



# GAMES 204

## Computational Imaging

Lecture 20: Temporal Encoding III: Indirect Time-of-flight Imaging



Qilin Sun (孙启霖)

香港中文大学（深圳）

点昀技术 (Point Spread Technology)



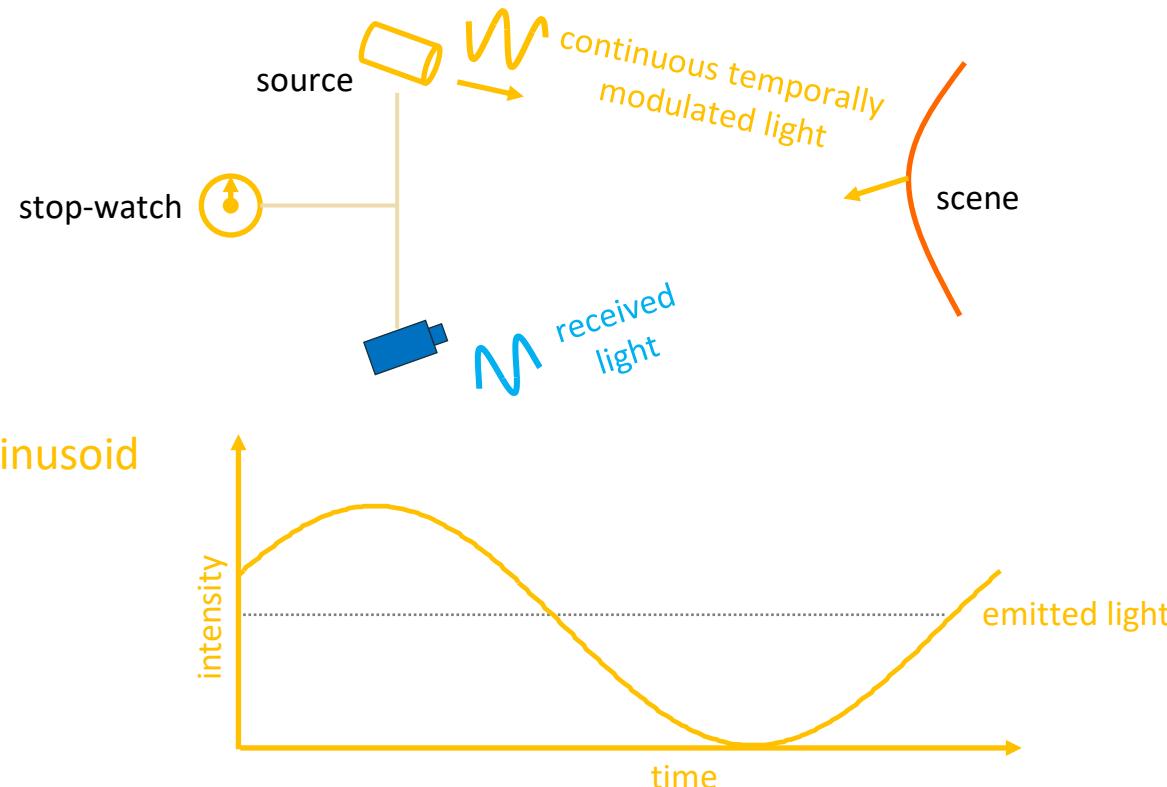
## Today's Topic

- Continuous Wave ToF Imaging
- Imaging Model and Analysis of iToF
- Illumination
- Multipath Interference
- Phasor Imaging

# Continuous Wave ToF Imaging



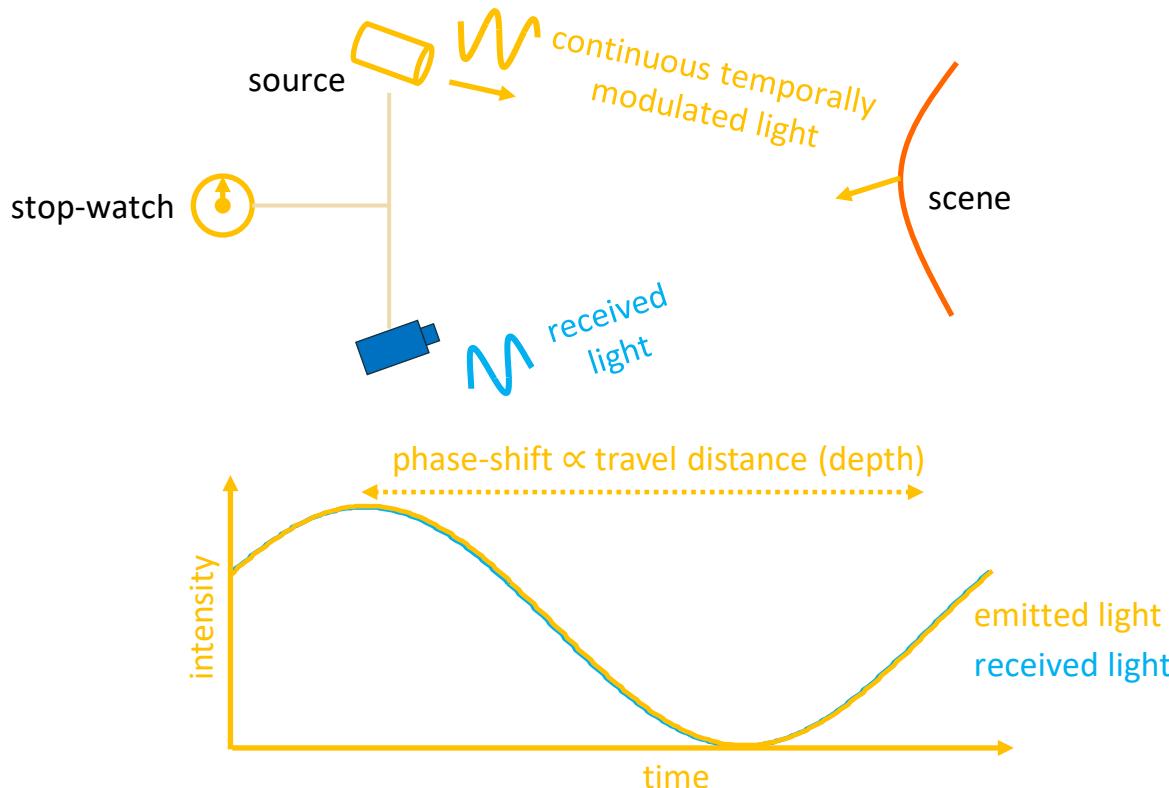
# Continuous Wave ToF Imaging



[Smith, 1980; Schwarte 1995; Lange, 2000]



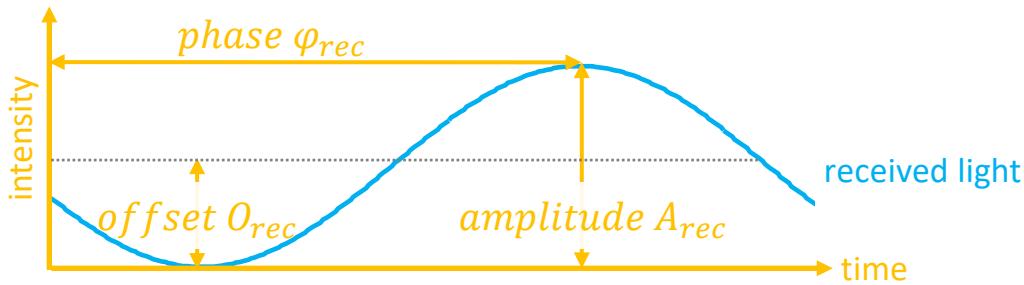
# Continuous Wave ToF Imaging



[Smith, 1980; Schwarte 1995; Lange, 2000]



