

Bistatic SAR with Instantaneous Doppler: From Move–Stop–Move to a Constant Fast–Time Velocity Model

Incorporating instantaneous Doppler into the BSAR forward model and processing chain

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- Objective: replace the slow–platform move–stop–move approximation with a *constant fast–time velocity (CFV)* model that computes instantaneous Doppler to every scene position at a moment in slow-time.

Overview & Problem Statement

Motivation.

- Move-stop-move (MSM) is adequate for slow TX/RX but fails to capture high-speed BSAR performance (instantaneous Doppler, range-Doppler coupling, and spatial variance).
- We will *incorporate instantaneous Doppler* into the forward model via a *constant fast-time velocity (CFV)* formulation evaluated at each slow-time sample: positions/velocities vary in slow-time but are *constant within a fast-time processing window*.

Matched filters vs waveform tolerance.

- Original flow: one matched filter per pixel (costly for high bandwidth).
- Doppler-tolerant waveforms (per the *wideband auto-ambiguity function*) admit fewer filters.
- For LFM, a *single* matched filter at scene center plus a *sampling pulse train* can be sufficient.

Design questions.

- What is the *minimum* number of matched filters for new waveforms (e.g., PRO-FM) under the CFV instantaneous Doppler model?
- How do we size slow-time sampling to bound phase error across the scene?
- How does frequency agility interact with the CFV instantaneous Doppler to shape $TF(\vec{K})$ and preserve RGIQE?

Roadmap.

- 1 Review local LSI vs spatial variance.
- 2 MSM fast-time model (baseline).
- 3 Replace MSM with CFV instantaneous-Doppler model.
- 4 Filter-count reduction criteria for LFM and PRO-FM.

Spatial Invariance Assumption

Context. Main results use frequency-agile waveforms to shape the transfer-function passband in the spatial Fourier domain. This relies on a *linear spatially invariant (LSI)* model. **LSI model (near scene center).**

$$\tilde{\rho}(\vec{r}) = \rho(\vec{r}) (*)_{\vec{r}} \text{ipr}(\vec{r}) = \int_{\vec{r}'} \rho(\vec{r}') \text{ipr}(\vec{r} - \vec{r}') |d\vec{r}'|$$

Equivalently, with spectrum $P(\vec{K})$ and transfer function $TF(\vec{K})$:

$$\tilde{\rho}(\vec{r}) = \mathcal{F}^{-1}[P(\vec{K}) TF(\vec{K})]$$

Frequency agility \Rightarrow passband de-skewing in $TF(\vec{K})$ enabling RGIQE gains.

Reality: spatially variant (non-convolutional).

$$\tilde{\rho}(\vec{r}) = \int_{\vec{r}'} \rho(\vec{r}') \text{psf}(\vec{r}', \vec{r}) |d\vec{r}'|$$

with point-spread function $\text{psf}(\vec{r}', \vec{r})$ depending on both source \vec{r}' and image \vec{r} locations. **Local LSI**

approximation. For a small neighborhood around the scene center \vec{O} ,

$$\text{psf}\left(\vec{O} - \frac{\vec{r}}{2}, \vec{O} + \frac{\vec{r}}{2}\right) \approx \text{ipr}(\vec{r})$$

This justifies modeling via convolution and a factorizable $TF(\vec{K})$ for passband design.

Implications (Appendix).

- Validity conditions and error terms for the LSI approximation.
- Impact on RGIQE and limits away from \vec{O} .

Move-stop-Move — Fast-Time Processing

Fast- vs. slow-time. Fast-time τ measures RF propagation delay; slow-time t indexes platform motion with $\vec{Pos}_{TX}(t)$ and $\vec{Pos}_{RX}(t)$. **Wideband transmit waveform.** Model $s_{TX}(t, \tau)$ as a frequency average of a complex phasor with slow-time-varying limits. Let $BW(t) = f_{\max}(t) - f_{\min}(t)$:

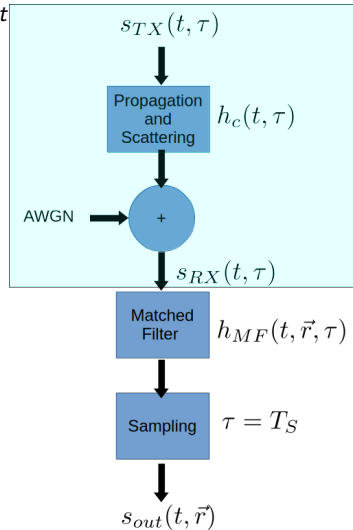
$$s_{TX}(t, \tau) = \mathbb{E}_f [e^{j2\pi f \tau}](t) = \frac{1}{BW(t)} \int_{f_{\min}(t)}^{f_{\max}(t)} e^{j2\pi f \tau} df.$$

