

Dear Dr. Gerardo Di Martino,

Please find attached our manuscript titled "Efficient 3-D Near-Field MIMO-SAR Imaging for Irregular Scanning Geometries," which we would like to submit for publication as an original research article in your journal, *IEEE Access*. Our main contribution is an efficient algorithm for high-resolution near-field MIMO-SAR under irregular SAR geometries. Our analysis employs a novel approach to irregular SAR geometries in the near-field to project irregular multistatic synthetic arrays to virtual planar monostatic arrays. For many applications, e.g., drone imaging, freehand imaging, automotive SAR, etc., computational tractable algorithms are required for SAR imaging on irregular scanning geometries. Our novel algorithm offers an efficient solution to near-field irregular MIMO-SAR. This work has not been submitted elsewhere. Our recent submission with ID Access-2021-38447, was not recommended for publication and we have taken the necessary steps to rectify issues in our paper and comprehensively address the reviewers' concerns. We have attached a document containing our responses to the reviewers' comments on our previous submission with noted changes to our manuscript, an updated manuscript with individual changes highlighted, and a clean copy of our final manuscript.

We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

J. W. Smith and M. Torlak