# Measuring Phase-Shift

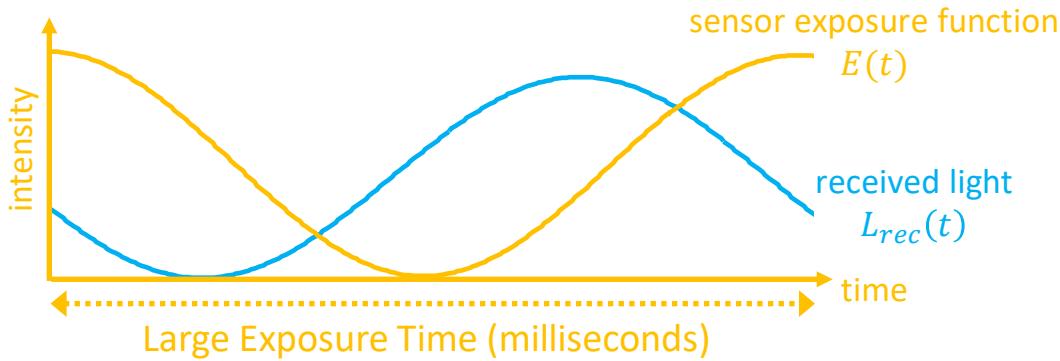


Three Unknowns

$$L_{rec}(t) = O_{rec} + A_{rec} \cos(\omega t - \phi_{rec})$$



# Measuring Phase-Shift: Correlation

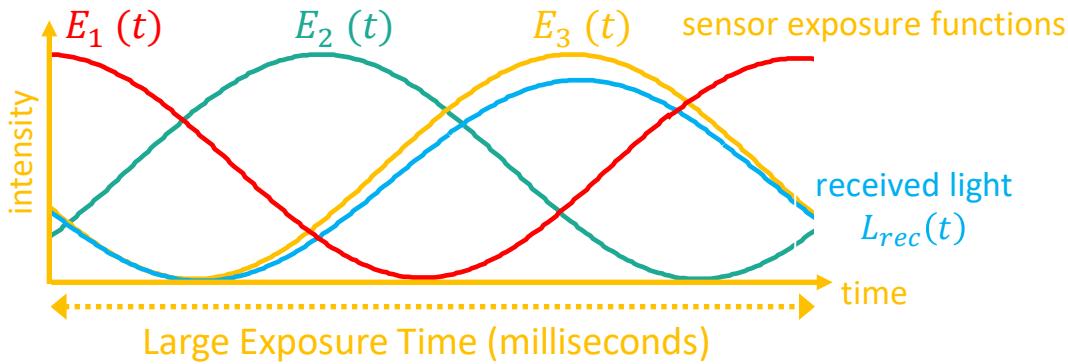


$$\text{Correlation: } I = \int E(t) \times L_{rec}(t) dt$$

measured brightness      exposure function      received light

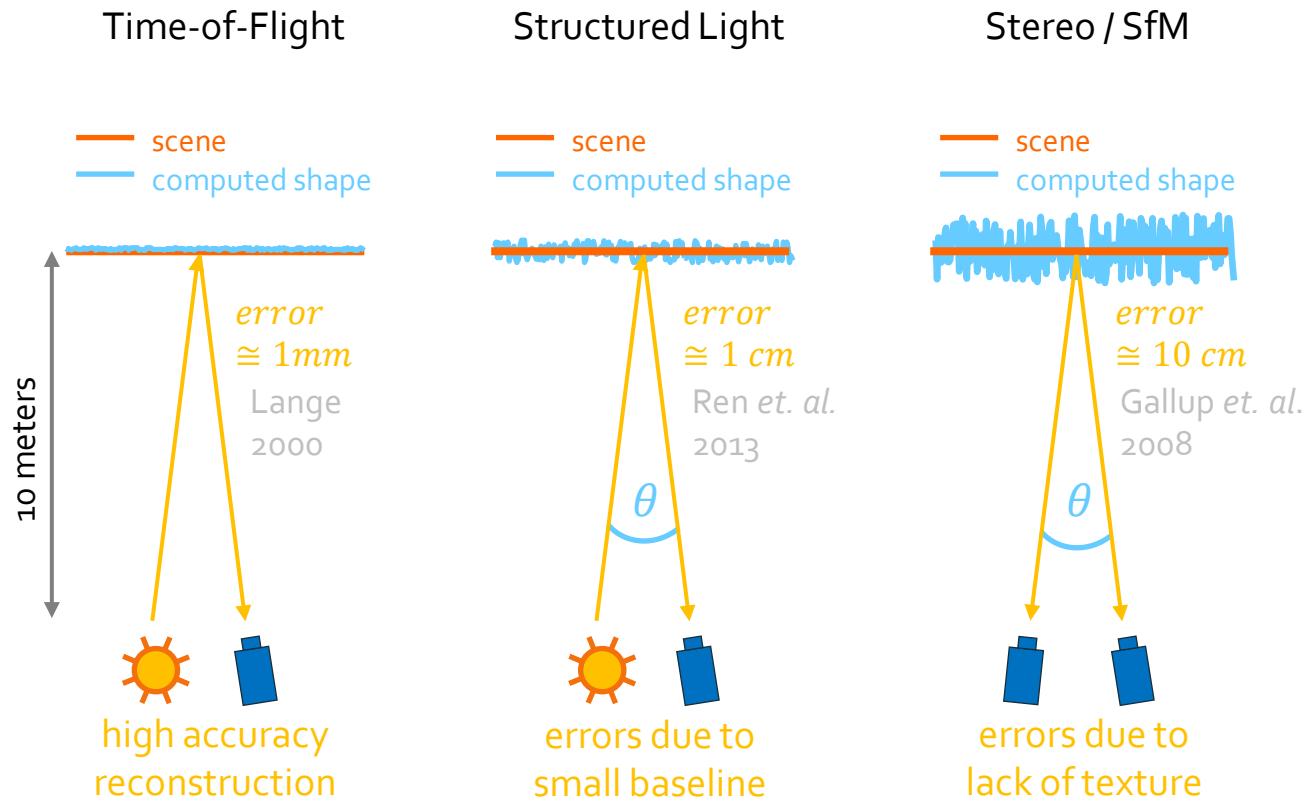


# Measuring Phase-Shift: Correlation



- Correlation 1: High Signal-to-Noise Ratio  $\Rightarrow$  *depth*
- Correlation 2:  $I_2 = \text{Real} \int E_2(t) \times L_{rec}(t) dt \Rightarrow$  *phase  $\varphi_{rec}$*
- Correlation 3:  $I_3 = \int E_3(t) \times L_{rec}(t) dt \Rightarrow$  *offset  $O_{rec}$*
- Correlation 3:  $I_3 = \int E_3(t) \times L_{rec}(t) dt \Rightarrow$  *amplitude  $A_{rec}$*

# Comparison of Depth Accuracy





# Correlation-Based ToF Devices



Point Spread Technology  
High-end ToF Camera Okulo P1

100/120fps RGBD



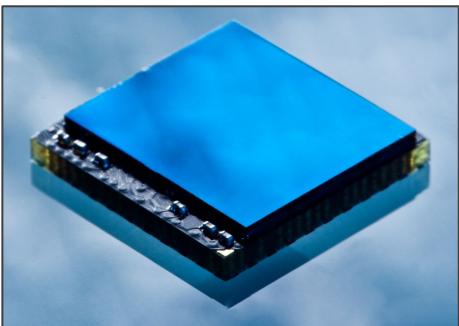
Microsoft Azure Kinect

30fps RGBD

# Imaging Model and Analysis of iTToF



# Correlation Sensors



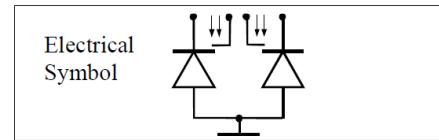
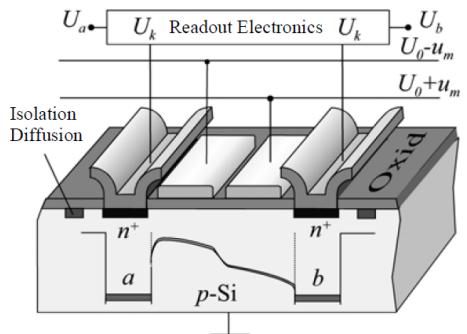
Correlation Sensor Chip  
(e.g., Photonic Mixer Device)

Measure Temporal Correlation  
of Incident Light With Exposure  
Function

Low Cost, Compact, Real Time

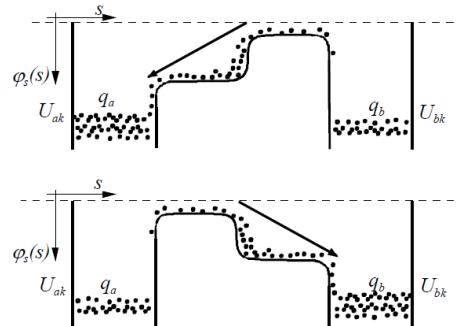
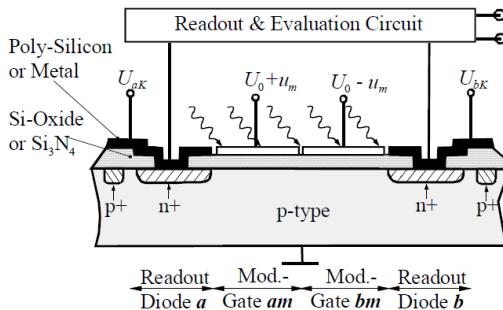
Also called “multi-bucket sensors”