Move-stop-move LTI channel (at fixed t). With reflectivity $\rho(\vec{r}')$ and bistatic range $R(t, \vec{r}')$,

$$h_c(t, \tau) = \int_{\vec{r}'} \rho(\vec{r}') \delta\left(\tau - \frac{R(t, \vec{r}')}{c}\right) |d\vec{r}'|.$$

Received signal (fast-time convolution). Additive white Gaussian noise $n(t, \tau)$:

$$\begin{aligned} s_{RX}(t, \tau) &= [s_{TX}(t, \tau) (*)_{\tau} h_c(t, \tau)] + n(t, \tau) \\ &= \int_{\vec{r}'} \rho(\vec{r}') s_{TX}\left(t, \tau - \frac{R(t, \vec{r}')}{c}\right) |d\vec{r}'| + n(t, \tau). \end{aligned}$$



Instantaneous Doppler — Fast-Time Processing (CFV Model)

CFV assumption. Within each fast-time window, platform positions and velocities are *constant*; they vary only across slow-time t .

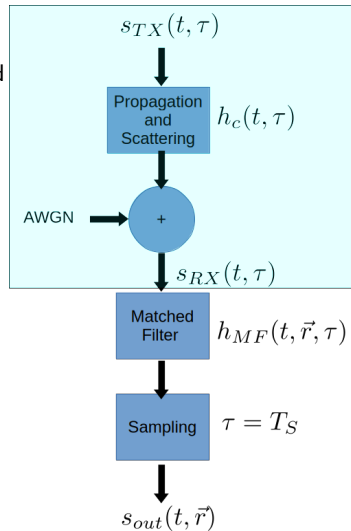
Instantaneous Doppler LTI channel (at fixed t). With reflectivity $\rho(\vec{r}')$ and Doppler time scale $\eta(t, \vec{r}')$,

$$h_c(t, \tau) = \int_{\vec{r}'} \rho(\vec{r}') \delta\left(\eta(t, \vec{r}') \cdot \left(\tau - \frac{R(t, \vec{r}')}{c}\right)\right) |d\vec{r}'|.$$

Doppler time scale. $\eta(t, \vec{r}') = \frac{c + \dot{R}(t, \vec{r}')}{c - \dot{R}(t, \vec{r}')} \quad (\text{constant w.r.t. fast-time } \tau;$
depends on bistatic range rate \dot{R}).

Received signal (fast-time convolution). Additive white Gaussian noise $n(t, \tau)$:

$$\begin{aligned} s_{RX}(t, \tau) &= [s_{TX}(t, \tau) (*)_{\tau} h_c(t, \tau)] + n(t, \tau) \\ &= \int_{\vec{r}'} \rho(\vec{r}') s_{TX}\left(t, \eta(t, \vec{r}') \cdot \left(\tau - \frac{R(t, \vec{r}')}{c}\right)\right) |d\vec{r}'| + n(t, \tau). \end{aligned}$$



Matched Filtering (CFV)

Objective. Use a fast-time matched filter to isolate scattering from image position \vec{r} . The matched filter varies with slow-time t and image position \vec{r} and is designed to maximize SNR when sampled at $\tau = T_s$.

Matched-filter impulse response. With fast-time coherency window T_W ,

$$h_{MF}(t, \vec{r}, \tau) = \frac{1}{T_W} s_{TX}^* \left(t, \eta(t, \vec{r}) \cdot \left(T_s - \tau + \frac{R(t, \vec{r})}{c} \right) \right), \quad BW(t) \gg \frac{1}{T_W}.$$

Sampled MF output.

