

Ultra Wideband Technology for Precision Proximity Fuzing

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Time Domain Corporation

- Founded in 1987, Expanded in 1996, Reorganized in 2003, Recapitalized in 2004
- Focused on UWB Technology :
 - Electromagnetics, Optics & Acoustics
- Privately Owned : Individual, Institutional & Corporate Investors
- \$100M Accumulated Investment
- Intellectual Property Portfolio
 - 172+ Patents, awarded or pending, world-wide coverage
- 80 employees, 60 + in Engineering, Science, Technical & Program Support functions
- Huntsville Headquarters : 33,500 sq.ft.
Laboratory & Field Station : 5,500 sq.ft. & 99 acres



Questions to Be Addressed

- What is ultra wideband?
- How is it useful?
- What does it offer proximity fuzing?
- What is the current state of UWB proximity fuzing?

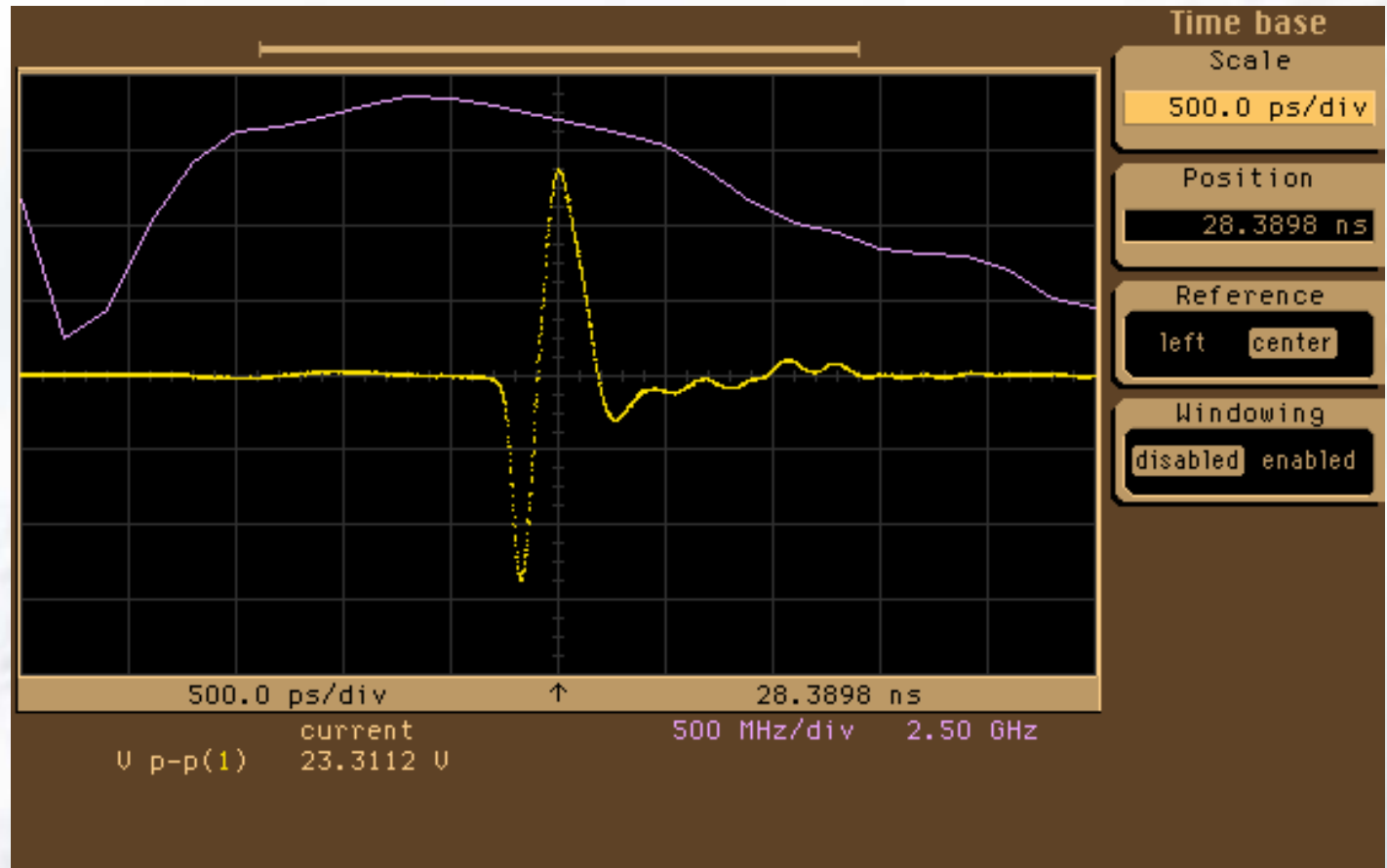


What is UWB?

- The use of very short RF pulses
- Since short pulses have very wide frequency bandwidth, it is termed “Ultra WideBand” or “UWB”
- FCC defines UWB as a 10 dB bandwidth > 500 MHz or $> 20\%$
- TDC’s systems are typically > 2 GHz and $> 60\%$



Actual UWB Pulse and Its Spectrum



UWB Pulses Can...

- Communicate robustly
 - Complex environments
 - LPI/LPD
- Precisely determine position
 - Autonomous vehicle followers
 - Asset Tracking
- Provide high fidelity radar
 - Small/Low cost
 - Precision with penetration
- Do combinations of the above
 - Comms and tracking for firefighters
 - Intelligent, unattended ground sensors
- And much more...