## Chip layout



## Electric symbol

## Schematic view

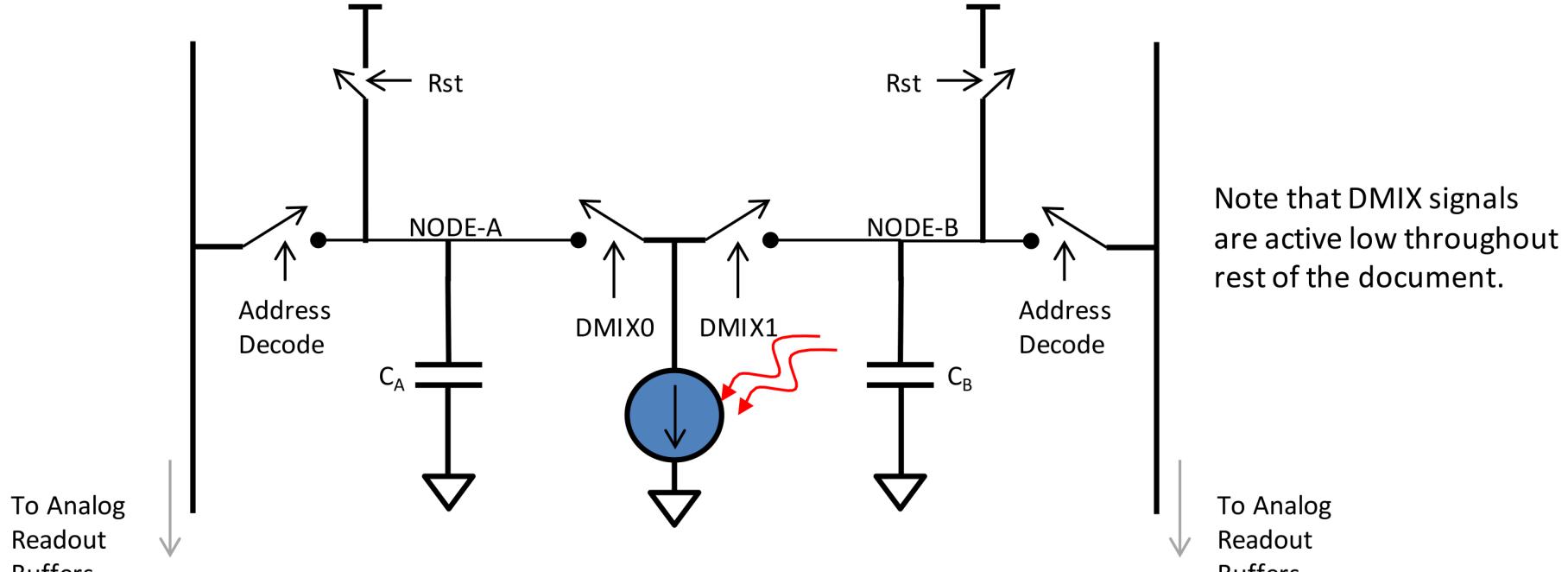


## Fast on-chip modulation

Image from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PMDTechnologies>



# Simplest Pixel Form



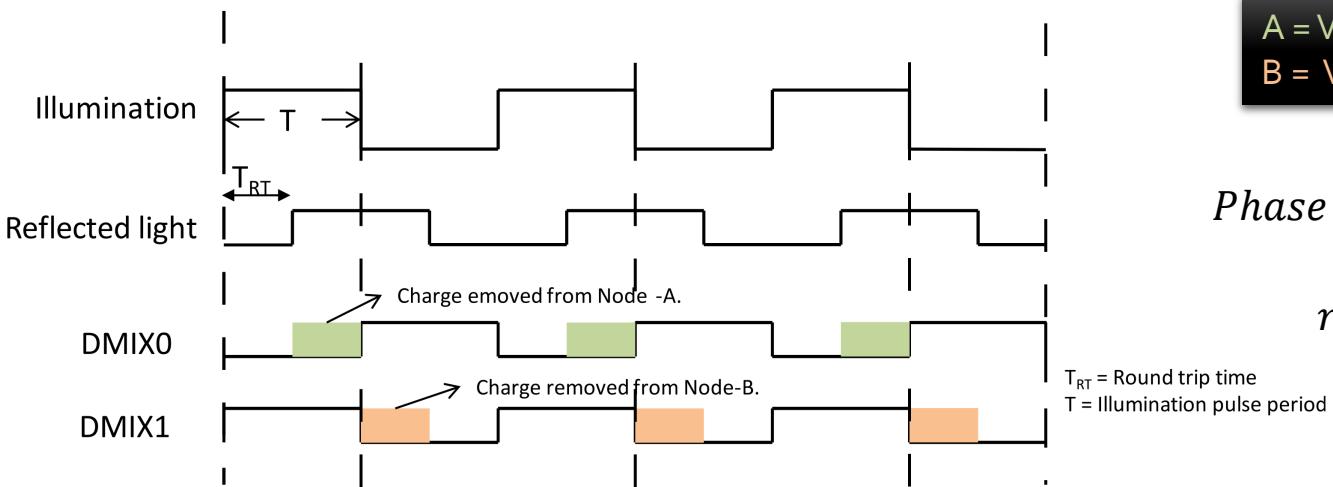
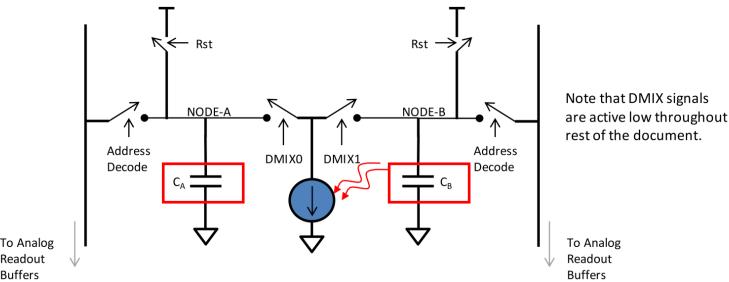
# Ideal Pixel: Scene With No Ambient Light

Assumption: No mismatch between  $C_A$  and  $C_B$

A: Voltage on Node-A

B: Voltage on Node-B

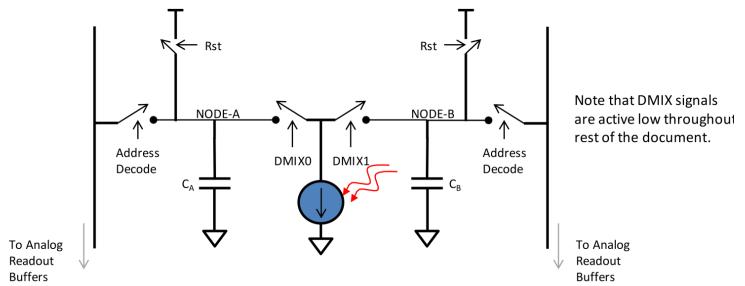
$V_R$ : Reference Voltage



# Practical Pixel: Offset, Scene with Ambient Light

A: Voltage on Node-A  
B: Voltage on Node-B

$V_R$ : Reference Voltage  
 $V_{AX}$ : Ambient Light  
 $V_{OA} \neq V_{OB}$ : Reset Voltage



$$A = V_R - (T - T_{RT}) \times K$$

$$B = V_R - T_{RT} \times K$$

$$A = V_{AA} + V_{OA} + V_R - (T - T_{RT}) \times K$$

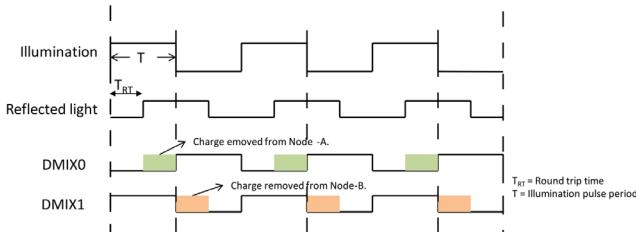
$$B = V_{AB} + V_{OB} + V_R - T_{RT} \times K$$

2 equations

but

4 unknowns:

$(V_{AA} + V_{OA}), (V_{AB} + V_{OB}), K, T_{RT}$



## Additional Experiments NO ILLUMINATION

$$A_0 = V_{AA} + V_{OA} + V_R - (T - T_{RT}) \times K$$

$$B_0 = V_{AB} + V_{OB} + V_R - T_{RT} \times K$$

$$A_{OFF} = V_{AA} + V_{OA} + V_R$$

$$B_{OFF} = V_{AB} + V_{OB} + V_R$$

4 equations, 4 unknowns!

$$Phase = \frac{B}{(A + B)}$$

$$A = -(T - T_{RT}) \times K$$

$$B = -T_{RT} \times K$$

# Practical Pixel: Gain Error

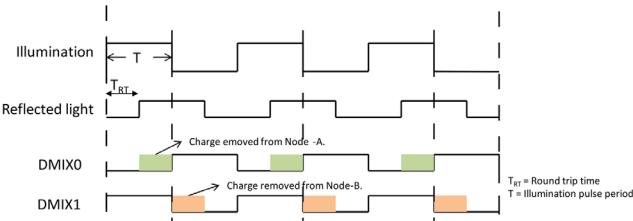
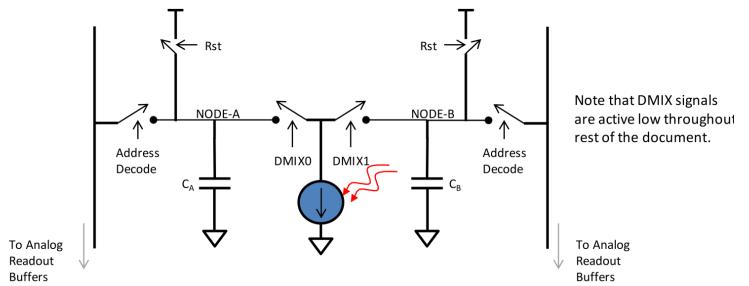
A: Voltage on Node-A  
B: Voltage on Node-B

$V_R$ : Reference Voltage

$V_{AX}$ : Ambient Light

$V_{OA} \neq V_{OB}$ : Reset Voltage

$G_A \neq G_B$ : Gain Error



$$A = -G_A (T - T_{RT}) \times K$$

$$B = -G_B T_{RT} \times K$$

4 unknowns:  
[ $G_A$ ,  $G_B$ ,  $K$ ,  $T_{RT}$ ]

$$A_0 - B_0 = \text{Const}_1 - (G_A + G_B) \times 2\cos(T_{RT}/T)$$

$$A_{180} - B_{180} = \text{Const}_1 + (G_A + G_B) \times 2\cos(T_{RT}/T)$$

$$A_{90} - B_{90} = \text{Const}_2 - (G_A + G_B) \times 2\sin(T_{RT}/T)$$

$$A_{270} - B_{270} = \text{Const}_2 + (G_A + G_B) \times 2\sin(T_{RT}/T)$$

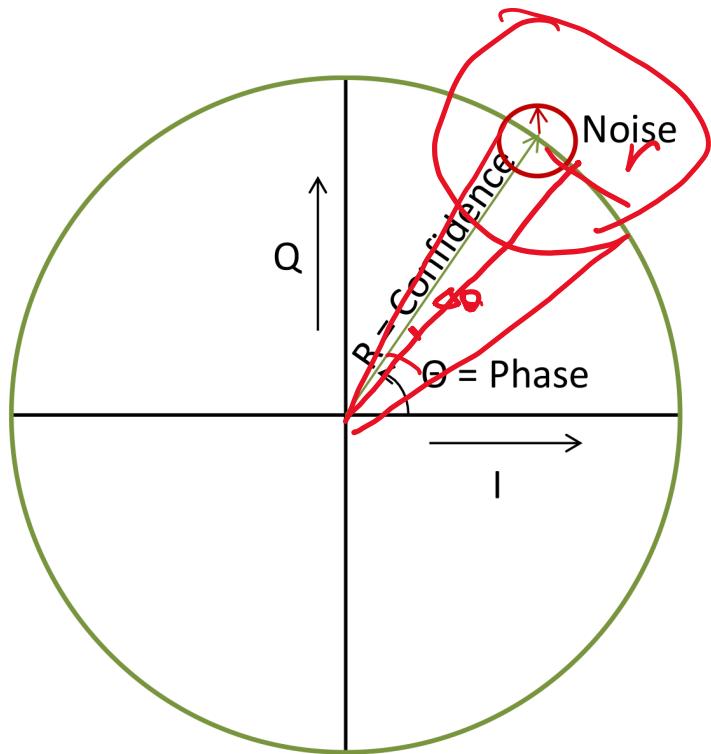
$$I = (A_0 - B_0) - (A_{180} - B_{180})$$

$$Q = (A_{90} - B_{90}) - (A_{270} - B_{270})$$

$$\text{Phase} = \tan^{-1} Q/I$$



# I and Q versus Phase



Noise  $\sim \Delta\Theta$ .