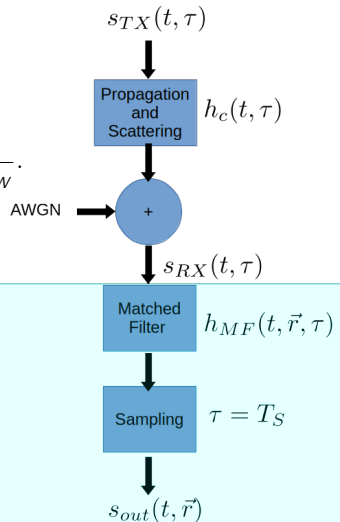
$$s_{out}(t, \vec{r}) = (s_{RX}(t, \tau) (*)_{\tau} h_{MF}(t, \vec{r}, \tau)) \big|_{\tau=T_s}.$$

Correlation view (windowed fast-time average). Define a windowed average around T_s :

$$\mathbb{E}_{\tau}[g(\tau)] \triangleq \frac{1}{T_W} \int_{T_s - \frac{T_W}{2}}^{T_s + \frac{T_W}{2}} g(\tau) d\tau.$$

Then sampling the matched filter at $\tau = T_s$ is equivalent to a fast-time cross-correlation with the reference:

$$\mathbb{E}_{\tau} \left[s_{TX} \left(t, \eta(t, \vec{r}') \cdot \left(\tau - \frac{R(t, \vec{r}')}{c} \right) \right) s_{TX}^* \left(t, \eta(t, \vec{r}) \cdot \left(\tau - \frac{R(t, \vec{r})}{c} \right) \right) \right].$$



Slow-Time Processing (CFV)

Slow-time averaging. The SAR image is the slow-time average of the sampled matched-filter output:

$$\tilde{\rho}(\vec{r}) = \mathbb{E}_t[s_{out}(t, \vec{r})], \quad \mathbb{E}_t[a(t)] \triangleq \frac{1}{T_C} \int_{t_{\min}}^{t_{\max}} a(t) dt, \quad T_C = t_{\max} - t_{\min}.$$

Decomposition into signal and noise.

$$\tilde{\rho}(\vec{r}) = \tilde{\rho}_s(\vec{r}) + \tilde{\rho}_n(\vec{r}).$$

Noise term (slow-/fast-time cross-correlation). Using the windowed fast-time average $\mathbb{E}_\tau[\cdot]$, define the joint average $\mathbb{E}_{t,\tau}[\cdot] \triangleq \mathbb{E}_t[\mathbb{E}_\tau[\cdot]]$. Then

$$\tilde{\rho}_n(\vec{r}) = \mathbb{E}_{t,\tau} \left[n(t, \tau) s_{TX}^* \left(t, \eta(t, \vec{r}) \cdot \left(\tau - \frac{R(t, \vec{r})}{c} \right) \right) \right].$$

Signal term (non-convolution spatial integral). After change of integration order,

$$\tilde{\rho}_s(\vec{r}) = \int_{\vec{r}'} \rho(\vec{r}') \text{psf}(\vec{r}', \vec{r}) |d\vec{r}'|,$$

with point-spread function

$$\text{psf}(\vec{r}', \vec{r}) \triangleq \mathbb{E}_{t,\tau} \left[s_{TX} \left(t, \eta(t, \vec{r}') \cdot \left(\tau - \frac{R(t, \vec{r}')}{c} \right) \right) s_{TX}^* \left(t, \eta(t, \vec{r}) \cdot \left(\tau - \frac{R(t, \vec{r})}{c} \right) \right) \right],$$

which depends on both source \vec{r}' and image \vec{r} locations.

Point Spread Function (PSF)

Definition (CFV). The PSF is the fast-time/slow-time cross-correlation between two copies of the transmitted waveform, modulated for the Doppler and propagation delays to \vec{r} and \vec{r}' :

$$\text{psf}(\vec{r}', \vec{r}) = \mathbb{E}_{t,\tau} \left[s_{TX} \left(t, \eta(t, \vec{r}') \cdot \left(\tau - \frac{R(t, \vec{r}')}{c} \right) \right) s_{TX}^* \left(t, \eta(t, \vec{r}) \cdot \left(\tau - \frac{R(t, \vec{r})}{c} \right) \right) \right].$$

Mathematical formulation.

$$\begin{aligned} &= \mathbb{E}_{t,\tau} \left[\mathbb{E}_v \left[\mathbb{E}_f \left[e^{j2\pi v \eta(t, \vec{r}') \cdot \left(\tau - \frac{R(t, \vec{r}')}{c} \right)} e^{-j2\pi f \eta(t, \vec{r}) \cdot \left(\tau - \frac{R(t, \vec{r})}{c} \right)} \right] \right] \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{t,\tau,f,v} \left[\exp \left(j2\pi \left[v \eta(t, \vec{r}') \cdot \left(\tau - \frac{R(t, \vec{r}')}{c} \right) - f \eta(t, \vec{r}) \cdot \left(\tau - \frac{R(t, \vec{r})}{c} \right) \right] \right) \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{t,f,v} \left[\mathbb{E}_\tau \left[e^{j2\pi (v \eta(t, \vec{r}') - f \eta(t, \vec{r})) \tau} \right] e^{j \frac{2\pi}{c} (f \eta(t, \vec{r}) R(t, \vec{r}) - v \eta(t, \vec{r}') R(t, \vec{r}'))} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Objective We need an approximation such that $\text{psf}(\vec{r}', \vec{r}) \approx \text{ipr}(\vec{r} - \vec{r}')$.

