Diagnostic Ultrasound: Principles and Applications

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Medical imaging modality based on high-frequency sound waves

- Ultrasound imaging is based on echo-ranging principles
 - Short-duration sound pulses are transmitted into the body
 - Received echoes are used to construct 2D images of tissue

- Key advantages
 - No ionizing radiation
 - Real-time display
 - Anatomy <u>and</u> physiology (Doppler)
 - Relatively inexpensive
 - Portable









180PLUS (SonoSite, Bothell) - Late 1990s

iU22 (Philips Ultrasound, Bothell)



GE LogiqBook

• **GE Vscan**, 2009



- Cell phone imager (2009)
 - Richard and Zar, Washington U, St. Louis

MobiSante



Mobisante, Inc. is a privately-held mHealth company and we are building the world's first SmartPhone-based, Low-cost, Easy-to-use, Portable Ultrasound Imaging Systems. These systems are based on technology developed by a top university research lab and partially funded by Microsoft Research. The basic systems, which are expected to be extremely affordable, will make Ultrasound imaging accessible to primary care physicians, physician extenders, field workers in telemedicine settings, veterinarians and other costsensitive medical institutions in rural and emerging markets locally, regionally and around the globe. If you are interested in learning more, please contact us - we are interested in hearing from you.



22 WEEK FETUS HEAD







http://www.mobisante.com

• MobiSante, Redmond, WA (2010)

• Limitations

- Operator dependent
 - Strong angle dependence
- Complex spatial resolution parameters
- No record of image locations (in general)
- Artifacts

Overview: Sound

- Sound is transmitted and received by a piezoelectric transducer
- Returned echoes vary depending on tissue characteristics
- Timing is used to determine echo depth

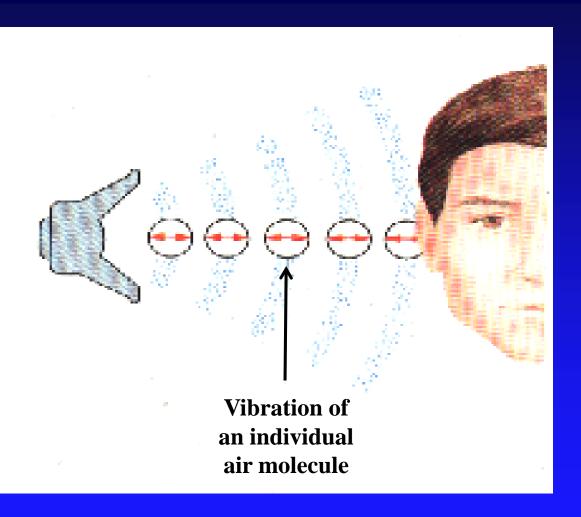
Sound

Vibration of particles in a medium

– **OR** –

A mechanical pressure wave

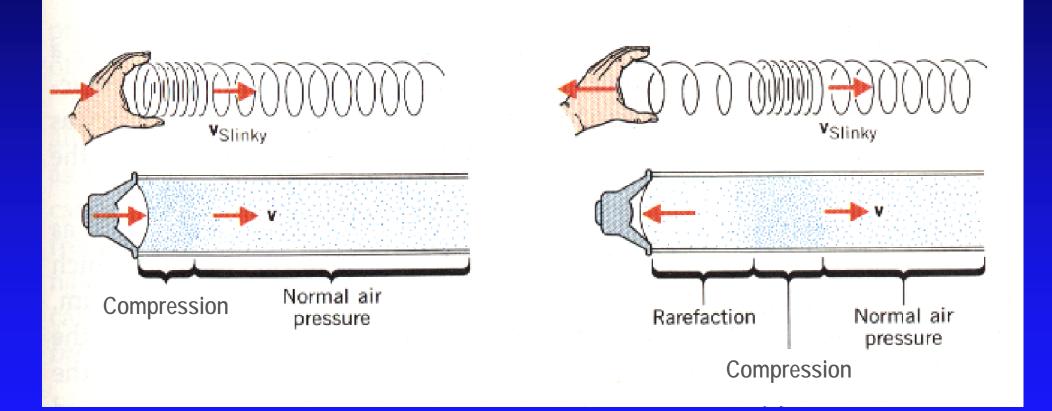
Sound is a <u>longitudinal</u> wave: particle motion is parallel to the direction of propagation