$\frac{r}{confidence} \sim R$

$$Phase = \tan^{-1} Q/I$$

$$\underline{confidence} = \sqrt{I^2 + Q^2}$$



# Non-Idealities in the Conversion of Photons to Voltage

## Non-Idealities:

### ➤ 1. Fill factor

$$F_F = \frac{\text{Active Pixel Area}}{\text{Total Pixel Area}}$$

### ➤ 2. Responsivity (QE: quantum efficiency)

$$QE = \eta(\lambda) = \frac{n_e}{n_p} \quad \text{const.}$$

$$\text{responsivity} = \frac{i}{p} = \frac{\lambda q_e n_e}{hc n_p} = \frac{\lambda q_e}{hc} \eta(\lambda)$$

$$v = \frac{q}{c} = \frac{\text{responsivity} \times p \times t_I}{c}$$

$$\text{confidence} \propto \frac{\text{responsivity} \times p_I \times F_F \times t_I}{c} \propto p_I \times tI$$

$n_e$ : number of electrons generated

$n_p$ : number of photons hitting the active pixel area

i: current generated

p: power incident on the active pixel area

h: the plank's constant

c: the speed of light in the medium

$\lambda$ : wavelength of the light used

$q_e$ : the charge of a single electron

q: the charge collected

$t_I$ : the integration time

v: the voltage developed on each node of the pixel

$p_I$ : the incident-modulated power on each pixel during integration time



# Non-Idealities in the Conversion of Photons to Voltage

Non-Idealities:

## ➤ 3. Demodulation Contrast

$$C_d = \frac{n_{ea} - n_{eb}}{n_{ea} + n_{eb}}$$

$C_d \downarrow$  then,  
 $A-B \downarrow$  then,  
confidence  $\downarrow$



# Noise Sources of iTToF

## ➤ 1. Reset Noise

$$N_T = \sqrt{kTC}, \quad nT = \sqrt{kTC}/qe,$$

## ➤ 2. Photon Shot Noise

$$n_s = \sqrt{n_e}$$

The Depth Noise/Resolution:

$$d_{noise} = d_{res} = N_d \propto \frac{c\sqrt{n_e + nT^2}}{n_m f m C d} \propto \frac{c}{\sqrt{n_m} f_m C_d}$$

f<sub>m</sub>: the modulation frequency  
c: the speed of light in the medium  
n<sub>m</sub>: number of electrons generated resulting from the modulation signal light

# Illumination



# Illumination Power

$\bar{N_m}$ ,  $f_m$ ,  $C_d$ .

The Depth Noise/Resolution:

$$d_{noise} = d_{res} = N_d \propto \frac{c\sqrt{n_e + nT^2}}{n_m f_m C_d}$$

To Reduce the Depth Noise:  $n_m \uparrow$  

$$p_E = \frac{4\pi \times p_I \times d^2 \times \text{no. of pixels}}{r \times \text{aperture}}$$

The average illumination power:

$$\overline{p_{Eavg}} = p_E \times \boxed{d_T} \times \boxed{fps}$$

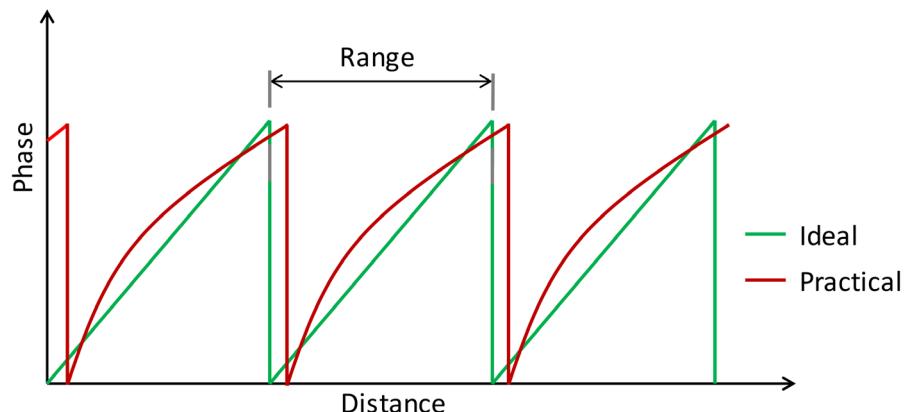
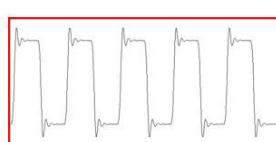
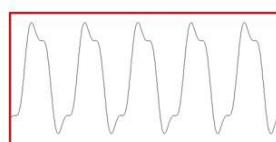
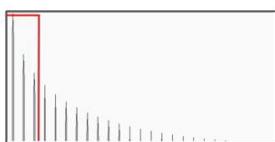
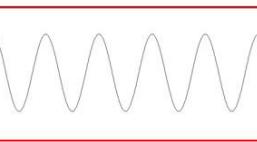
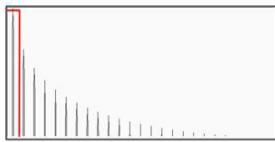
d: object distance  
r: reflectance

$d_T$ : integration duty cycle  
fps: frame rate



# Distance and Phase Relationship

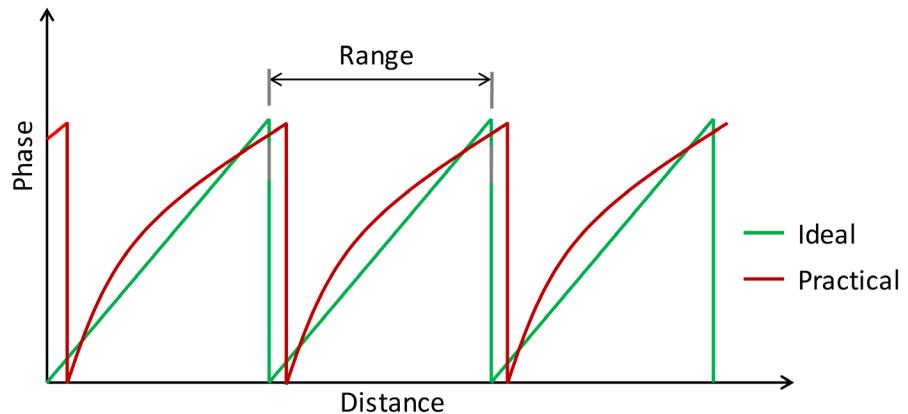
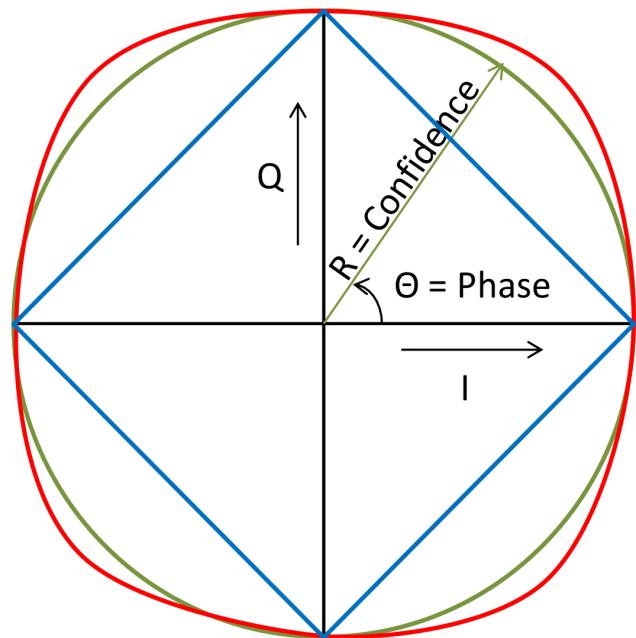
However, the illumination CW and reference CW is far away from ideal.



From NI

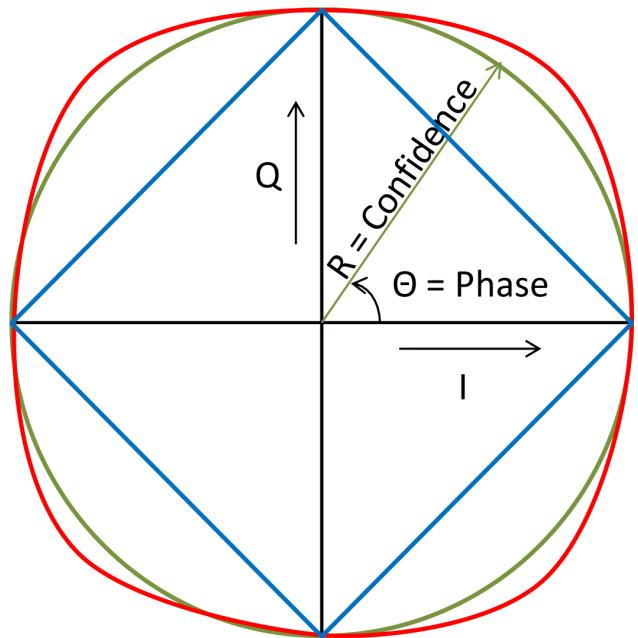
# The Non-Linearity

However, the illumination CW and reference CW is far away from ideal.





