

# Near-field Imaging and Diagnostics for Antennas and Radomes

Mats Gustafsson

Department of Electrical and Information Technology, Lund University, Sweden

Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea, 2017-04-20

# Outline

### **1** Acknowledgments & Lund University

#### **2** Motivation

#### 3 Radome and Antenna diagnostics Inverse source problem Inversion algorithm Dedema diagnostics

- 4 Compressive sensing

#### **6** Conclusions

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- ► IEEE APS Distinguished Lecturer Program
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Collaboration with:

- Kristin Persson, PhD 2013 from LU
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- Andreas Ericsson, LU
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- Torleif Martin, SAAB



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Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research



# Lund University



- Lund university was founded in 1666.
- Sweden's largest university.
- Approximately 40 000 students.
- Department of Electrical and Information Technology: Broadband Communications, Circuits and Systems, Communication, Electromagnetic theory, Networking and Security, Signal Processing.

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### Antennas



- Antennas radiate (or receive) electromagnetic waves.
- Usually characterized by the impedance (S-parameters) and radiation pattern (gain, realized gain, cross polarization,...).
- Defects (e.g., malfunctioning elements) affect these parameters in a complex way.

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### Radomes



- ► A radome encloses an antenna to protect it from, *e.g.*, environmental influences.
- Ideally electrically transparent.
- Often reduces gain and increases side-lobe levels.
- ▶ Flash (image) lobes from reflections of the radome wall.

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## Localization of defects



- Defects in antennas (in elements, feed structure) and radomes affect the impedance and radiated field in a complex way.
- The small localized defect can perturb the radiation pattern (for all angles). Can be difficult to correlate with the location of the defect.
- Near field and/or equivalent currents can localize defects.

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# Imaging of fields and currents

Measurements and simulations



- In addition to antenna parameters, EM simulations provide images of the current and field distribution.
- Very useful for understanding and intuition.
- Would be as useful to obtain similar information from measurements...

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### EM source reconstruction



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# Radome and antenna diagnostics using near/far-field data



Cylindrical near-field measurements.



Compact range far-field measurements.

- Radomes affect the radiated field.
- Reconstruct the EM-fields on a surface to localize defects.
- Inverse source problems (ill-posed).
- Amplitude and phase in near- or far-field data.
- Analytic results for planar and spherical geometries.
- Integral equations and integral representations for arbitrary geometries.

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# Some background

Antenna/radome diagnostics is intimately tied to the development of measurement technology and can be characterized by the measurement geometry, computational method, and purpose. Inverse source problem with analysis of non-radiating currents and regularization.

- Measurement geometry: near- and far-field, planar (rectangular, polar, bi-polar), cylindrical, and spherical.
- Method: field expansion (plane waves, cylindrical, spherical), back propagation (phase conjugation/time reversal, microwave holography), and inversion (integral representation).
- **Purpose:** diagnostics and/or near- to far-field transformation.

Some references:

- Barrett & Barnes, Automatic antenna wavefront plotter, 1952.
- > Bleistein & Cohen, Nonuniqueness in the inverse source problem in acoustics and electromagnetics, 1977.
- Rahmat-Samii, Surface diagnosis of large reflector antennas using microwave holographic metrology, 1984.
- Yaghjian, An Overview of Near-Field Antenna Measurements, 1986.
- Hansen, Spherical near-field antenna measurements, 1988.
- Slater, Near-Field Antenna Measurements, 1991.
- ▶ Rahmat-Samii etal, The UCLA Bi-Polar Planar Near Field Antenna Measurement and Diagnostics Range, 1995.
- Sarkar & Taaghol, Near-field to near/far-field transformation for arbitrary near-field geometry, utilizing an equivalent magnetic current, 1996.
- Hansen, Discrete Inverse Problems: Insight and Algorithms, 2010.
- Devaney, Mathematical foundations of imaging, tomography and wavefield inversion, 2012.





# Inverse source problems/diagnostics background

- Plane wave spectrum at least 1950 Barrett & Barnes, see also *e.g.*, Devany, Joy, Hansen, Yaghijian, Wang, Sarkar, Rahmat-Samii, ...
- Modal expansion (spherical, cylindrical, spheroidal) at least 70's, see *e.g.*, Devany, Hansen, Guler, Joy, Sten, Marengo, Ziyyat,Cappellin, Breinbjerg, Frandsen,...
- Integral representation (MoM)
  - ▶ 2001 Laurin etal: M on planar structures.
  - 2005 Persson & Gustafsson: BoR using the extinction theorem for radome applications.
  - ▶ 2006 Las-Heras etal: J and M on antennas without the extinction theorem.
  - > 2009 Eibert etal: Fast multipole and higher order basis functions.
  - 2009 Araque Quijano & Vecchi: 3D structures using a dual formulation (extinction theorem).
  - ▶ 2010 Jögensen *etal*: antenna diagnostics.
  - ▶ 2011 Araque Quijano *etal*: *post-processing to remove disturbances*.
  - 2011 Commercial packages: Diatool by TICRA and Insight by Satimo.