SoldierVision® / RadarVision®

Through-wall imaging radar



Finding Survivors in Rubble

- RCLAD Specs
 - Detect breathing up to 10 ft. down
 - Through up to 24” of rubble
 - Within 40 seconds
 - Weigh less than 10 lbs.



- Delivering 20 prototypes this year
- Commercial RubbleVision™ under development



UWB Advantages to Prox Fuzing

- Precision ranging
- Penetrates visual obscurants
 - Unaffected by aerosols, including dust, smoke, and fog
 - Only slightly affected by heavy (4"/hr) rain
- Day/night operation



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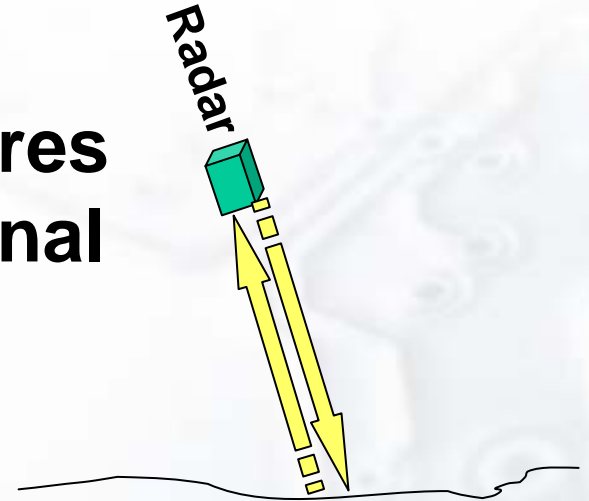
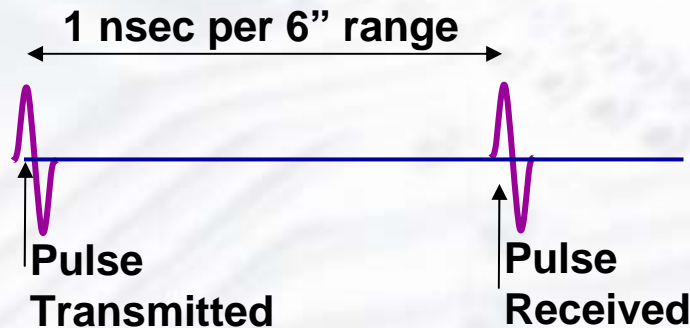
UWB Advantages to Prox Fuzing (cont.)

- More dependable than narrowband
- Jam resistant
- Supports co-located devices
- Simple, low cost, low power
- Very short blind range
- Precision with penetration
 - Large fractional bandwidth



UWB offers precision ranging ...

Timing of the pulse measures range, just as in conventional radar.



As in conventional radar, range resolution is given by

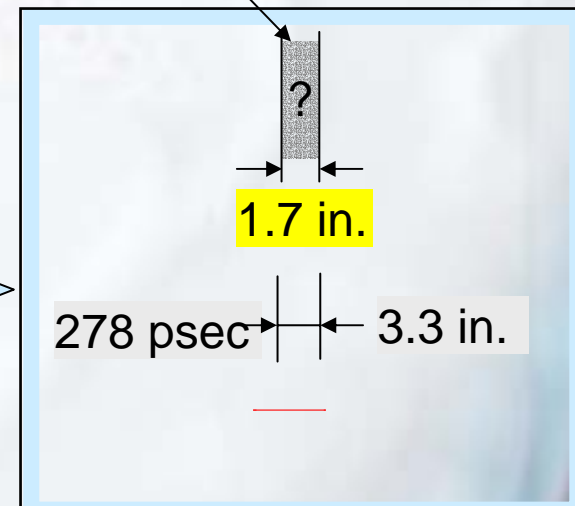
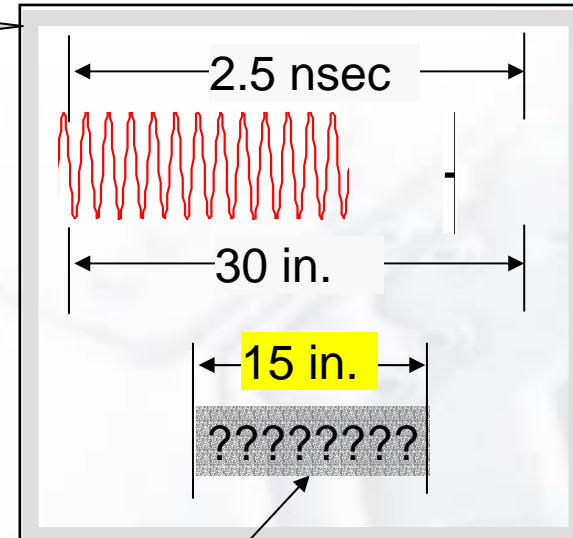
$$\Delta Range = \frac{c}{2 \bullet BW}$$