# The Non-Linearity Correction



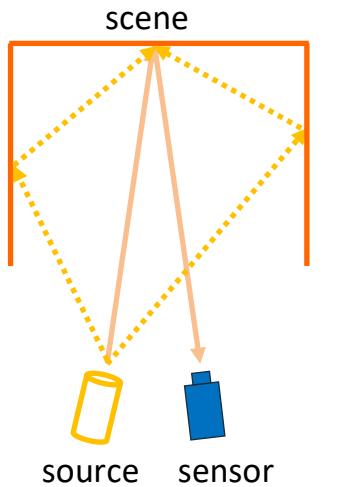
Solution: Build a Look UP Table (**LUT**) through

1. Phase offset sweeping
2. Calibrate use a movable object

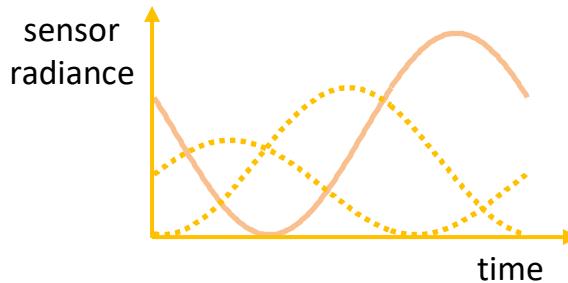
# Multipath Interference



# Interreflections and ToF Imaging

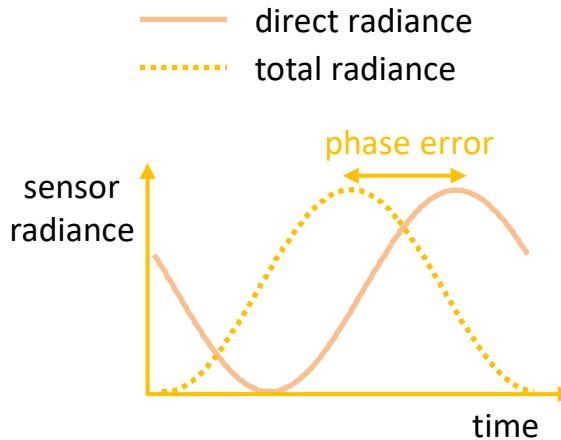
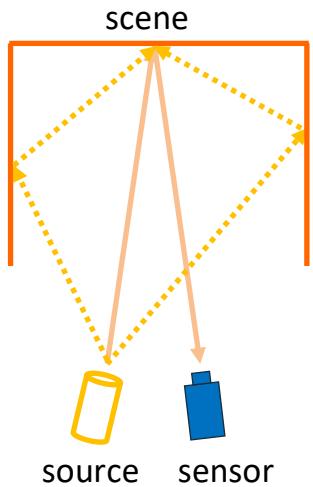


— direct radiance  
- - - interreflections



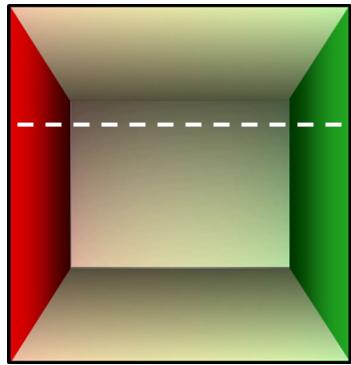


# Interreflections and ToF Imaging

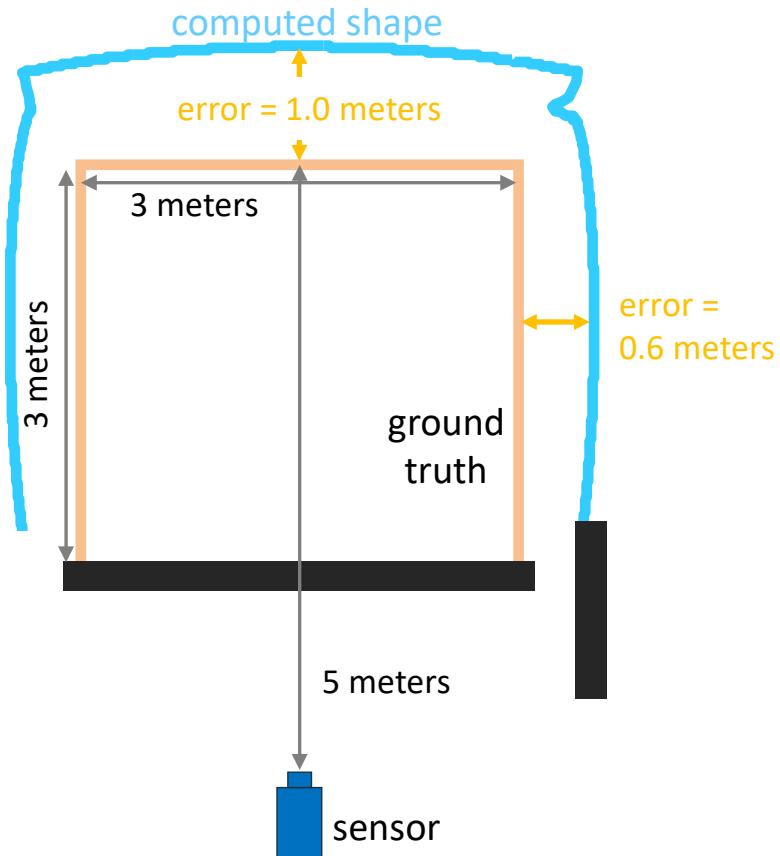


Interreflections Produce Incorrect Phase

# Errors in Shape Recovery

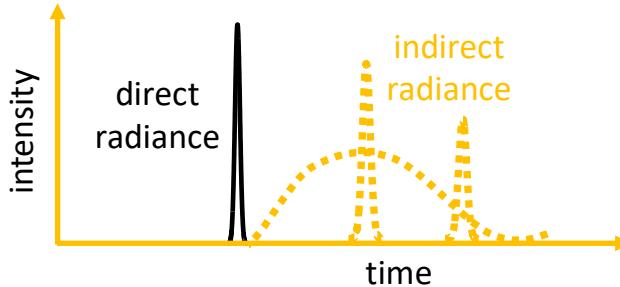
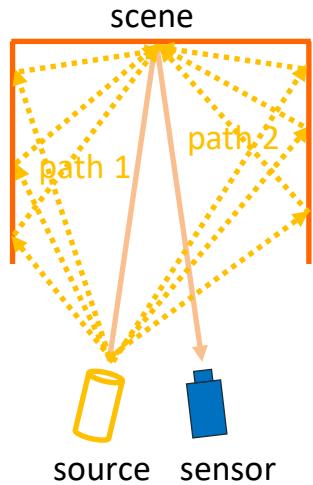


camera view





# Multipath Interference



## Sparse/Compressible Interreflections

[Godbaz *et al.* 2008, Jimenez *et al.* 2012, Dorrington *et al.* 2011]

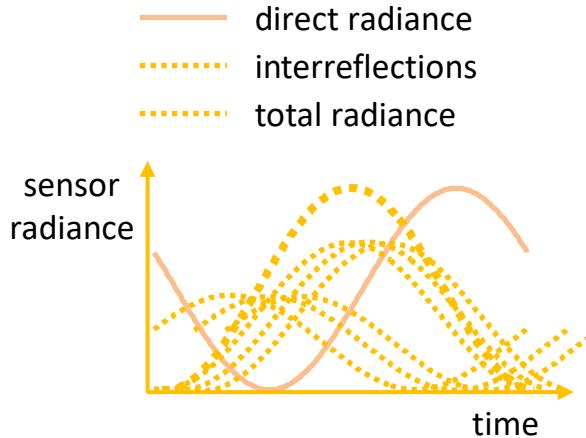
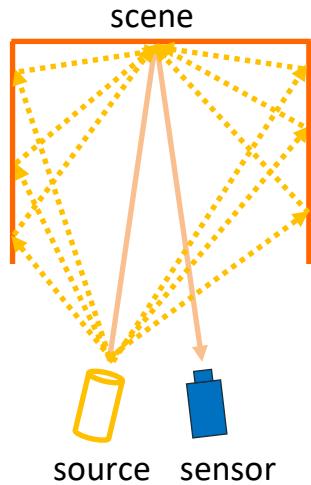
[Godbaz *et al.* 2012, Kadambi *et al.* 2013, Kirmani *et al.* 2013, Freedman *et al.* 2014]

Infinite Indirect Paths

2-3 Indirect Paths



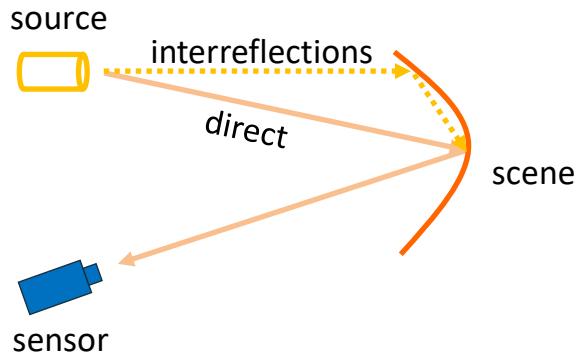
# Multipath Interference



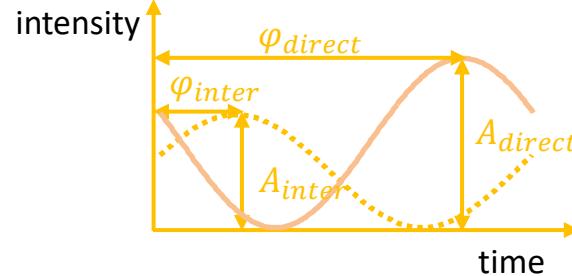
How To Separate Different Components?