### Inverse source problems







Inverse source problem. Determine the sources (J, M) in a region from observation of the field E in some points. Use the data as sources and retransmit the field (time reversal or phase conjugation). Robust classical approach. Find the source distribution from the linear system



with

- $\blacktriangleright$  x as  $oldsymbol{J}, oldsymbol{M}$
- ▶ b as *E*, *H*

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### Inverse source problems

Determine the current distribution from measurements of the radiated field





- Electric current density
   J(r) in the volume V.
   (Also magnetic currents.)
- Non-unique.
- Non-radiating currents.

- ► Equivalent electric and magnetic surface current densities J, M on the surface S = ∂V.
- Non-unique.
- Equivalence principle.

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### Inversion algorithm (outline of the derivation) I

The electric fields at the position  ${\pmb r}$  from the electric surface current  ${\pmb J}$  on  $S=\partial V$  is

$$\boldsymbol{E}(\boldsymbol{r}) = -\mathcal{L}\left(\eta_0 \boldsymbol{J}
ight)(\boldsymbol{r})$$

were (free space Green's function G)

$$\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{X})(\boldsymbol{r}) = jk \int_{S} G(\boldsymbol{r} - \boldsymbol{r}') \boldsymbol{X}(\boldsymbol{r}') - \frac{1}{k^2} \nabla' G(\boldsymbol{r} - \boldsymbol{r}') \nabla'_{S} \cdot \boldsymbol{X}(\boldsymbol{r}') \, \mathrm{dS}'$$

and from the magnetic surface current  $\boldsymbol{M}$  we have

$$\boldsymbol{E}(\boldsymbol{r}) = \mathcal{K}\left(\boldsymbol{M}\right)(\boldsymbol{r})$$

where

$$\mathcal{K}(\boldsymbol{X})(\boldsymbol{r}) = \int_{S} \nabla' G(\boldsymbol{r} - \boldsymbol{r}') \times \boldsymbol{X}(\boldsymbol{r}') \, \mathrm{dS}'$$

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# Inversion algorithm (outline of the derivation) II

Consider a measured electric field,  $E_{\text{meas}}(r_n)$ , in the points  $r_n$  and the polarization  $\hat{e}_n$ , where n = 1, ..., N and N is the number of measurement points.

The integral representation relates the surface currents to the measured fields

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{e}}_{n}\cdot\left(-\mathcal{L}\left(\eta_{0}\boldsymbol{J}
ight)\left(\boldsymbol{r}_{n}
ight)+\mathcal{K}\left(\boldsymbol{M}
ight)\left(\boldsymbol{r}_{n}
ight)
ight)=\hat{\boldsymbol{e}}_{n}\cdot\boldsymbol{E}_{ ext{meas}}(\boldsymbol{r}_{n})$$

for all points n = 1, ..., N.

We can now expand the surface currents J, M in basis function to get a linear system that can be solved to estimate J, M.

- We could also assume that M = 0 and only solve for J.
- Or any linear combination between M and J.
- Can we do better?

# Inversion algorithm (outline of the derivation) III

Assume a reconstruction surface S that surrounds the volume V and do not intersect  $\partial V$ . This implies that the source of the radiated field is inside of S.

The electric E and magnetic H fields outside S can be represented with the equivalent currents  $M = -\hat{n} \times E$  and  $J = \hat{n} \times H$  on the surface S.

Integral representation to relate the equivalent currents to the fields

$$-\mathcal{L}\left(\eta_{0}\boldsymbol{J}\right)(\boldsymbol{r})+\mathcal{K}\left(\boldsymbol{M}\right)(\boldsymbol{r})=\begin{cases}\boldsymbol{E}(\boldsymbol{r}) & \boldsymbol{r} \text{ outside } S\\ \boldsymbol{0} & \boldsymbol{r} \text{ inside } S\end{cases}$$

Also a corresponding representation for the magnetic field.

- first equation for the measured field.
- ▶ second equation to relate J and M at S.

Removes the ambiguity in J, M and produces equivalent currents that correspond to the true E, H fields outside S.