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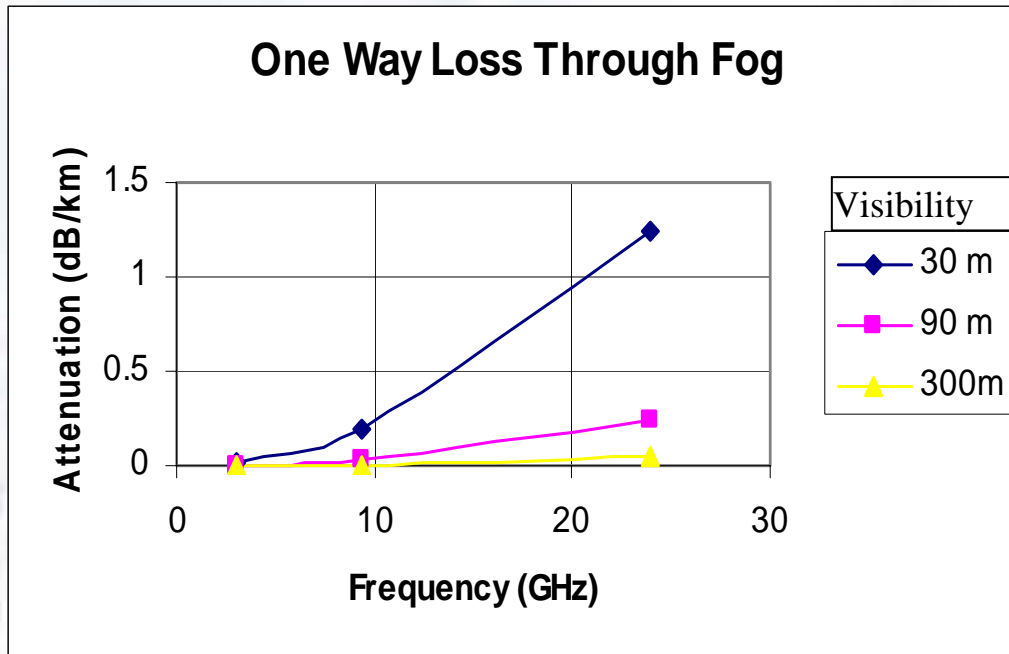
Conventional radar vs. UWB

Parameter	Conv.	UWB
Ctr. Freq.	8 GHz	8 GHz
Bandwidth%	5%	45%
Bandwidth	400 MHz	3.6 GHz
Pulse Duration	2.5 nsec	278 psec
Pulse Length	30 in	3.3 in.
Resolution	15 in	1.65 in
Range Error	> 15 in	> 1.65 in

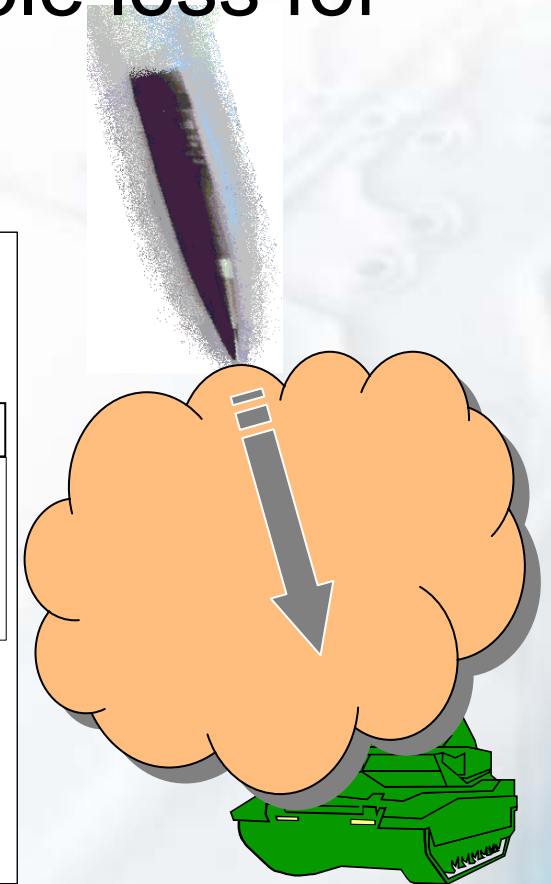


UWB Through Obscurants

- Fog and smoke. Negligible loss for the ranges of interest.