# How To Represent Interreflections?



— direct radiance  
- - - interreflections

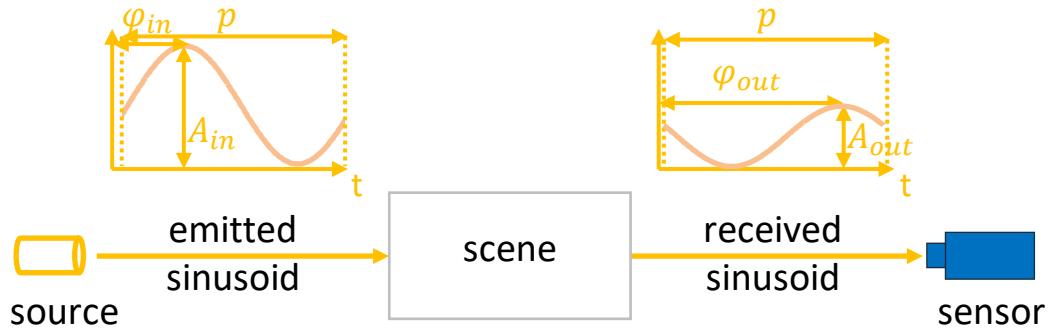


Different Phases

Different Amplitudes



# Signal Processing View



Scene Modulates Only the Phase and the Amplitude

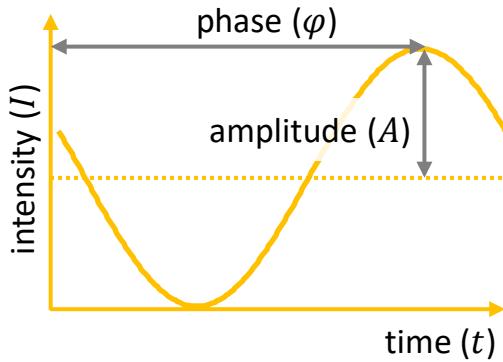
Sinusoid Period (Frequency) Remains Same

# Phasor Imaging

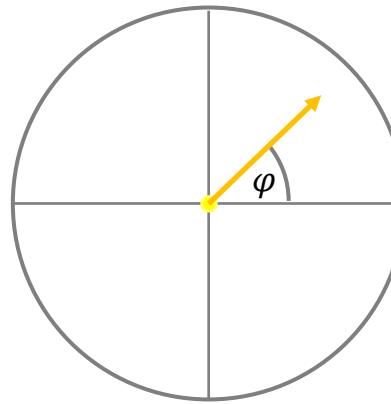


# Phasor Representation of Sinusoids

Sinusoid



Phasor



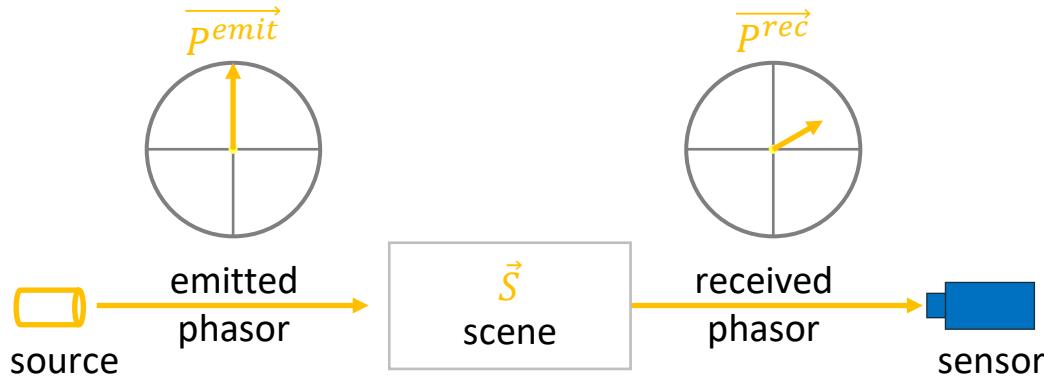
modulation frequency

$$I = A \cos(\omega t - \varphi)$$

$$\vec{I} = A e^{-j\varphi}$$



## Signal Processing View: Phasor



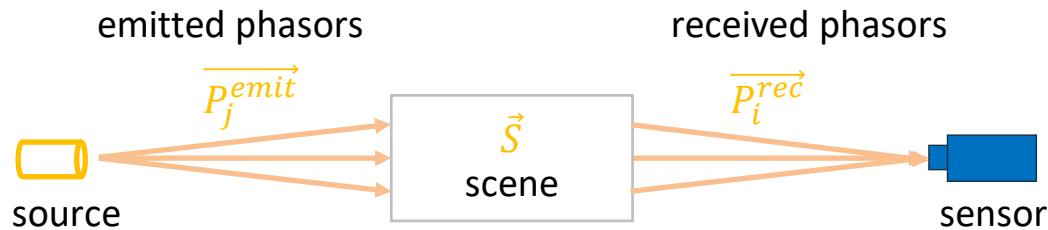
$$\overrightarrow{P^{rec}} = \vec{S} \times \overrightarrow{P^{emit}}$$

↑  
light transport coefficient (complex)

One Coefficient for Every Emitted-Received Light Ray Pair



# Signal Processing View: Phasor



$$\overrightarrow{P_i^{rec}} = \sum_j \vec{S}_{ij} \times \overrightarrow{P_j^{emit}}$$

↑  
light transport coefficients (complex)

Linear Input-Output Relationship



# Phasor Light Transport Matrix

array of received  
intensities  
(complex)

light transport matrix (complex)

$$\overrightarrow{[\mathbf{P}^{\text{rec}}]} = \overrightarrow{[\mathbf{S}]} \times \overrightarrow{[\mathbf{P}^{\text{emit}}]}$$

array of emitted  
intensities (complex)

Phasor Light Transport Equation

Same Form As Conventional Light Transport

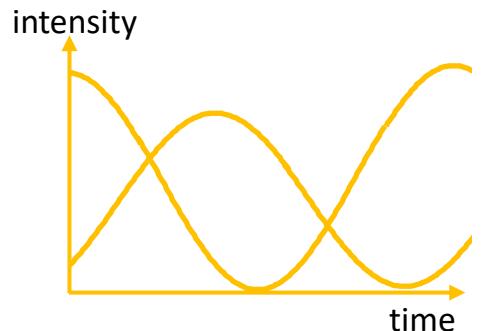
[O'Toole *et al.* 2014]