Tools: Rank-reduce the frequency averages from f and v to only an average over f .

$\mathbb{E}_\tau \left[e^{j2\pi (v \eta(t, \vec{r}') - f \eta(t, \vec{r})) \tau} \right] = \delta(v \eta(t, \vec{r}') - f \eta(t, \vec{r}))$, set $v = f \frac{\eta(t, \vec{r})}{\eta(t, \vec{r}'')}$ and only average along f ; or approximate $\delta(v - f)$, set $v = f$ and only average along f .

Use a truncated Taylor series of the Doppler time scale $\eta(t, \vec{r})$ w.r.t. $\dot{R}(t, \vec{r})$. $f(x) = \frac{c+x}{c-x} \approx f(0) + f'(0)x + f''(0)\frac{x^2}{2}$.

With this approximation, $\eta(t, \vec{r}) \approx 1 + \frac{2\dot{R}(t, \vec{r})}{c} + \frac{2\dot{R}^2(t, \vec{r})}{c^2}$.

Point Spread Function (PSF) — Approximation 1 (CFV)

Rank Reduction $\mathbb{E}_{\tau} \left[e^{j2\pi(v \eta(t, \vec{r}') - f \eta(t, \vec{r}))\tau} \right] = \delta(v \eta(t, \vec{r}') - f \eta(t, \vec{r}))$ or set $v = f \frac{\eta(t, \vec{r})}{\eta(t, \vec{r}')}$ and only average over f .

Updated $\text{psf}(\vec{r}', \vec{r}) = \mathbb{E}_{t,f} \left[e^{j \frac{2\pi f}{c} \eta(t, \vec{r}) (R(t, \vec{r}) - R(t, \vec{r}'))} \right]$

Key points.

- Two waveform copies are expressed as frequency averages of phasors: one with f as the frequency variable, the other with v .

Point Spread Function (PSF) — Approximation 2 (CFV)

Approximation of Rank Reduction $\mathbb{E}_{\tau} \left[e^{j2\pi(\nu \eta(t, \vec{r}') - f \eta(t, \vec{r}))\tau} \right] \approx \delta(\nu - f)$ or set $\nu = f$ and only average over f . Taylor series: $\eta(t, \vec{r}) \approx 1 + \frac{2}{c} \dot{R}(t, \vec{r})$.

Updated

$$\begin{aligned} \text{psf}(\vec{r}', \vec{r}) &= \mathbb{E}_{t,f} \left[e^{j\frac{2\pi f}{c} (\eta(t, \vec{r}) R(t, \vec{r}) - \eta(t, \vec{r}') R(t, \vec{r}'))} \right] \\ &\approx \mathbb{E}_{t,f} \left[e^{j\frac{2\pi f}{c} \left(\left(1 + \frac{2}{c} \dot{R}(t, \vec{r})\right) R(t, \vec{r}) - \left(1 + \frac{2}{c} \dot{R}(t, \vec{r}')\right) R(t, \vec{r}') \right)} \right] \\ &\approx \mathbb{E}_{t,f} \left[e^{j\frac{2\pi f}{c} (R(t, \vec{r}) - R(t, \vec{r}'))} e^{j\frac{4\pi f}{c^2} (R(t, \vec{r}) \dot{R}(t, \vec{r}) - R(t, \vec{r}') \dot{R}(t, \vec{r}'))} \right] \\ &\approx \mathbb{E}_{t,f} \left[e^{j\frac{2\pi f}{c} (R(t, \vec{r}) - R(t, \vec{r}'))} e^{j\frac{4\pi f}{c^2} R(t, \vec{O}) (\dot{R}(t, \vec{r}) - \dot{R}(t, \vec{r}'))} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Key points.