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# Inversion algorithm (summary)

Integral equation EFIE (or MFIE, CFIE) on the reconstruction surface S with unit normal  $\hat{n}$ 

$$\hat{oldsymbol{n}}(oldsymbol{r}) imes \left( \mathcal{L}\left(\eta_0 oldsymbol{J}
ight)(oldsymbol{r}) - \mathcal{K}\left(oldsymbol{M}
ight)(oldsymbol{r}) 
ight) = rac{1}{2} \,oldsymbol{M}(oldsymbol{r}) \qquad oldsymbol{r} \in S$$

and integral representation to relate the equivalent currents to the measured fields

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{e}}_{n} \cdot \left(-\mathcal{L}\left(\eta_{0} \boldsymbol{J}\right)(\boldsymbol{r}_{n}) + \mathcal{K}\left(\boldsymbol{M}\right)(\boldsymbol{r}_{n})\right) = \hat{\boldsymbol{e}}_{n} \cdot \boldsymbol{E}_{\text{meas}}(\boldsymbol{r}_{n})$$

for n=1,...,N (number of measurement points), where (again)

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{X})(\boldsymbol{r}) = jk \int_{S} G(\boldsymbol{r}', \boldsymbol{r}) \boldsymbol{X}(\boldsymbol{r}') - \frac{1}{k^2} \nabla' G(\boldsymbol{r}', \boldsymbol{r}) \nabla'_{S} \cdot \boldsymbol{X}(\boldsymbol{r}') \, \mathrm{dS'} \\ \\ \mathcal{K}(\boldsymbol{X})(\boldsymbol{r}) = \int_{S} \nabla' G(\boldsymbol{r}', \boldsymbol{r}) \times \boldsymbol{X}(\boldsymbol{r}') \, \mathrm{dS'} \end{cases}$$

Gives an ill-posed linear system. Expand in basis functions to get an ill-conditioned matrix equation Ax = b.

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Would like to solve

$$Ax = b$$

with the  $M \times N$  matrix **A**. Simple to solve if M = N and condA not too large (compared with the errors and noise in **A** and **b**). Otherwise

- SVD:  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{V}^{\mathsf{H}}$  with  $\mathbf{U}^{\mathsf{H}} \mathbf{U} = \mathbf{I}$  and  $\mathbf{V}^{\mathsf{H}} \mathbf{V} = \mathbf{I}$
- L<sup>2</sup>-minimization:  $\|\mathbf{x}\|_2 = (\sum_{n=1}^N |x_n|^2)^{1/2}$
- $\mathbf{L}^1$ -minimization:  $\|\mathbf{x}\|_1 = \sum_{n=1}^N |x_n|$
- L<sup>0</sup>-minimization: the number of non-zero entries of x. (not a norm)
- Regularization

SVD and  $\mathbf{L}^2$  have many similarities. Would like to use  $\mathbf{L}^0$  in compressive sensing but approximate with  $\mathbf{L}^1$  to form convex optimization problems. Can use CVX for small problems and dedicated solvers (TFOCS, spgl1,...) for larger size problems (matrix free).

# $\mathbf{L}^2\text{-inversion}$ and regularization



- The inverse source problem is ill-posed, *i.e.*, small errors in the data can produce large errors.
- ▶ Need regularization, *e.g.*, Tikhonov, SVD.
- ► The approximate matrix equation is ill-conditioned.
- ▶ Here, we use singular value decomposition (SVD).
- The regularization parameter is chosen in a calibration step.
- L-curve for automated regularization.

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### Radome diagnostics setup

- ► The electric field is measured (sampled) in a discrete set of points ê<sub>n</sub> · E<sub>meas</sub>(r<sub>n</sub>).
- Here, we use cylindrical near or spherical far-field setups.
- Probe compensation is not needed for the far-field measurements.
- Estimate the field (equivalent currents) on the radome surface.



Mats Gustafsson, Electrical and Information Technology, Lund University, Sweden, (23)

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# Phase image of a dielectric radome



Compact range far-field measurements.



Radome diagnostics.

- Measured data from ACAB's compact far-field range\*.
- Dielectric radome with height  $1.07 \,\mathrm{m} \approx 36 \lambda$  at  $10 \,\mathrm{GHz}$ .
- Phase image of the radome wall.

Persson+etal, Radome diagnostics - source reconstruction of phase objects with an equivalent currents approach, IEEE-TAP, 2014.

\*GKN Aerospace Applied Composites, Linkping, Sweden.

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# Measurement configurations



Initially three measurement configurations:

- 0. without radome.
- 1. with radome.
- 2. with defect radome.

