

ULTRAMEGA OK STUDY OF MATTER AND ENERGY

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The black and grey GMC van used by the A-Team, with its characteristic red stripe, black and red tire rims, and rooftop spoiler, has become an enduring pop culture icon. One of the original six vans used for the show is displayed in the Cars of the Stars Motor Museum in Keswick, northern England. Another sits on the Universal Studios back lot with flat tires and faded paint and is available for tourists to photograph.

In 1978, 20th Century Fox sued Universal Studios (the producers of *Battlestar Galactica*) for plagiarism, claiming it had stolen 34 distinct ideas from *Star Wars*. Universal promptly countersued, claiming *Star Wars* had stolen ideas from their 1972 film *Silent Running* (notably the robot "drones") and the *Buck Rogers* serials of the 1940's. The lawsuit was eventually dismissed in 1980 as being "without merit".

0.1 The A-Team

In 1972 a crack commando unit was sent to prison by a military court for a crime they didn't commit. These men promptly escaped from a maximum security stockade to the Los Angeles underground. Today, still wanted by the government, they survive as soldiers of fortune. If you have a problem - if no one else can help - and if you can find them - maybe you can hire: The A-Team.

0.1.1 The "crime they didn't commit"

During the Vietnam War, the A-Team's commanding officer, Colonel Morrison, gave them orders to rob the Bank of Hanoi to help bring the war to an end. They succeeded in their mission, but on returning to their base four days after the end of the war, they found their C.O. murdered by the Viet Cong and his headquarters burnt to the ground. Therefore no proof existed that the A-Team were acting under orders, and they were sent to prison by a military court.

0.1.2 The story

The A-Team was one of a wide variety of successful creations from prolific television producer Stephen J. Cannell. Cannell is known for having a particular skill at capitalizing on momentary cultural trends, such as the machine guns, cartoonish violence, and joyful militarism of this series, which are now recognizable as trademarks of popular entertainment in the 1980s. Ironically, Cannell had been producing shows for ABC in the early 1980s,

but was fired by the network for not producing a hit for them. His next project would be The A-Team. The show became emblematic of this kind of "fit-for-TV warfare" due to its depiction of high-octane combat scenes, with lethal weapons, wherein the participants are never killed or even seriously injured.

A typical episode starts with the A-Team being hired by a down-trodden or terrorized client. The 'official' way of doing this was for the client to contact one of Hannibal's many comic aliases that were used to ensure that their clients were not working for the military. Just as frequently the A-Team would be on the road and stumble across someone who needed their help. Often the A-Team would return the fee to their most needy clients or find some other way to pay their expenses.

0.2 Battlestar Galactica

There are those who believe that life here began out there, far across the universe, with tribes of humans who may have been the forefathers of the Egyptians, or the Toltecs, or the Mayans. They may have been the architects of the great pyramids, or the lost civilizations of Lemuria or Atlantis. Some believe that there may yet be brothers of man who even now fight to survive somewhere beyond the heavens...

0.2.1 Plot summary

Humanity lived on twelve colony worlds in a far distant star system. After fighting a thousand year war with the deadly robotic Cylons, Mankind was defeated in a sneak attack on their homeworlds. Protected by the last surviving warship, a Battlestar called Galactica, the survivors fled in any ship that could fly. The commander of the Galactica, Commander Adama (Lorne Greene), lead this rag-tag fugitive fleet in search of a new home on a legendary planet called Earth. The episodes dealt with the fleet's struggle to survive the Cylon threat and find Earth.

0.2.2 Thousands of years ago

Though it is often stated that all this took place "thousands of years ago", this is a misstatement. The era in which this exodus took place is never clearly stated in the series itself; however various implications on-screen suggested the series was taking place concurrently with the broadcast of the episodes. That is, the Cylon War would have started

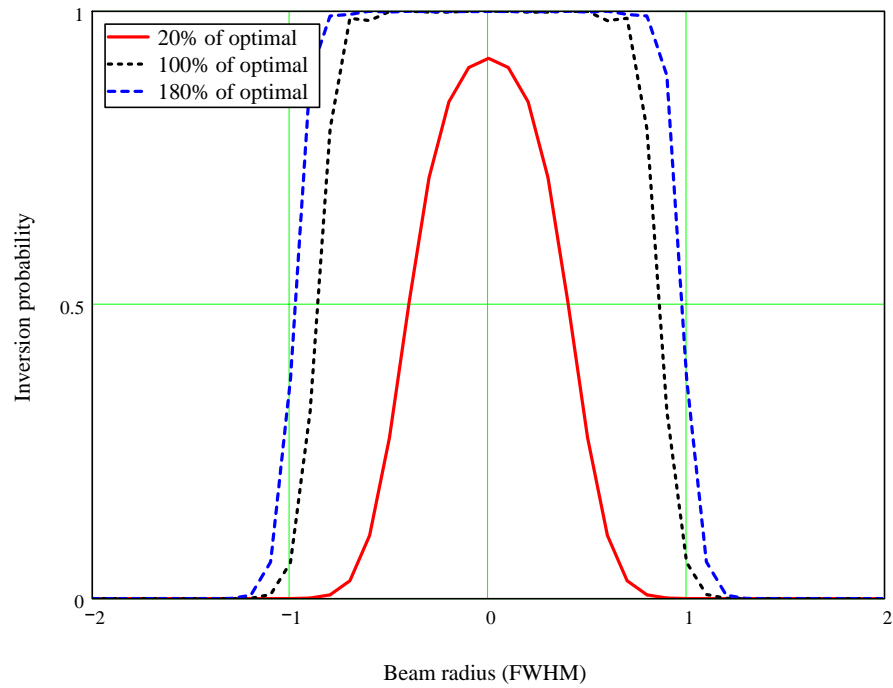


Figure 0.1: Inversion probability across a Gaussian beam profile

somewhere around the year 978 AD (by our calendar), the destruction of the Colonies took place around 1978 AD, and most of the episodes of the series took place in the years 1978-79. See Figure ??.

0.3 Conclusion

The A-Team is an American action adventure television series about a fictional group of ex-US Army commandos who are on the run from the military while working as soldiers of fortune.

Battlestar Galactica is an American science fiction television series, produced in 1978 by Glen Larson and starring Lorne Greene, Richard Hatch and Dirk Benedict.