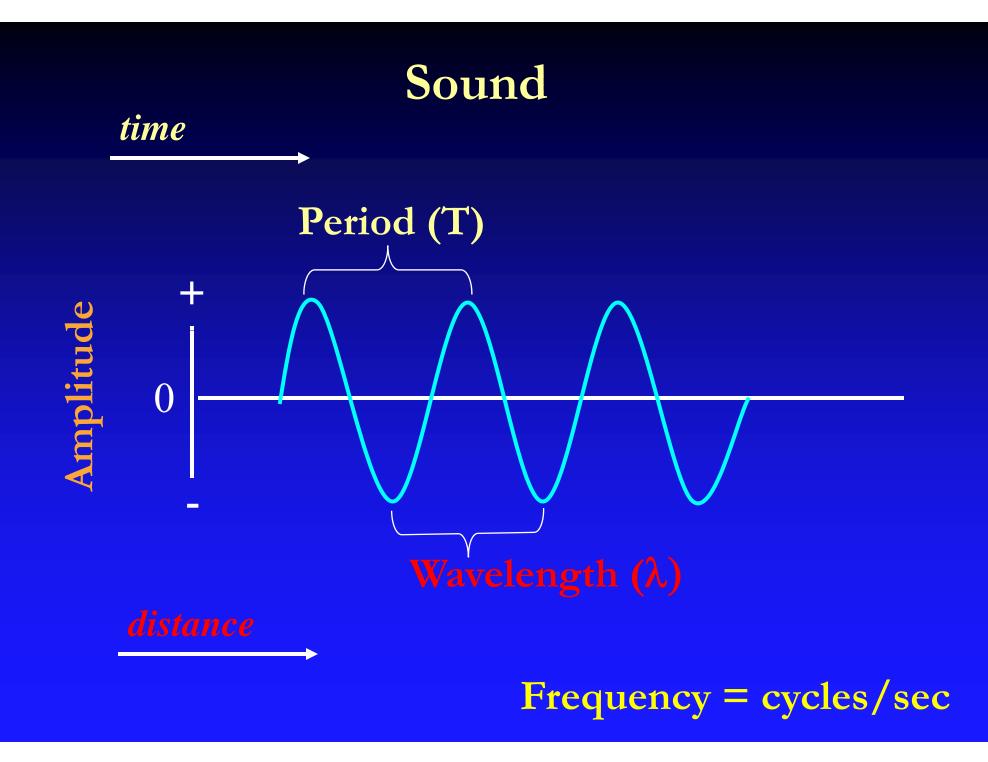


Physics, Cutnell & Johnson, 1992

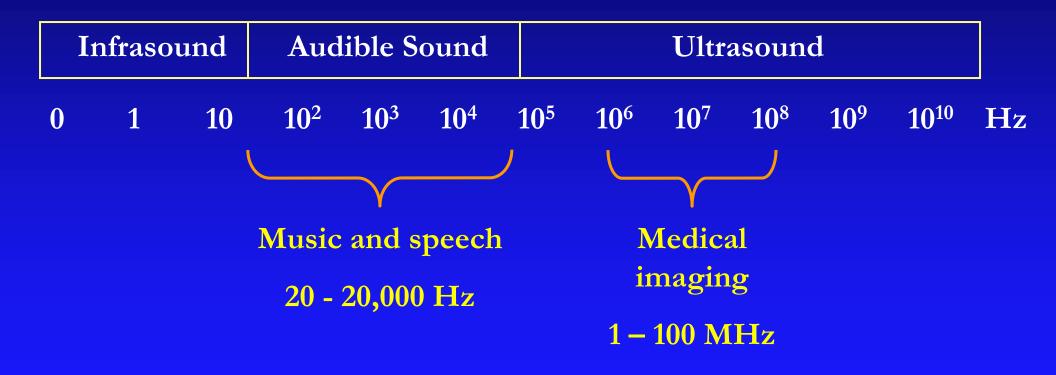
Sound

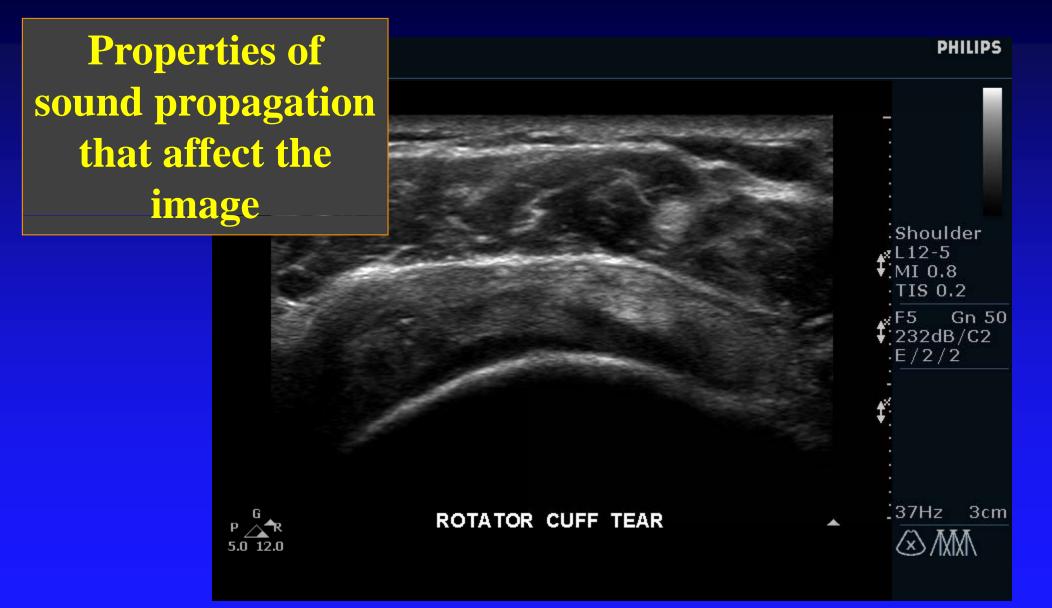
Compression and Rarefaction





Spectrum of Sound

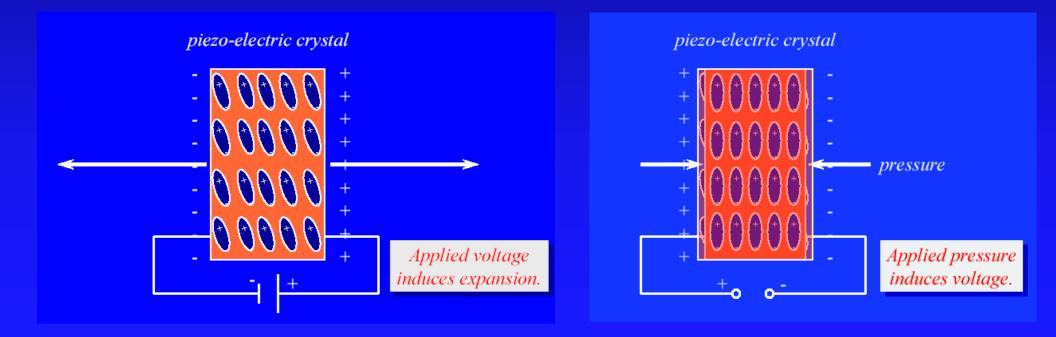




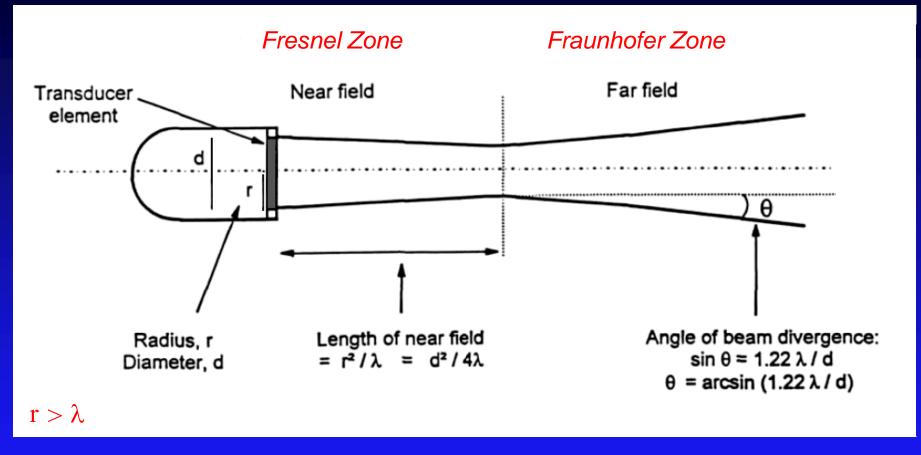
Piezoelectric Effect

• Transducers constructed from piezoelectric materials

- converts electrical energy to mechanical energy
- converts mechanical energy to electrical energy
- the material, shape and size of the transducer influence the frequency it can generate