- Move-stop-move PSF captured geometric diversity as a difference in range signatures $R(t, \vec{r}) - R(t, \vec{r}')$, CFV model captured geometric diversity as a difference in weighted range signatures $\eta(t, \vec{r}) \cdot R(t, \vec{r}) - \eta(t, \vec{r}') \cdot R(t, \vec{r}')$.
- Using Taylor Series, we have one phasor with $R(t, \vec{r}) - R(t, \vec{r}')$ and another with $R(t, \vec{r}) \dot{R}(t, \vec{r}) - R(t, \vec{r}') \dot{R}(t, \vec{r}')$.
- We want $\dot{R}(t, \vec{r}) - \dot{R}(t, \vec{r}')$ so we approximate $R(t, \vec{r}) \approx R(t, \vec{O})$ and $R(t, \vec{r}') \approx R(t, \vec{O})$ and factor it out on the second phasor.

Impulse response (IPR) — Approximation (CFV)

Range/Range Rate Gradients

$$R(t, \vec{r}) \approx R(t, \vec{O}) + \langle \vec{r} - \vec{O}, \vec{\nabla} R(t, \vec{O}) \rangle$$

$$\dot{R}(t, \vec{r}) \approx \dot{R}(t, \vec{O}) + \langle \vec{r} - \vec{O}, \vec{\nabla} \dot{R}(t, \vec{O}) \rangle$$

$$R(t, \vec{r}) - R(t, \vec{r}') \approx \langle \vec{r} - \vec{r}', \vec{\nabla} R(t, \vec{O}) \rangle$$

$$\dot{R}(t, \vec{r}) - \dot{R}(t, \vec{r}') \approx \langle \vec{r} - \vec{r}', \vec{\nabla} \dot{R}(t, \vec{O}) \rangle$$

Updated

$$\text{psf}(\vec{r}', \vec{r}) \approx \text{ipr}(\vec{r} - \vec{r}')$$

$$\text{ipr}(\vec{r}) = \mathbb{E}_{t,f} \left[e^{j \langle \vec{r}, \vec{F}(f,t) \rangle} \right]$$

$$\vec{F}(f, t) = \frac{2\pi f}{c} \left(\vec{\nabla} R(t, \vec{O}) + \frac{2 R(t, \vec{O})}{c} \vec{\nabla} \dot{R}(t, \vec{O}) \right)$$

Key points.

- Both Move-stop-move and CFV IPRs expressed in the form $\text{ipr}(\vec{r}) = \mathbb{E}_{t,f} \left[e^{j \langle \vec{r}, \vec{F}(f,t) \rangle} \right]$.
- Phasor with projection of \vec{r} along surface $\vec{F}(f, t)$.
- Move-stop-move surface was function of frequency and range gradient : $\vec{F}(f, t) = \frac{2\pi f}{c} \vec{\nabla} R(t, \vec{O})$.
- CFV surface function of frequency, Range and Range Rate gradients :

$$\vec{F}(f, t) = \frac{2\pi f}{c} \left(\vec{\nabla} R(t, \vec{O}) + \frac{2 R(t, \vec{O})}{c} \vec{\nabla} \dot{R}(t, \vec{O}) \right).$$

Spatial Convolution and Inverse Fourier Transform

Convolution in Spatial Domain

$$\tilde{\rho}(\vec{r}) \approx \rho(\vec{r}) (*)_{\vec{r}} \text{ipr}(\vec{r}) = \int_{\vec{r}'} \rho(\vec{r}') \text{ipr}(\vec{r} - \vec{r}') |\vec{r}'|$$

Multiplication in Fourier Domain

$$\tilde{\rho}(\vec{r}) = \mathcal{F}_{\vec{r}}^{-1} \left[P(\vec{K}) TF(\vec{K}) \right]$$

$$P(\vec{K}) = \mathcal{F}_{\vec{r}} [\rho(\vec{r})]$$

Transfer Function - Fourier Transform of IPR

$$\begin{aligned} TF(\vec{K}) &= \mathcal{F}_{\vec{r}} [\text{ipr}(\vec{r})] = \mathcal{F}_{\vec{r}} \left[\mathbb{E}_{t,f} \left[e^{j\langle \vec{r}, \vec{F}(f,t) \rangle} \right] \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{t,f} \left[\mathcal{F}_{\vec{r}} \left[e^{j\langle \vec{r}, \vec{F}(f,t) \rangle} \right] \right] = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \mathbb{E}_{t,f} \left[\delta \left(\vec{K} - \vec{F}(f,t) \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

Key points.

- TF represents a time–frequency modulation of the instantaneous position in the Fourier domain (k-space), expressed as $\vec{K} = \vec{F}(f, t)$.
- The passband is the set of all k-space positions traversed as slow time varies over $t \in [t_{\min}, t_{\max}]$ and frequency sweeps over $f \in [f_{\min}(t), f_{\max}(t)]$.

