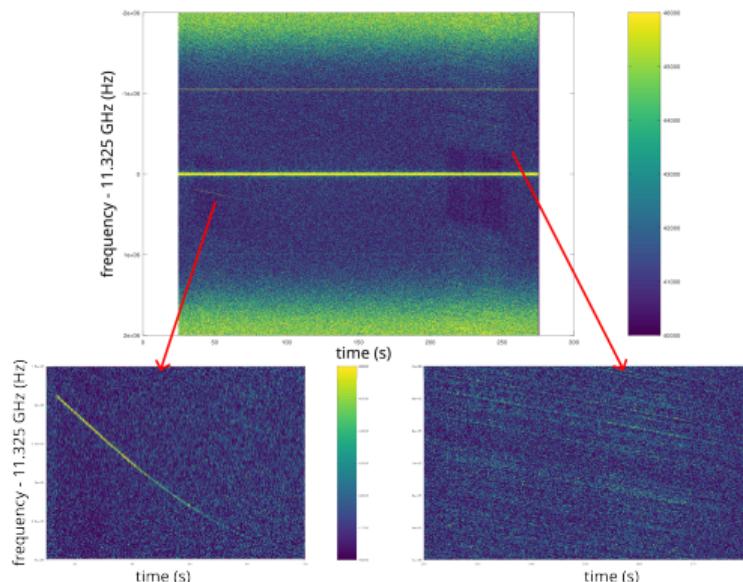


# Conclusion & perspectives: receiving other satellite signals

- ▶ Addressed the impact of low bit resolution ADC
- ▶ Addressed the impact of clock jitter
- ▶ Demonstrated NISAR reception and passive RADAR using DVB-T signal of opportunity

...using the low cost dual-MAX2771 PocketSDR clone.

Project at [https://github.com/jmfriedt/max2771\\_fx2lp/](https://github.com/jmfriedt/max2771_fx2lp/)



All references from Anna's Archive and Sci Hub



Using an LNB<sup>a</sup> to convert Ku to L-band:

- ▶ Starlink 11.325 GHz beacon – 9.75 GHz  
LNB = 1.575 GHz within upper L band (L1) !
- ▶ Telstar 11N TWSTFT signal<sup>21</sup> is within lower L band (L2) after transposition: 10953.95 – 9750  
= 1204 ∈ [1160 : 1290] MHz

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<sup>a</sup>12-14 V supply voltage through bias T

<sup>21</sup>[https://webta1.bipm.org/ftp/pub/tai/data/2025/time\\_transfer/twstft/op/twop60.677](https://webta1.bipm.org/ftp/pub/tai/data/2025/time_transfer/twstft/op/twop60.677)



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