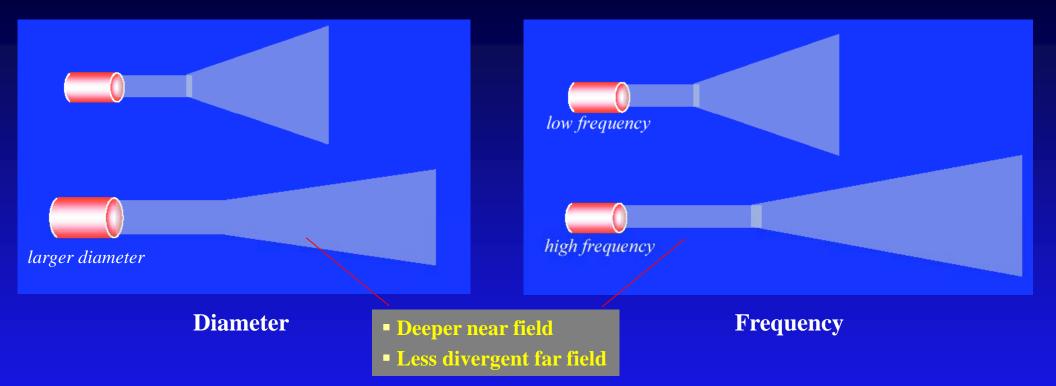


Beam Pattern



- Characteristic beam pattern for single-element circular transducer
 - Near field (Fresnel Zone): non-uniform intensity, non-divergent
 - Far field (Fraunhofer Zone): uniform intensity, divergent
 - Natural focus at transition between zones

Beam Pattern



- Beam diameter determined by:
 - distance from transducer
 - transducer diameter
 - frequency

Properties of Sound

Reflection

- Production of echoes at interfaces of tissues with different physical properties
 - sound waves that do not transmit across an interface are redirected back into the medium from which they originated

Types of Reflection

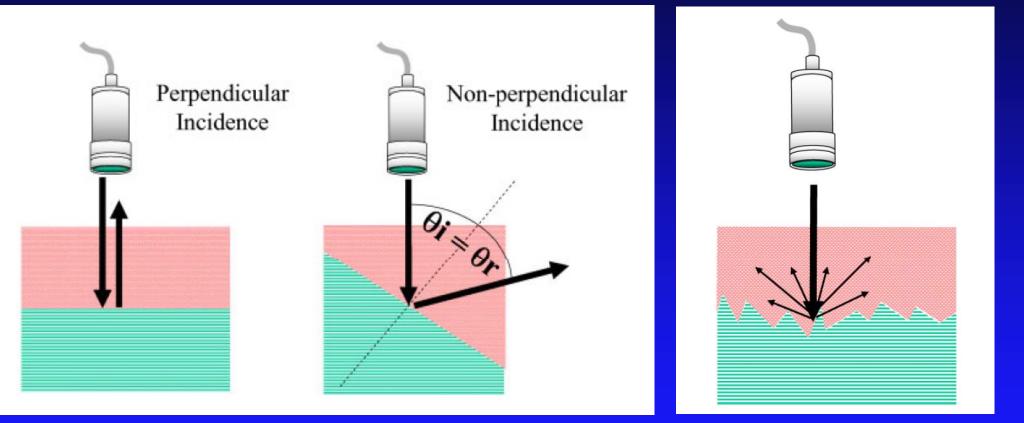
Specular

- Structures larger than the wavelength
 - Angle of reflection = Angle of incidence

