

# Understanding Active Radar Search and Track Systems: A Simplified Approach

Jacob C. Wilkerson

Missouri University of Science and Technology

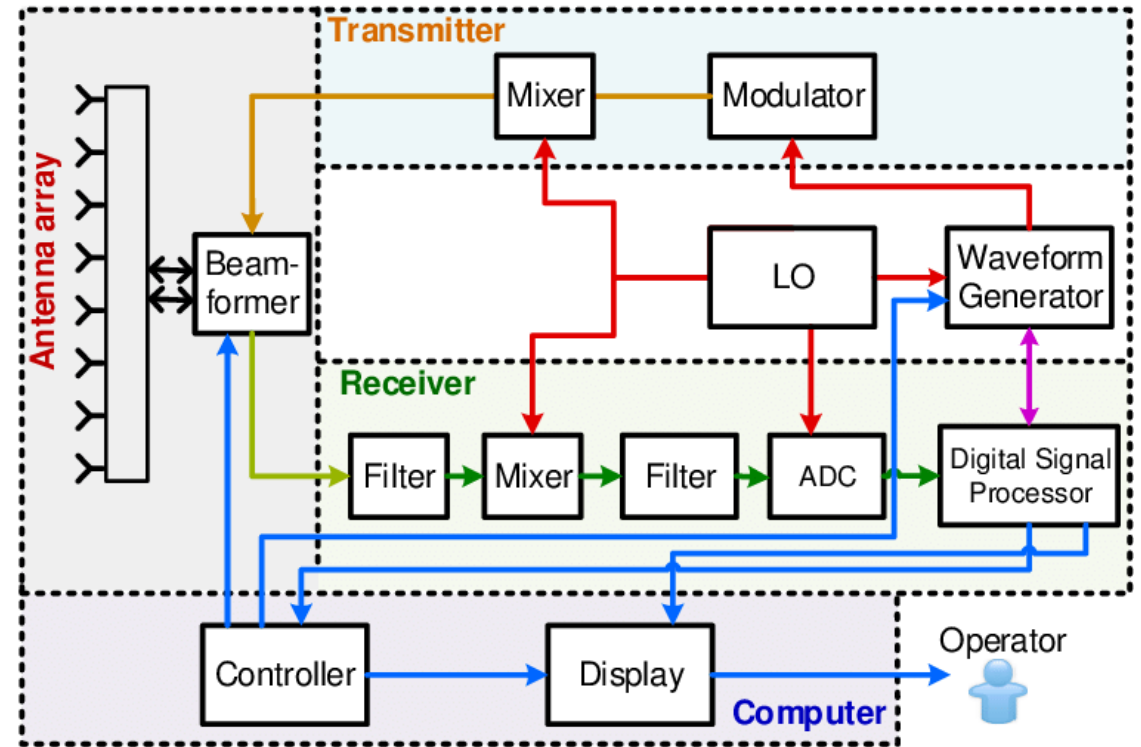
English 1120: Exposition and Argumentation

Instructor: Edrina Adjei-Manu

March 18, 2025

# What is Radar?

- Radar uses radio waves to detect objects by sending out signals and analyzing the reflections. It measures distance, speed, and direction even in poor visibility conditions.



Shown above is a diagram of a radar

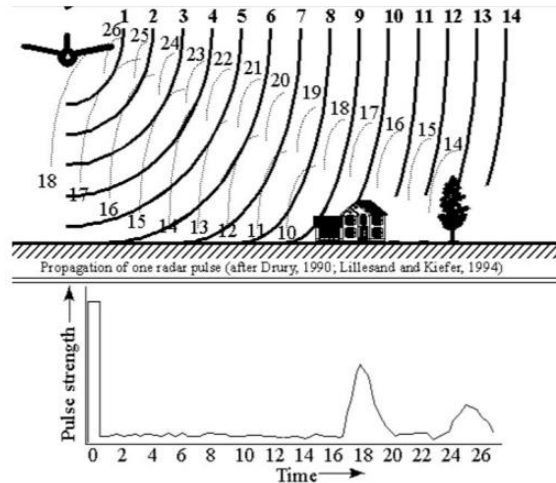
# Active vs Passive Radar Systems

- Active Radar: Emits its own radio waves.  
Passive Radar: Relies on external signals.  
Active radar is more precise and reliable for tracking targets.