Saxton and Hopkins, Proc. IEE, Vol. 98, 1951

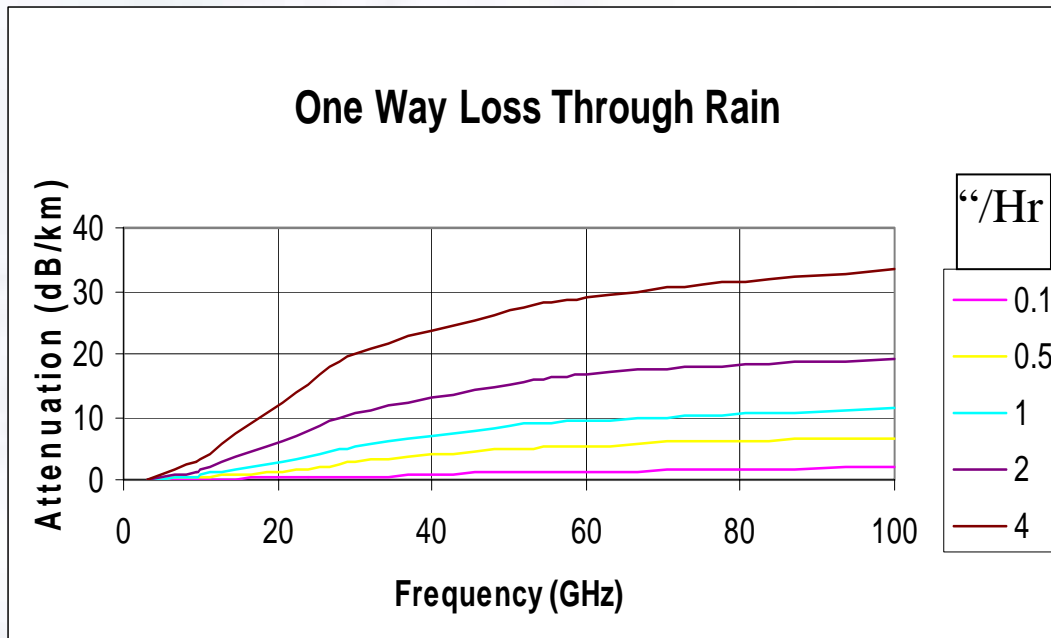


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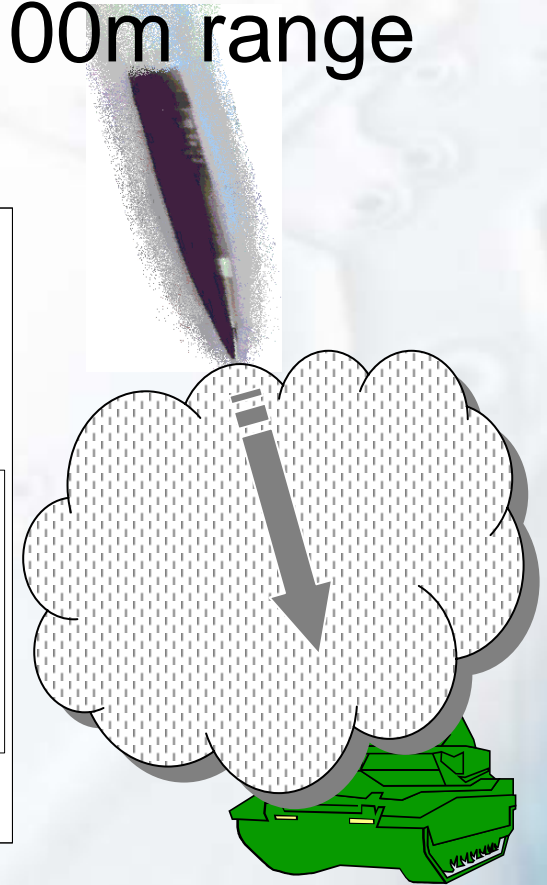


UWB Through Obscurants

- Rain. Small effect, but not negligible.
- @20 GHz, 4"/hr rainfall, 100m range => 2.6 dB two way loss



Burrows & Atwood, NDRC, 1949

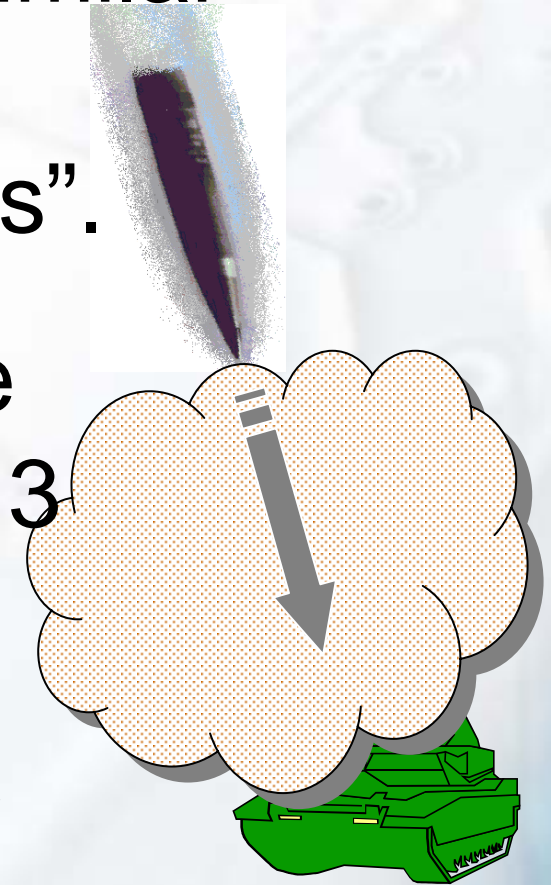


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UWB Through Obscurants

- Ice/Snow/Sleet/Hail; Similar to rain for wet “drops”, negligible for dry “drops”.
- Dust: Negligible for the ranges of interest. (~ 0.3 dB/km at 24 GHz*)

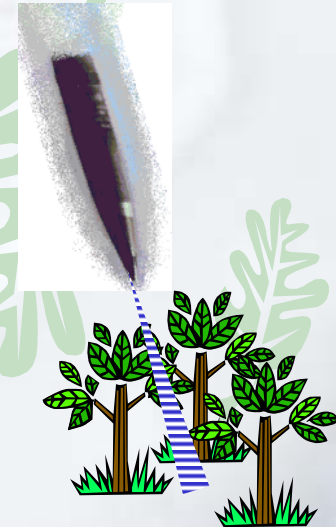


*Comparetto, G.; *The Impact of Dust and Foliage on Signal Attenuation in the Millimeter Wave Regime*; J. of Space Comm.; Vol.11, No.1, pp.130-20, July, 1993



FOPEN

- At any given center frequency, UWB offers much improved range resolution through bandwidth
- UWB offers the possibility of operating at a low enough frequency to penetrate foliage, yet maintain the required high resolution
- The fuze can see into foliage and accurately sense the ground.