Scattering

- Structures smaller than the wavelength
 - Multi-directional

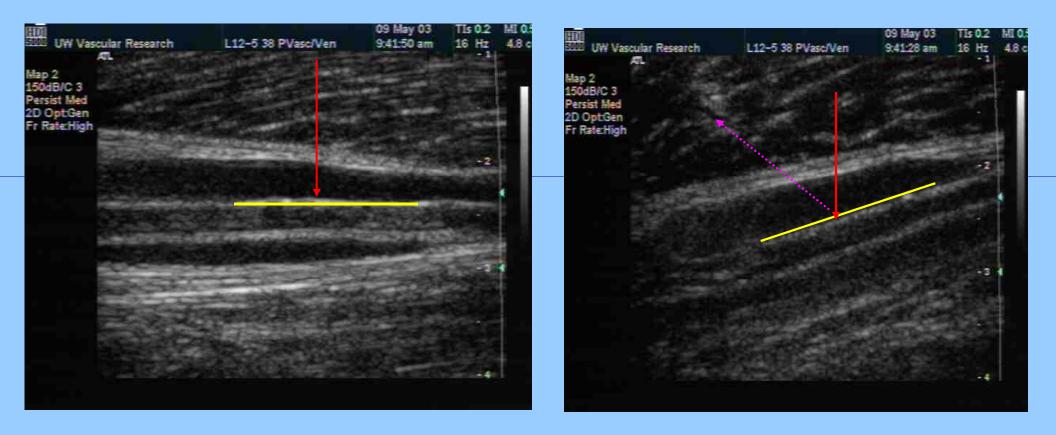
Types of Reflection



Specular reflection

Scattering

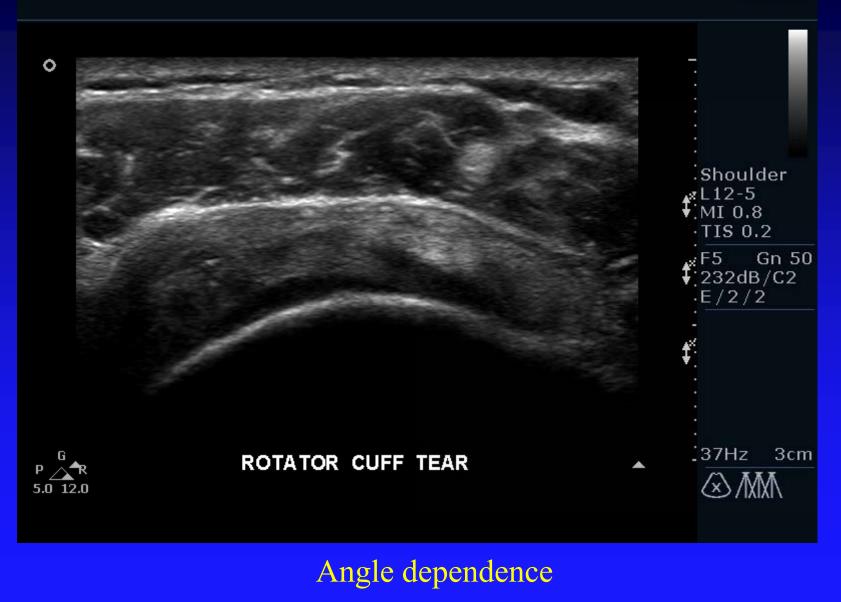
Reflection



Angle dependence

Reflection

PHILIPS



Amount of Reflection

 Depends on the difference in Acoustic Impedance (Z) of the media

> - how much sound is reflected is directly proportional to the impedance mismatch

> > $Z = \rho c$

ρ = density = mass/volume
c = propagation speed

Acoustic Impedance (Z)

Medium	Z (Rayls)
Air	$0.0004 \ge 10^6$
Fat	$1.38 \ge 10^6$
Water	$1.48 \ge 10^6$
Soft tissue	$1.63 \ge 10^6$
Muscle	$1.70 \ge 10^6$
Bone	$7.80 \ge 10^6$

Rayl: kg/m²/s

Properties of Sound

Speed of Sound

How fast sound travels in a given medium depends on the structure of the medium

- Density of particles
- Stiffness
 - Bulk Modulus: resistance to compression

Speed of Sound (c)

<u>Medium</u>	<u>m/sec</u>
Air	331
Fat	1450
Water	1482
Soft tissue	1540
Blood	1570
Muscle	1585
Bone	4080
Steel	5960

Distance Equation

Convert time to distance to create accurate anatomic images

$$\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{c} \mathbf{t}$$

c = sound propagation speed (m/s)

t = time (sec)

Distance Equation

Example 1



c = 1540m/sec

How long does it take for sound to travel 1cm into the body?

0.01m = 1540m/sec x t

t = 0.0000065sec or 6.5µsec

Distance Equation

Example 2



c = 1540m/sec

How long does it take for the transducer to receive a signal 4cm deep?