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Radome with dielectric patches



Amplitude  $|H_{v}^{(1)}|/\max|H_{v}^{(1)}|(dB) \qquad \angle H_{v}^{(1)} - \angle H_{v}^{(2)}(deg)$ 







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### Imaging of dielectric tape on a radome

#### 1 to 8 layers of tape



$$\angle H_{\rm v}^{(1)} - \angle H_{\rm v}^{(2)} \, (\rm deg)$$



- Scotch Glass Cloth Electrical Tape 69-1 with thickness ≈ 0.15 mm, ε<sub>r</sub> ≈ 4.1, and phase shift 1° to 2° (used to trim dielectric radomes).
- Squares with sides of  $\{15, 30, 60\}$  mm. 1 to 8 layers.
- Measurements at 10 GHz,  $\lambda \approx 30 \text{ mm}$ .

Imaging of dielectric tape on a radome

Radome with dielectric LU



Amplitude  $|H_{v}^{(1)}|/\max|H_{v}^{(1)}|(dB) \qquad \angle H_{v}^{(1)} - \angle H_{v}^{(2)}(deg)$ 







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### E and H fields



- We mainly image the H-fields.
- It is noted that the H-field images are better than the E-field images.
- Simulation using CST for a thin dielectric patch.
- Can be due to the dominant electric reactive near field from the dielectric patches.

## E and H fields



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# FSS radome



- ► Frequency selective radome with a passband around 9 GHz.
- Disturbances in the lattice due to the double curvature of the radome surface. Here, line defects.
- Radome with height  $1.65 \,\mathrm{m} \approx 51 \lambda$  at  $9.35 \,\mathrm{GHz}$ .

Persson *etal*, Source reconstruction by far-field data for imaging of defects in frequency selective radomes, IEEE AWPL, 12, 480-483, 2013.

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# H-field on the FSS

- Amplitude difference between radome and without radome.
- (left) v-, (right)
   \$\phi\$-component.
- ▶ (top) antenna roll  $\phi = 0^{\circ}$ , (bottom)  $\phi = 20^{\circ}$ .
- Normalized with maximal value.





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### Power flow on the FSS

- Power flow difference between radome and without radome.
- Antenna roll  $\phi = 0$ .
- Normalized with maximal value (left) pointwise (right).





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# Diagnostics

- Near field and/or equivalent currents can localize defects.
- Imaging of the fields and/or equivalent currents for understanding.
- Integral equations (similar to MoM).
- One drawback is the measurement time. Can take several hours to measure the near/far field around the structure.
- Defects are often localized and there are often only a few defects.
- Utilize the sparse image (few defects) to improve the image quality and reduce the measurement time.
- Compressive sensing.



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with

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$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$$

with the  $M \times N$  matrix **A**. Simple to solve if M = N and condA not too large (compared with the errors and noise in **A** and **b**). Otherwise

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# Rectangular region with local basis functions



Consider a planar rectangle in the z=0 plane. The rectangle is divided into  $N_{\rm x} \times N_{\rm y}$  elements and the current density is expanded in basis functions.

The electric field is evaluated in N points (and polarizations). The electric field is expressed as  $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$ .

# Sampled field from 2 point sources



# SVD 1D case with M = 80 and N = 89



The singular values show a few dominant components ( $\approx 10$ ), an exponential decay (evanescent components), and a noise level around  $10^{-16}$ . Can only determine  $\approx 10$  out of the 89 unknowns. The remaining ( $\approx 79$ ) degrees of freedom are determined from additional assumptions such as smooth (derivatives) and sparse (number of components).

# Inversion using SVD and $\mathbf{L}^2\text{-minimization}$



Solution using SVD and  $L^2$ . The current spread around the original source positions.

# $\mathbf{L}^p$ for the unresolved components

The  $\mathbf{L}^2$  inversion indicates a resolution of the order  $\lambda/4$  to  $\lambda/2$ . The resolved part can be determined from the observations  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ .

Regularization with just two components satisfying  $x_1 + x_2 = 1$ (from Ax = b)

$$\min \|\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 = x_1^2 + x_2^2 = 0.5 \quad \text{for } x_1 = x_2 = 0.5$$

and

$$\min \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 = |x_1| + |x_2| = 1 \quad \text{for any } x_1, x_2 \ge 0$$

If  $x_1$  fits the data slightly better than  $x_2$ .

- ► L<sup>2</sup> regularization produces x<sub>1</sub> ≈ x<sub>2</sub> ≈ 0.5. A smooth image with features determined by the resolution.
- ► L<sup>1</sup> regularization produces x<sub>1</sub> ≈ 1 and x<sub>2</sub> ≈ 0. Good for sparse cases (few dominant components) but otherwise irregular random results.