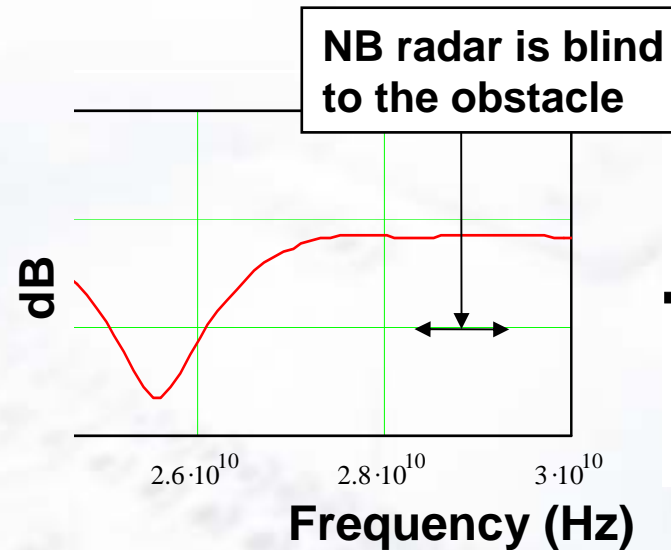
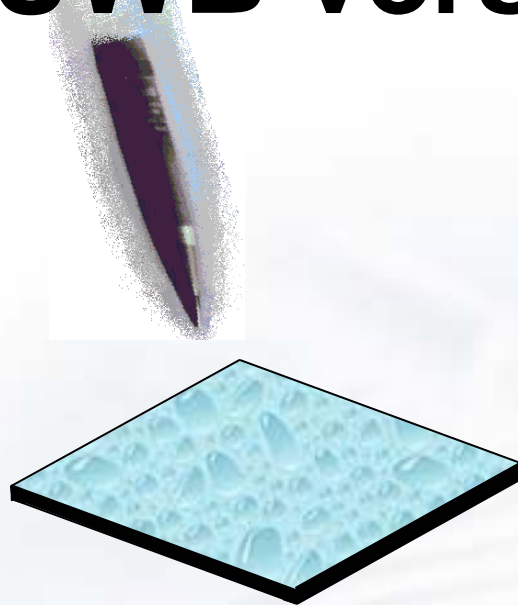
UWB is more dependable than narrowband

- A contrived, but feasible scenario:
- The munition approaches a flat sheet of metal. It is winter.
- The metal is covered with a .29" thick layer of rime ice with dielectric constant = 8 and loss tangent = 0.04.*
- Note: Metal is easily analyzed, but the actual surface might be smooth concrete.

* Feasible values. See D.J. Daniels, **Surface Penetrating Radar** p.49



UWB versus NB

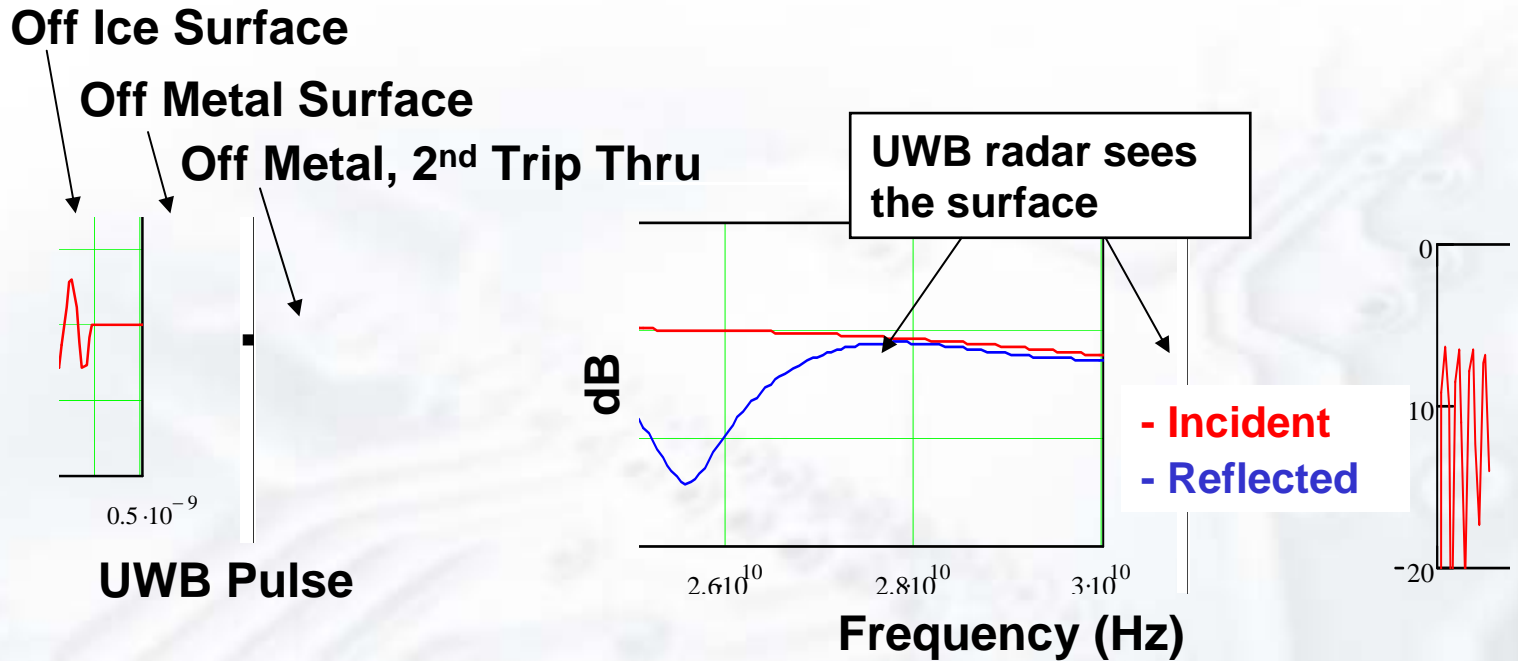


- A narrowband radar is blind to the target, due to destructive interference between returns off the ice and the metal.
- The ice is acting as tuned microwave absorber.