# Phasor Light Transport: Reflection

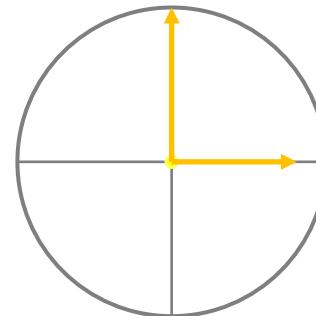


Sinusoid



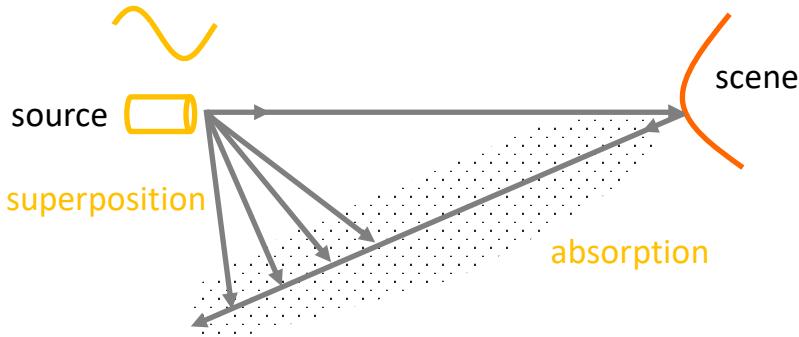
Only  
Amplitude  
Changes

Phasor

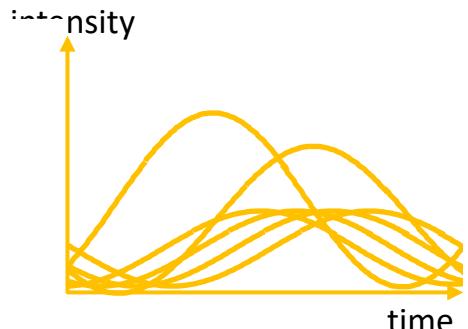




# Phasor Light Transport: Superposition

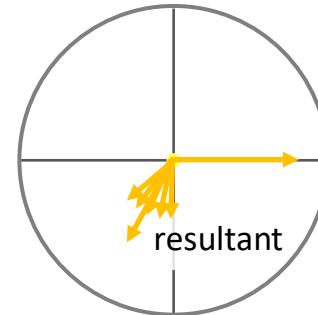


Sinusoid



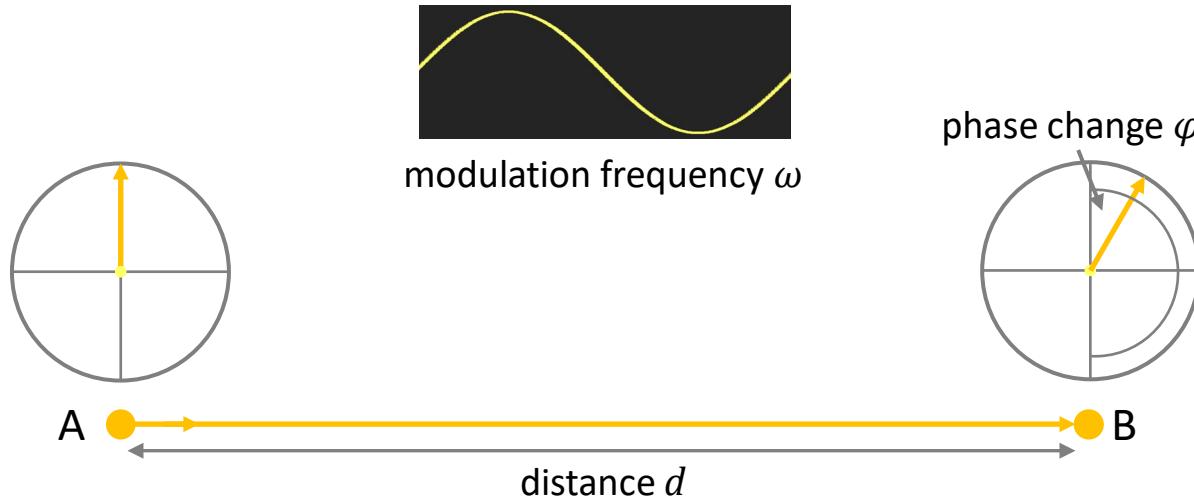
Both Phase and Amplitude Change

Phasor





# Phase Change vs. Modulation Frequency



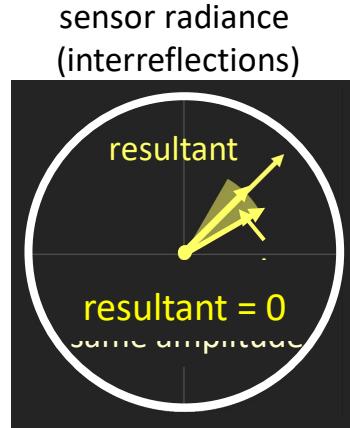
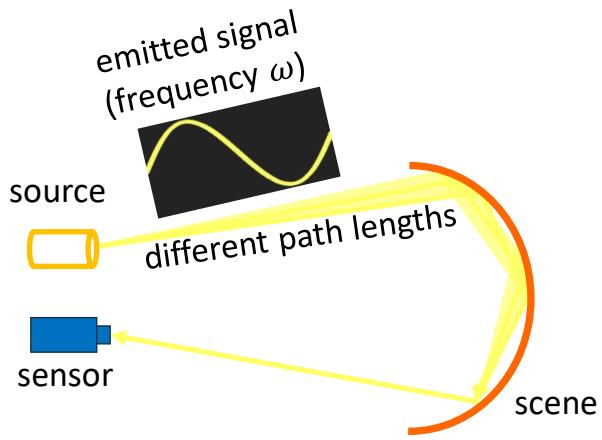
$$\varphi = \frac{\omega d}{c}$$

← speed of light

$\varphi$  is proportional to both  $d$  and  $\omega$



# Interreflections vs. Modulation Frequency



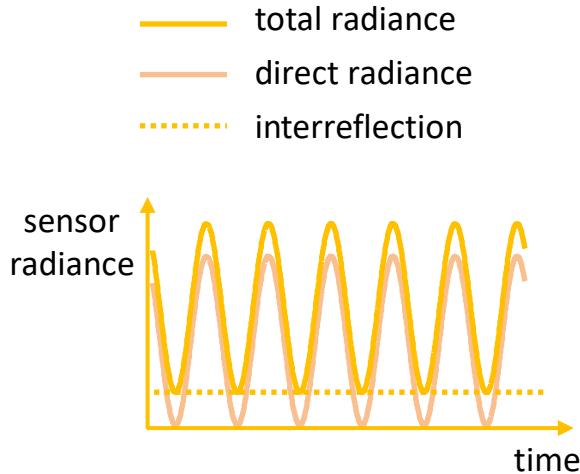
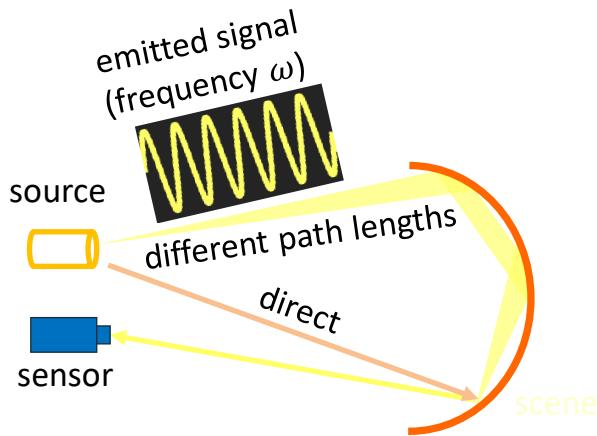
Increasing Modulation Frequency  
angular spread of phases

Decreasing Resultant Amplitude

Local Smoothness of Light Transport  
For High Temporal Frequency  
[Nayar et al. 2006]  
Interreflection Component is  
Constant



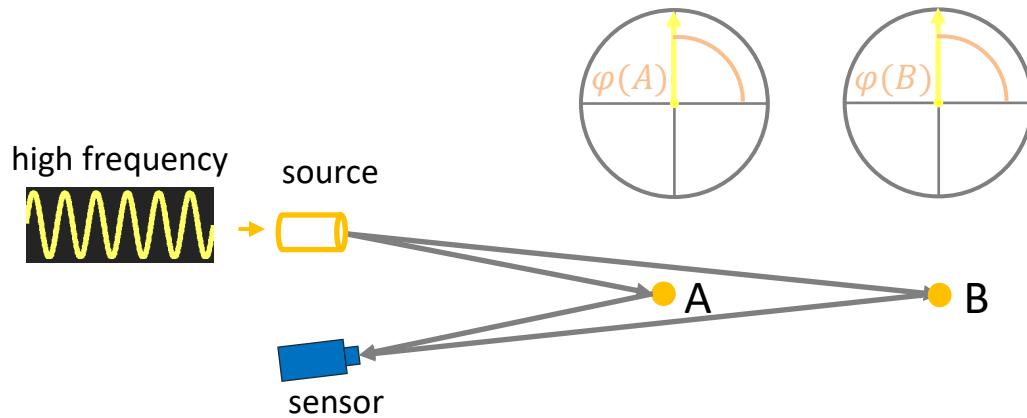
# Interreflections vs. Modulation Frequency



For High Temporal Frequency  
Interreflections Do Not Affect Please  
Constant



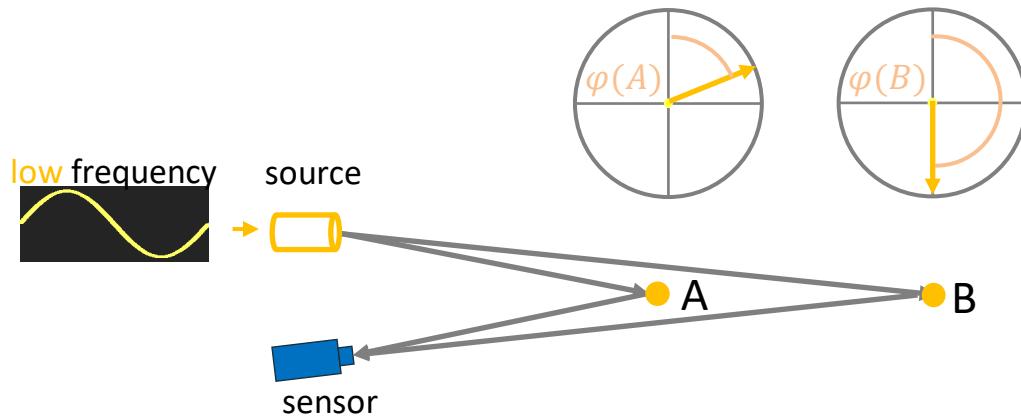
# Phase Ambiguity



Different Scene Depths Have Same Phase



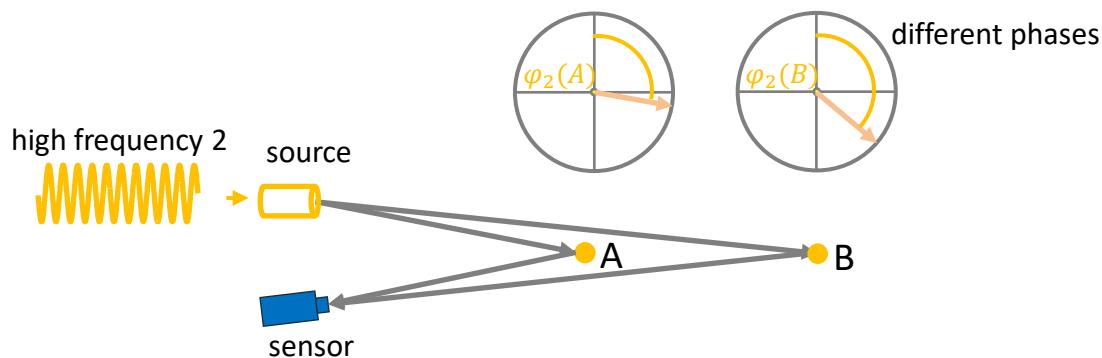
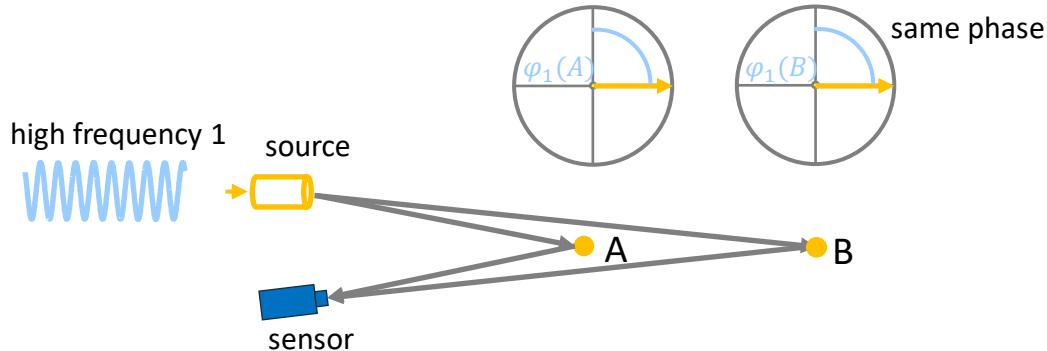
# Phase Ambiguity



$$\text{Unambiguous Depth Range: } R_{\text{unambiguous}} = \frac{1}{2\omega}$$



# Disambiguating Phase

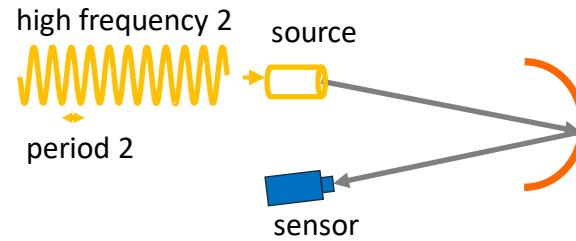
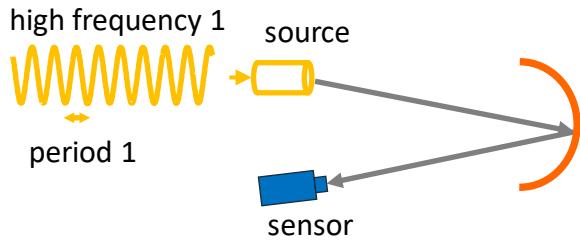


