

# Improving Millimeter Wave Radar Perception with Deep Learning

Junfeng Guan

Sohrab Madani

ECE 544 Project Report I

jguan8@illinois.edu

smadani2@illinois.edu

## 1. Introduction and Project Descriptions

Since the past few years, AI-Powered autonomy revolution in the automotive industry has attracted great attention worldwide. It is believed that in the not-too-distant future, fully autonomous vehicles will be the norm rather than the exception, redefining mobility in our daily lives. With deep learning widely applied on sensor data, self-driving cars are able to localize and map objects, understand the environment, and make correct decisions. As the most fundamental task, previous works have demonstrated accurate object detection and classification, but they are limited to data obtained from LiDARs and cameras. These optical sensors have high imaging resolution, but they naturally fail in low visibility conditions such as fog, rain, and snow, because light beams are narrower than water droplets and snowflakes.[?] This fundamental limitation of optical sensors is one of the major roadblocks to achieving the 5th SAE level of full automation. [?]

On the contrary, Radar has desirable propagation characteristics through small particles and can provide an alternate imaging solution in such inclement weather. Besides, radar can also directly measure the velocity of objects with the doppler shift of reflected signal without going through cluster tracking across frames. Although the low resolution of traditional automotive radar overshadows its advantages, the advent of Millimeter-wave antenna array technology provides an opportunity to have a reliable imaging system in inclement weather with higher resolution at the same time. Along with good propagation characteristics, it also provides huge bandwidth and large-aperture antenna arrays. This enables accurate Time-of-Flight (ToF) and Angle-of-Arrival (AoA) estimation for imaging. However, we would like to push the resolution to be comparable to that of LiDAR which has been proved to be reliable, but the imaging resolution in Millimeter-Wave is still not high enough to allow for applications like object detection or scene-understanding. Moreover, with RF one faces the issue of specularities, where reflections from objects may not come back to the receiver depending on the angle of incidence of the transmitted signal. Therefore, in this project, we propose to develop techniques that can enable high res-

olution imaging in low visibility conditions with RF signals. Our goal is to use deep learning models to enhance the low resolution images obtained from Millimeter wave radars, and enable various crucial vision applications for autonomous vehicles like lane detection, image mapping, localization, and object identification.

## 2. Method

**Describe the overall method on how you solve the proposed problem, and a bit of original derivation that has some relevance to what you're trying to accomplish**

Problem statement: low blurred images no boundary can be seen, specularities causes missing parts, no available dataset, 4D CNN NN complex.

Overview 3D, in the method, we say that we start with 2D version, and based on that build 3D. We are trying to use cGAN to generate higher resolution images from low resolution radar images, which should have a sharp and accurate boundary of the object. Also, the missing parts due to specularities of reflection need to be filled up. S

cGAN: Why cGAN: 1. GAN is transferring images from 1 domain to another, some application 2. There are similar application using GAN: Vankat's work of using face recognition of thermal images to train camera images under low illumination sharp boundaries orientation of faces. 3. L1 does give sharp boundary as wanted. We are not sure what would be good loss function. Transition: cGAN has input, groundtruth, G, D

Input: Low resolution radar images, because there is no available public dataset of mmWave radar images, and collecting a big enough dataset by ourselves is not possible. We synthesized radar images. This heat-map is fed into the network. Groundtruth: 1. Size of 3D which makes the training phase very slow even when using GPUs. 2. 2D: 3. 3D

The input to our problem is pre-processed radar data. First, using the raw data from the antenna array, a coarse heat-map of objects are generated. After some further processing.

Why not raw data: (Goes to detail of Dataset jayden) Radar imaging processing algorithms is a well established field for 70 years. and there is fruitless to try and learn them

using machine learning. So instead of The reason why we did not choose the raw data as input is twofold.

## **2.1. Conditional GAN**

## **2.2. Dataset Generation**

Challenge of unavailable radar dataset.

### **2.2.1 Groundtruth**

Mask R-CNN

### **2.2.2 Input**

Radar image simulation

## **3. Experimental Results**

Describe the setup of the experiments you ran, e.g., what evaluation metrics, datasets are used. Present the results, preferably in the form of tables and/or figures

### **3.1. Dataset**

### **3.2. Results**

## **4. Discussion and Conclusion**

Analyze the results, summarize the findings and point out possible future directions

## **References**