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Extreme UWB vs. NB



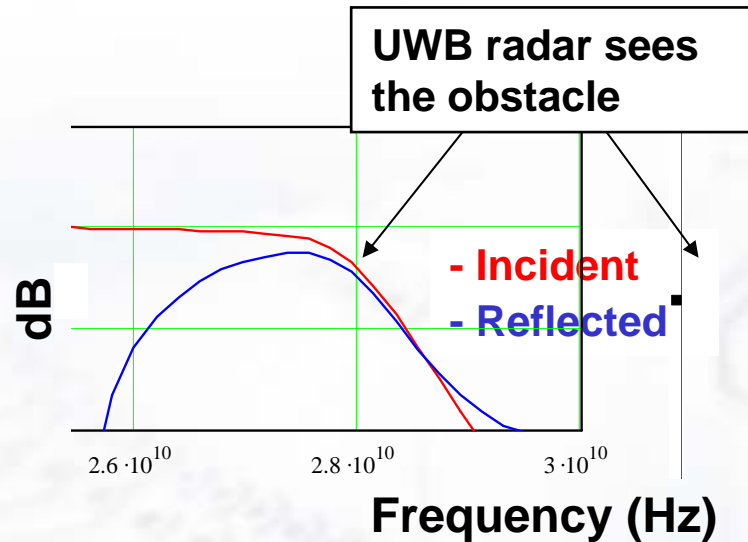
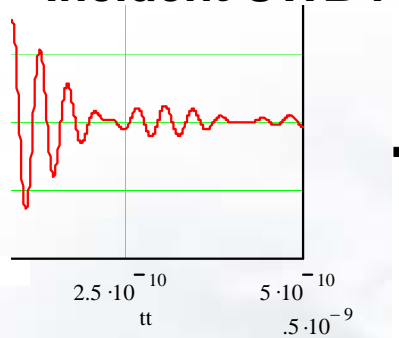
- This extreme-UWB radar sees the individual surfaces, but what about a realistic UWB radar?

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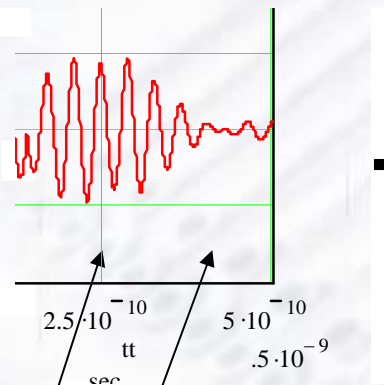


UWB versus NB

Incident UWB Pulse



Reflected UWB Pulse



Off Metal Surface
Off Ice Surface

- The pulses of this 6 GHz wide UWB radar partially overlap, but it still senses the surface.
- Many similar scenarios exist: UWB radar sees an obstacle, NB does not.



Another Contrived but Feasible Example

- The munition approaches flat concrete.
- The concrete is cracked and one section is $1/4$ higher than the adjacent one (0.3" for a 10 GHz radar.)
- A narrowband radar will be blind to the target.
- UWB will detonate on time because the slab reflections only cancel at the radar's center frequency.



Co-Located Fuzes

- Multiple UWB devices can coexist through coding.
- This is the same technique CDMA cellular phones use to coexist.
- This technique is already successfully employed in TDC's products.



Anti-Jam Capability

- The same PN coding that allows multiple UWB fuzes to coexist also provides anti-jam capability.
- The correlating PN code in the receiver reduces the noncoherent jammer power.
- Second tier anti-jam capability can come from filters to notch out jammers.
- Both techniques are being successfully used in TDC UWB products.



Simple Architecture

- UWB system architecture and circuits are inherently simple.
- Many functions can be implemented in ASICs (many have already.)
- This allows small packaging, low power and relatively low cost.