Projection–Slice Theory for Ground-Plane Imaging

- If the SAR image $\tilde{\rho}(\vec{r})$ is confined to the ground plane (Slice)
 $\langle \vec{r} - \vec{O}, \vec{z} \rangle = 0$, then imaging performance can be analyzed in the Fourier domain via *projection–slice* theory.

- Project the k-space surface $\vec{F}(f, t)$ into the ground plane using

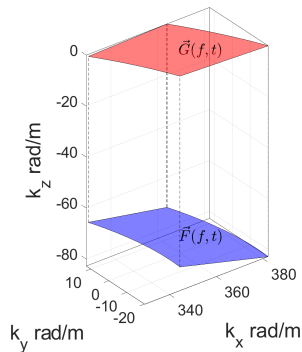
$$\vec{G}(f, t) = \vec{z} \times \vec{F}(f, t) \times \vec{z} \quad (\text{equivalently } \vec{G}(f, t) = (\mathbf{I} - \vec{z}\vec{z}^T) \vec{F}(f, t)).$$

Here \vec{z} is the unit normal to the ground plane.

- The 2D ground-plane transfer function over spatial frequencies \vec{K} is

$$TF(\vec{K}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \mathbb{E}_{t,f} \left[\delta(\vec{K} - \vec{G}(f, t)) \right],$$

describing the sampling density in k-space induced by (f, t) after projection onto the ground plane.



Tall/narrow illustration of $\vec{F}(f, t)$ projected to $\vec{G}(f, t)$.

K-Space Passband Shaped by Modulation Vectors

- The shape of the k-space passband depends on the **direction** and **length** of the time and frequency modulation vectors.
- A differential change in slow time dt or frequency df results in a change in k-space position:

$$d\vec{K} = \vec{G}_f(f, t) df + \vec{G}_t(f, t) dt.$$

- The modulation vectors $\vec{G}_f(f, t)$ and $\vec{G}_t(f, t)$ are the **partial derivatives** of the k-space surface $\vec{G}(f, t)$ with respect to frequency and slow time:

$$\vec{G}_f(f, t) = \frac{\partial}{\partial f} \vec{G}(f, t), \quad \vec{G}_t(f, t) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \vec{G}(f, t)$$

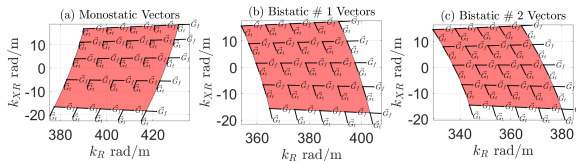


Illustration of $\vec{G}(f, t)$ showing modulation vectors \vec{G}_f and \vec{G}_t shaping the passband in k-space.

Modulation Vectors for Ground-Plane Projected K-Space

Ground-plane k-space surface:

$$\vec{G}(f, t) = \frac{2\pi f}{c} \left(\vec{\nabla} R_{GP}(t, \vec{O}) + \frac{2R(t, \vec{O})}{c} \vec{\nabla} \dot{R}_{GP}(t, \vec{O}) \right)$$

Projected gradients:

$$\vec{\nabla} R_{GP}(t, \vec{O}) = \vec{z} \times \vec{\nabla} R(t, \vec{O}) \times \vec{z},$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \dot{R}_{GP}(t, \vec{O}) = \vec{z} \times \frac{d}{dt} \vec{\nabla} R(t, \vec{O}) \times \vec{z},$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \ddot{R}_{GP}(t, \vec{O}) = \vec{z} \times \frac{d^2}{dt^2} \vec{\nabla} R(t, \vec{O}) \times \vec{z}.$$

Modulation vectors:

$$\vec{G}_t(f, t) = \frac{2\pi f}{c} \left(\vec{\nabla} \dot{R}_{GP}(t, \vec{O}) + \frac{2\dot{R}(t, \vec{O})}{c} \vec{\nabla} \dot{R}_{GP}(t, \vec{O}) + \frac{2R(t, \vec{O})}{c} \vec{\nabla} \ddot{R}_{GP}(t, \vec{O}) \right),$$

$$\vec{G}_f(f, t) = \frac{2\pi}{c} \left(\vec{\nabla} R_{GP}(t, \vec{O}) + \frac{2R(t, \vec{O})}{c} \vec{\nabla} \dot{R}_{GP}(t, \vec{O}) \right).$$

Differential displacement:

$$d\vec{K} = \vec{G}_f(f, t) df + \vec{G}_t(f, t) dt$$