Compute Phases at Two High Frequencies

[Jongenelen *et al.* 2010, 2011]



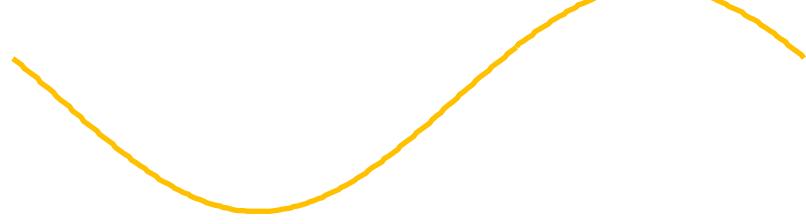
# Micro Time-of-Flight Imaging



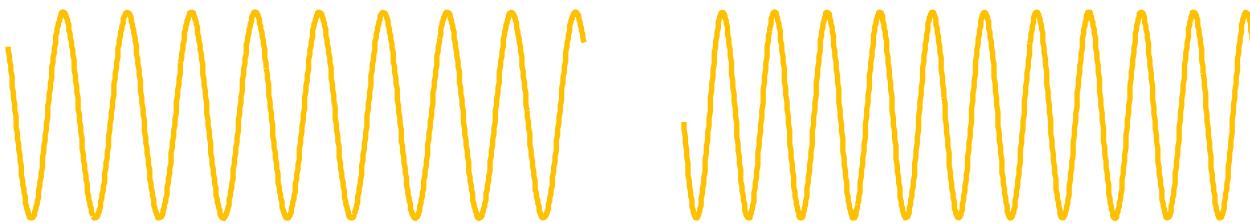
Modulation Signals With Micro (Small) Periods



# Conventional vs. Micro ToF Imaging

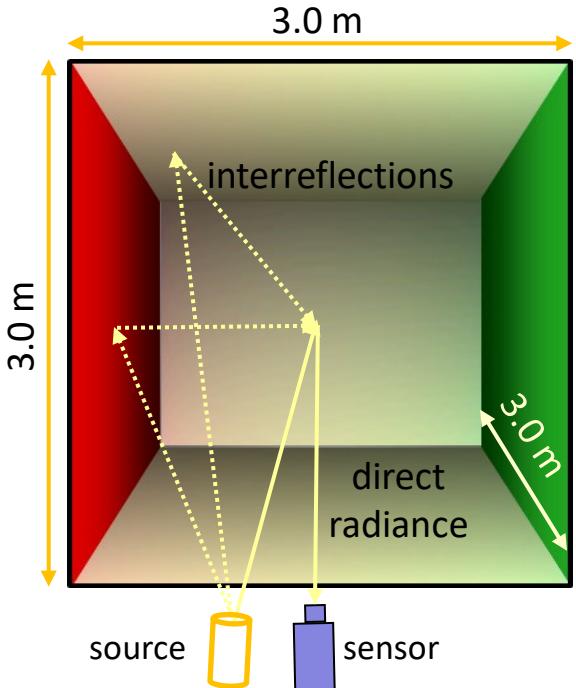


Conventional ToF Shifting: One Low Frequency  
Three Measurements



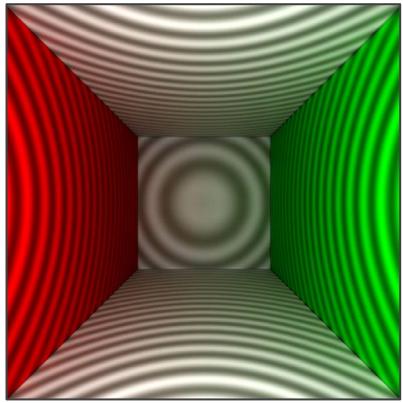
Micro ToF Shifting: Two High Frequencies  
Four Measurements

## Simulations: Cornell Box

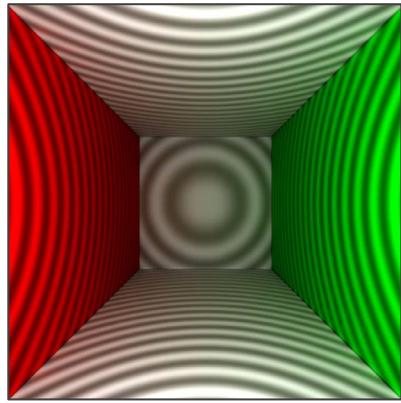




## Cornell Box: Input Images

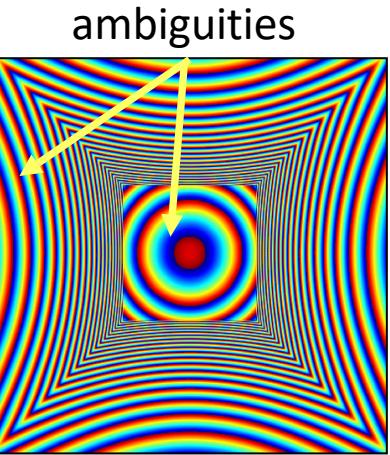


957 MHz.

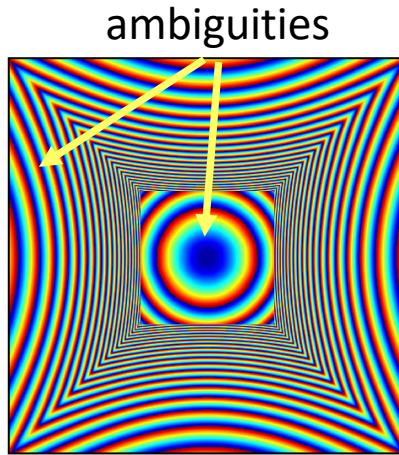


930 MHz.

# Cornell Box: Phase Maps



957 MHz.

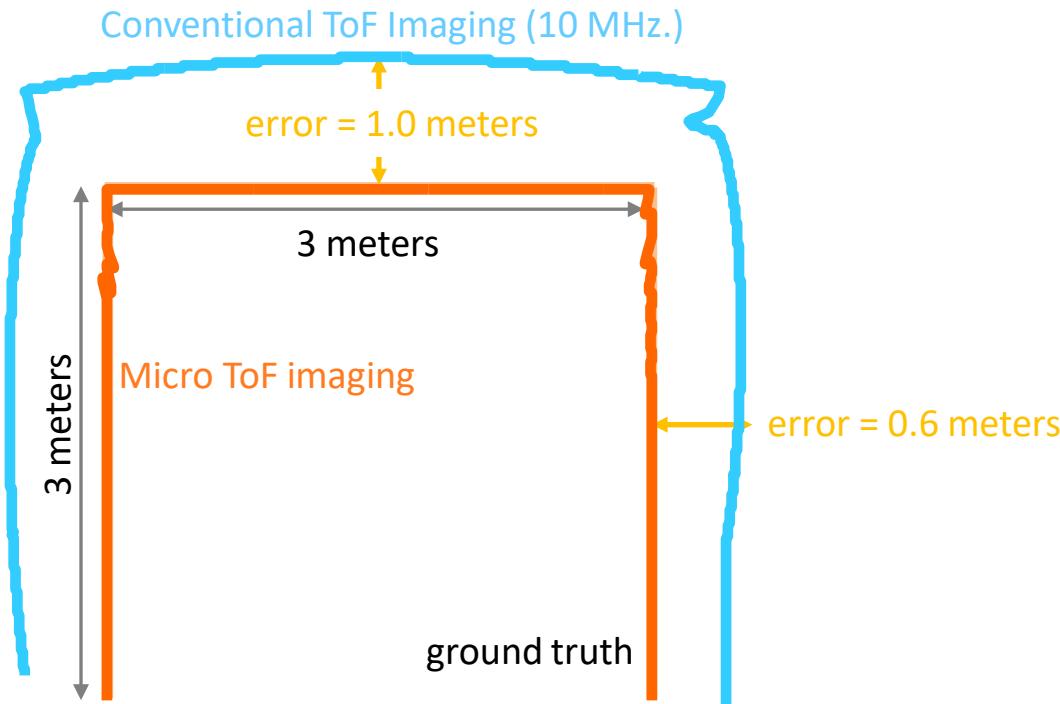


930 MHz.





# Cornell Box: Shape Comparison





## Today's Topic

- Continuous Wave ToF Imaging
- Imaging Model and Analysis of iToF
- Illumination
- Multipath Interference
- Phasor Imaging



# Thank You!

---



Qilin Sun (孙启霖)

香港中文大学（深圳）

点昀技术（Point Spread Technology）