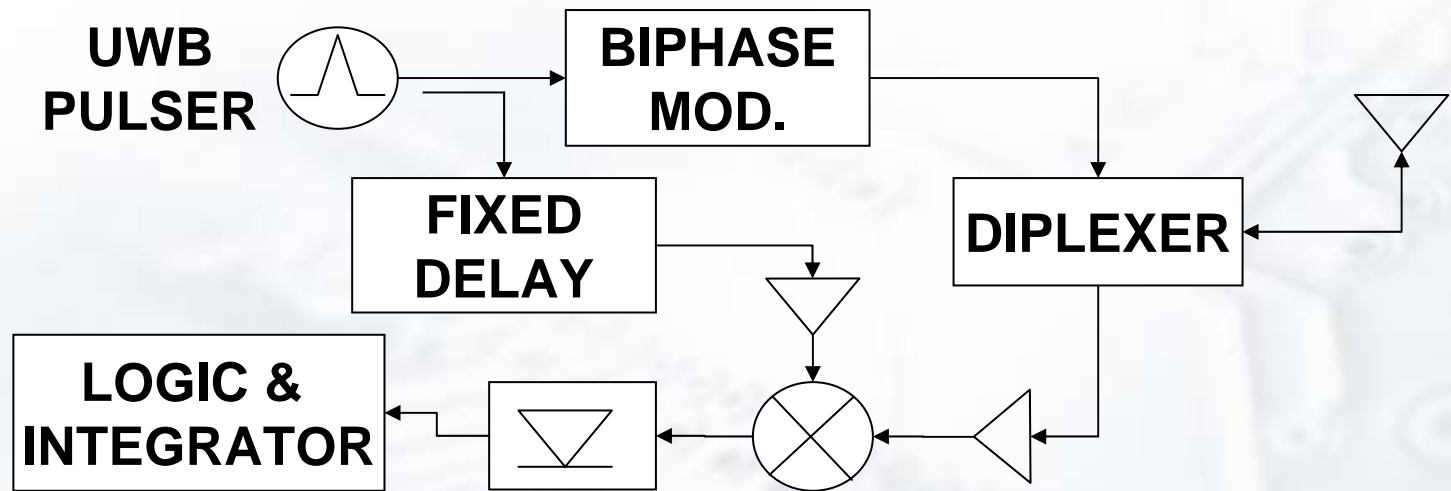


UWB Misconceptions

- UWB is a spark gap radio
 - No, UWB pulses are carefully crafted, with precise timing and bandwidth
 - Captures full radiated spectrum
- UWB is complex
 - Some applications can be, but UWB proximity sensing is the epitome of simple.
- UWB is high power
 - No, TDC UWB is typically lower than unintentional radiators (your computer)
- UWB is inherently expensive
 - No, the simple architecture can be reduced to SiGe/CMOS ASICs



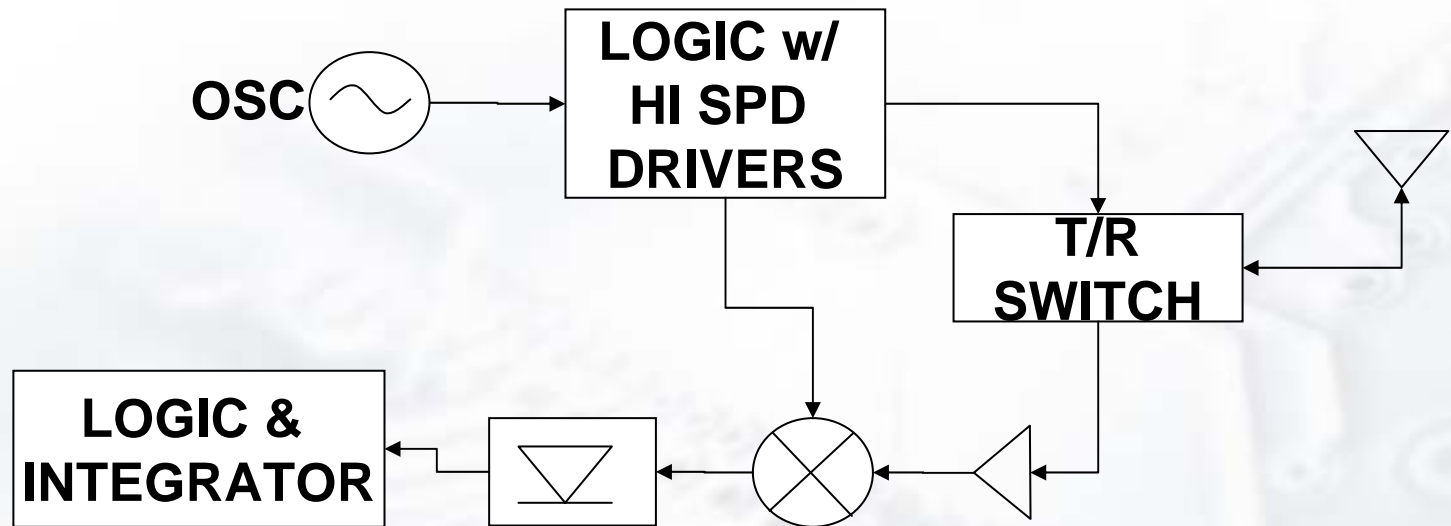
UWB Fuze Architecture #1



- Simple
- Fixed set point
- Adjustable PRF
- Very low power consumption
- Very low blind range



UWB Fuze Architecture #2



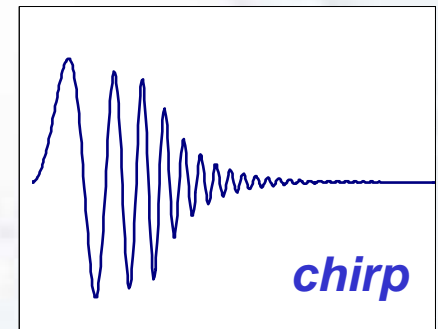
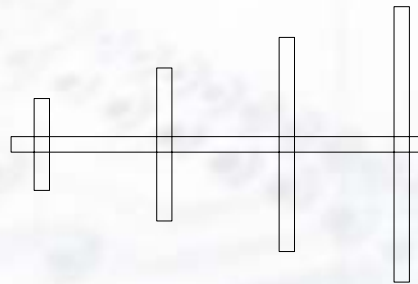
- Simple
- Adjustable set point
- Fixed PRF



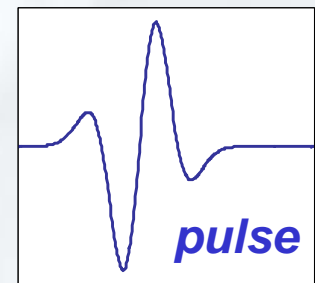
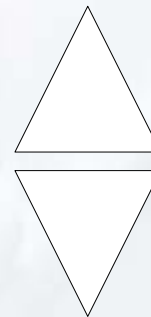
UWB Antennas

- We desire a phase center that is non-dispersive
- We also need low Q elements to avoid resonances