## Remote Sensing Fundamentals

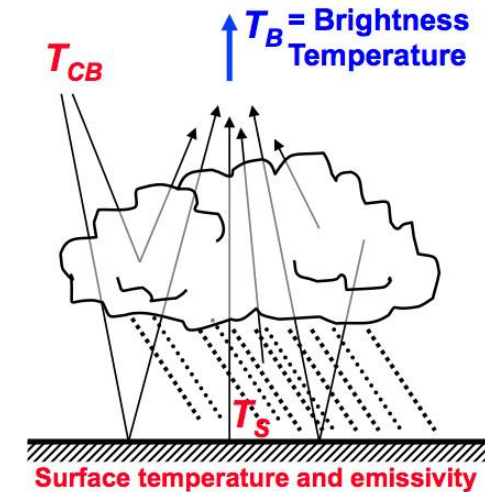
### Active Remote Sensing

**Source:** Instrument pulse,  
**Needs power to operate**



### Passive Remote Sensing

**Sources:** surface emission,  
cosmic background,  
rain emission

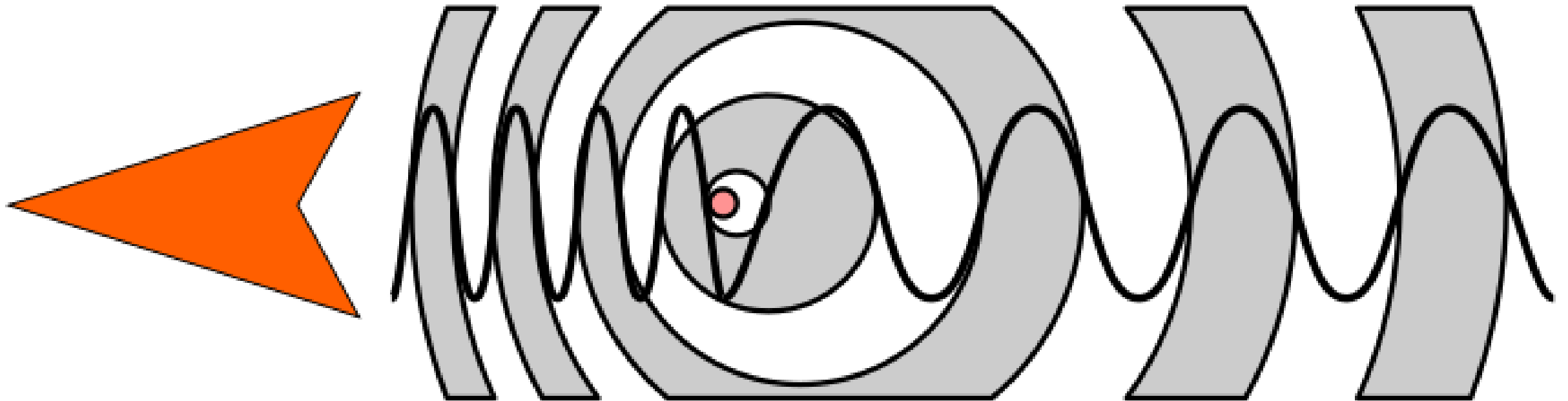


# Key Components of ARSTS

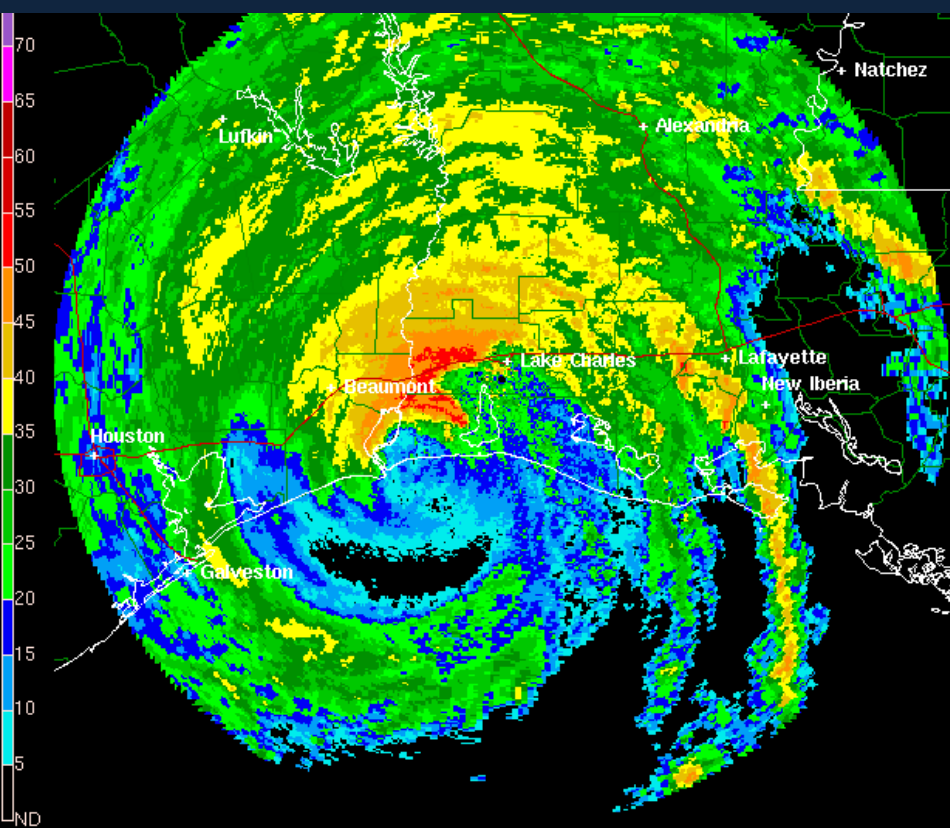
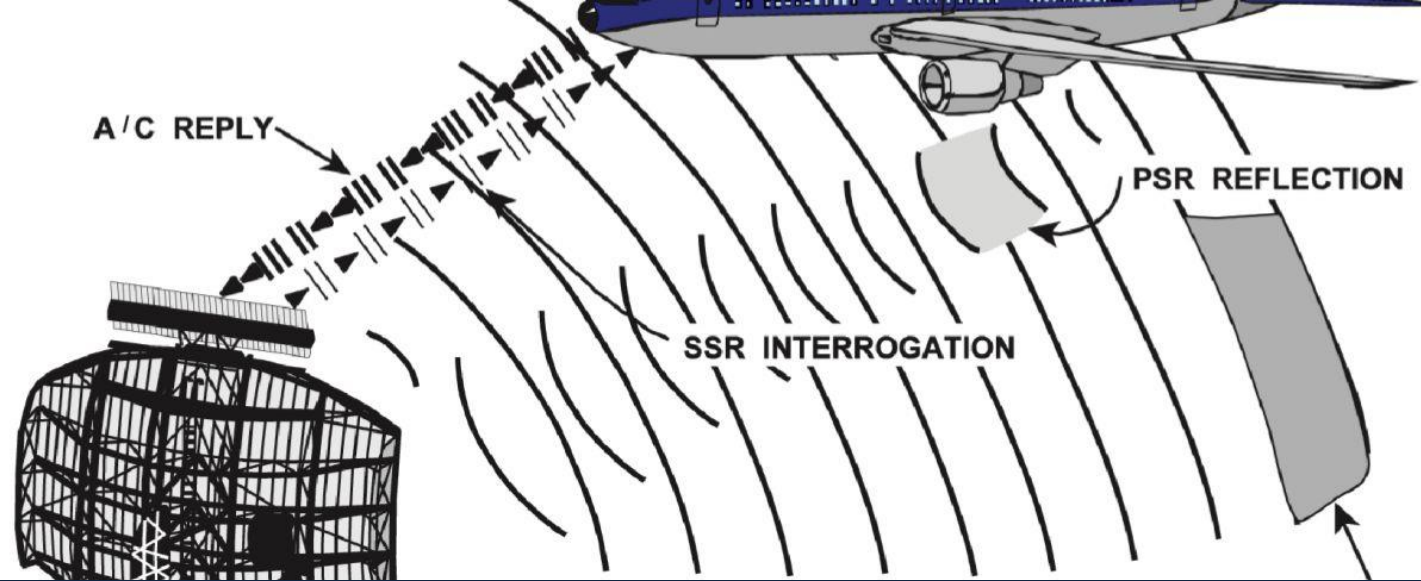
- 1. Transmitter: Sends radar pulses.
- 2. Receiver: Captures reflected signals.
- 3. Tracking System: Processes data and tracks target movements.

# The Role of the Doppler Effect

- The Doppler effect helps radar measure object speed.  
Approaching object: Higher frequency.  
Receding object: Lower frequency.



# Applications of ARSTS



- Aviation: Air traffic control
- Military: Target tracking
- Weather Monitoring: Storm detection
- Maritime: Ship navigation
- Law Enforcement: Vehicle speed monitoring

# Why It Matters to You

- Radar knowledge opens careers in aviation, defense, meteorology, and smart technology industries. Understanding radar is key to contributing to technological advancements.

# References

- Air Land Sea Space Application Center. (2023). MULTI-SERVICE TACTICS, TECHNIQUES, AND PROCEDURES FOR MULTI-SERVICE BREVITY CODES.  
Congressional Research Service. (2020). Product R46564.  
Richards, K. (n.d.). Radar basics.  
US Department of Commerce, NOAA. (2018). Using and understanding Doppler radar.  
YouTube. (n.d.). F/A-18 and SU-33 engagement footage.