Change of the  $\mathbf{L}^2\text{-}\mathsf{regularization}$  to  $\mathbf{L}^1$  gives the optimization problem

minimize 
$$\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\|_2 + \alpha \|\mathbf{x}\|_1$$
 (1)

Can also be formulated as

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \\ \text{subject to} & \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\|_2 \le \delta, \end{array}$$
(2)

where the parameter  $\delta$  can be estimated from the SVD solution  $\delta \approx \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_{SVD} - \mathbf{b}\|_2$ . This formulation tries to produce a solution with similar fit to the data as the SVD ( $\mathbf{L}^2$ ) but without the smoothing (a few dominant components).

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# Inversion using SVD, $L^2$ , and $L^1$ -minimization



Change from  $L^2$  (blue) to  $L^1$  (red) regularization. It correctly finds the original sources. Note the inverse crime as A was used to create the data.

# Inversion using SVD, $\mathbf{L}^2$ , and $\mathbf{L}^1$ -minimization



The number of measurements should be compared to number of non-zero components in compressed sensing, here M = 80 is reduced to M = 19 (green).



- ▶  $100^2 = 10000$  basis function ( $\lambda/2$  separation)
- linear polarization
- $\blacktriangleright$  antenna  $120\lambda$  to panel  $12\lambda$  to observations

Observed (measured) field (antenna and 10 defects)



# Source separation



#### Subtracted field from the antenna aperture



The computational complexity can be prohibitive for larger problems, *e.g.*, the rather coarse discretization of  $100 \times 100$  unknowns corresponds to a matrix **A** with  $10^8$  elements. Cannot store the matrix explicitly but can evaluate **Ax** and **A**<sup>H</sup>**b** efficiently.

Often efficient to utilize (translational) symmetries and FFT based algorithms to reduce the computational complexity.



Using the same spacing for the basis functions and the data points gives a (block) Toeplitz matrix

# Toeplitz matrix vector multiplication

Let M=N and embed the  $M\times M$  Toeplitz matrix into a  $2M\times 2M$  circulant matrix such that

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{S}\mathbf{x} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{S} \\ \mathbf{S} & \mathbf{A} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix}$$

The circulant matrix  $\tilde{\mathbf{A}}$  has the first row

$$\tilde{\mathbf{A}}_{1,:} = \begin{pmatrix} A_{11} & A_{21} & \cdots & A_{M1} & 0 & A_{1N} & \cdots & A_{12} \end{pmatrix}$$

Evaluate using the FFT, *i.e.*, from the first M elements of, *i.e.*,

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = [\mathcal{F}^{-1}(\mathcal{F}(\tilde{\mathbf{A}}_{1,:})\mathcal{F}([\mathbf{x} \ \mathbf{0}]))]_{1:M}$$

Can reduce the dimension to M+N-1

$$\tilde{\mathbf{A}}_{1,:} = \begin{pmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & \cdots & A_{1N} & 0 & A_{M1} & \cdots & A_{21} \end{pmatrix}$$

or M + N + P - 1 where  $P \ge 0$  is the number of additional zeros.

Observed (measured) field (antenna and 10 defects)



#### Subtracted field from the antenna aperture



Back propagation using the adjoint



#### $\mathbf{L}^1$ with 20% of the data







Simulation (FEKO) setup with 3 defects: top view



#### (left) scattered field (right) total field









(left to right) back propagation, source separation, CS  $60\,\mathrm{dB}$ 









Back propagation with background subtraction  $5\,\mathrm{dB}$ 





Compressive sensing with source separation  $60 \, dB$ 



Back propagation, source separation, compressive sensing

# Helander *etal*, 'Imaging using Compressive Sensing Techniques for Planar Non-Destructive Testing at 60 GHz', 2017.
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Inverse source problem Inversion algorithm Radome diagnosticss

#### Oppressive sensing

#### 6 Conclusions

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## Summary

- Imaging of near fields and/or equivalent currents can localize defects and help understanding.
- Integral equations/representations (similar to MoM) for EM modeling.
- Applications for radome diagnostics, antenna diagnostics, near- to far-field transformations, and post processing of measurement data.
- The first commercial packages (TICRA and Microwave Vision Group) were released 2011.
- Much research remains in understanding of algorithms, regularization, and imaging quality.
- ► Use of different norms *e.g.*, L<sub>1</sub>, compressive sensing,...



#### Slides: http://www.eit.lth.se/staff/mats.gustafsson

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