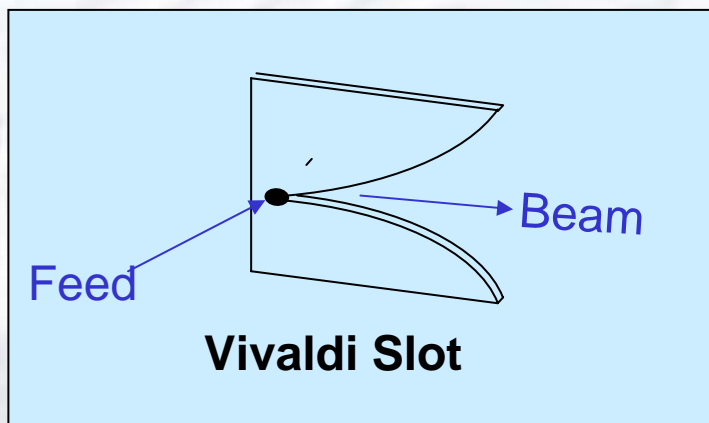
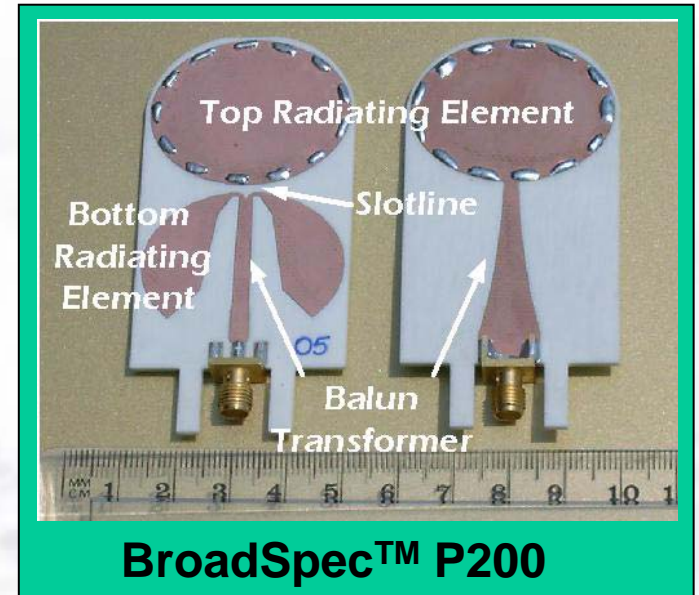
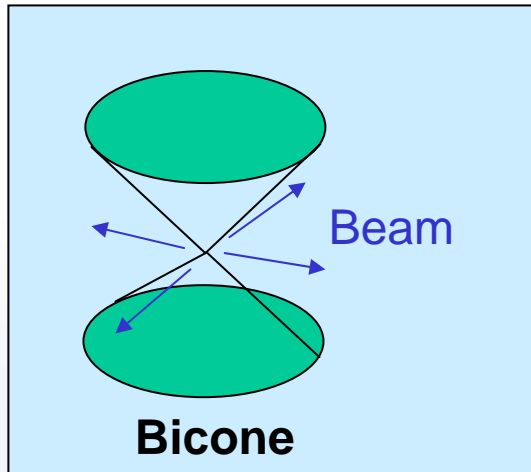
Dispersive
(e.g. Log-Periodic)



Non – Dispersive
(e.g. Diamond Dipole)



UWB Elements (cont.)



- Cross for CP
- Make conformal to radome



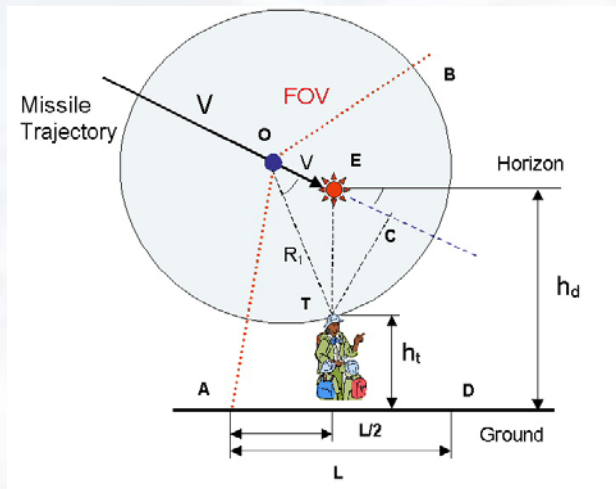
Recent UWB Fuze Experiment

- Time Domain built a POC UWB fuze for Action Mfg.
- Rocket Ball testing at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, AL this year was quite successful.
- Accuracy of $< 6''$ was demonstrated.

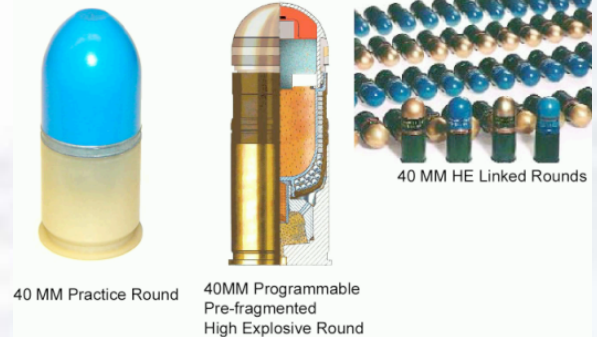


Proximity Fuzing

- TDC recently won an SBIR for UWB fuzing in non-lethal 40mm grenades



Examples of 40 MM Rounds



40 mm Testing



MK91 (40MM) Launcher



40 mm Fuze

- UWB's high resolution makes it particularly attractive
- Significant challenges include
 - Packaging the electronics in the space
 - Generating power for an active fuze



UWB Advantages to Prox Fuzing

- Precision ranging
- Penetrates visual obscurants
 - Unaffected by aerosols, including dust, smoke, and fog
 - Only slightly affected by heavy (4"/hr) rain
- Day/night operation



Continued ...

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