It takes 6.5µsec for 1cm of travel

6.5 μ sec x 4cm x 2 = 52 μ sec

Round-trip travel

Properties of Sound

Attenuation

The decrease in the intensity of sound as it travels through a medium (loss of energy)

- Absorption
- Reflection
- Proportional to <u>distance</u> and <u>frequency</u>
 - Longer path: increased attenuation
 - Higher frequency: increased attenuation

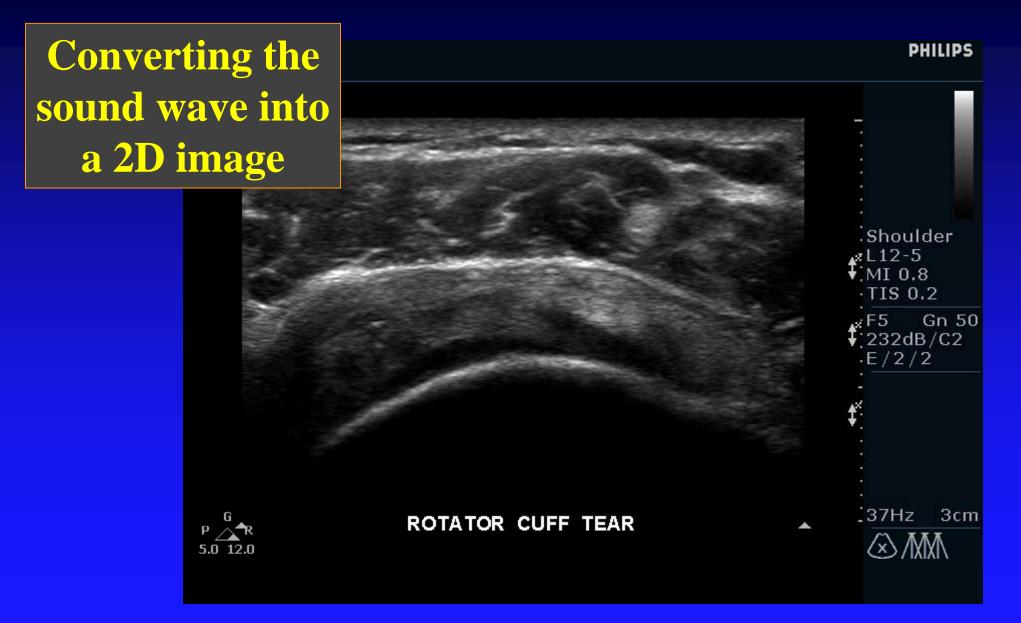
Attenuation Coefficients

<u>Tissue</u>	Attenuation Coefficient
	(dB/cm/MHz)
• Liver	0.5
• Fat	0.6
• Brain	0.6
• Kidney	0.9
• Muscle	1.0
• Heart	1.1

0.8 dB/cm/MHz average value for soft tissue

Attenuation

- To calculate attenuation, multiply the Attenuation Coefficient by round trip distance and frequency:
 - 3.5 MHz sound, 4 cm sound travel
 - attenuation = 0.5 dB/cm/MHz x 4 cm x 3.5 MHz = 7 dB
 - 5 MHz sound, 10 cm sound travel
 - attenuation = 0.5 dB/cm/MHz x 10 cm x 5 MHz = 25 dB



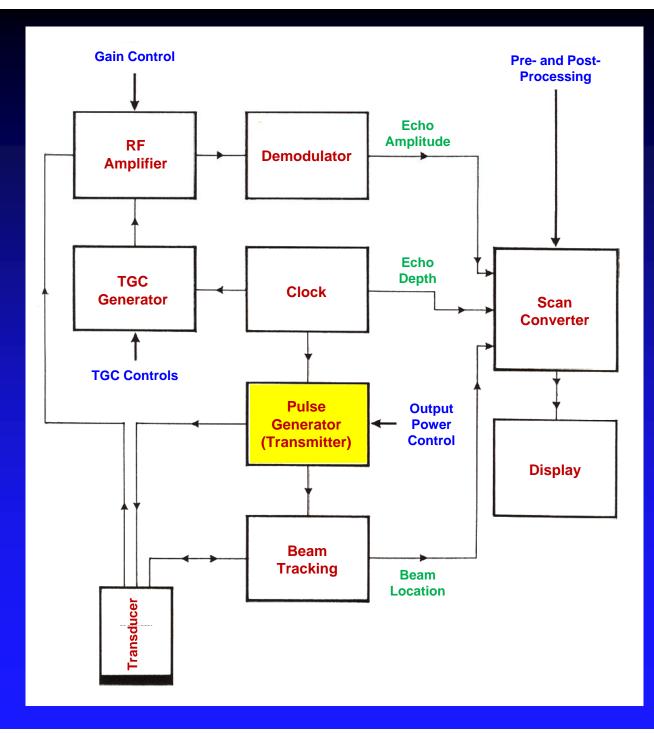
Overview: Instrument

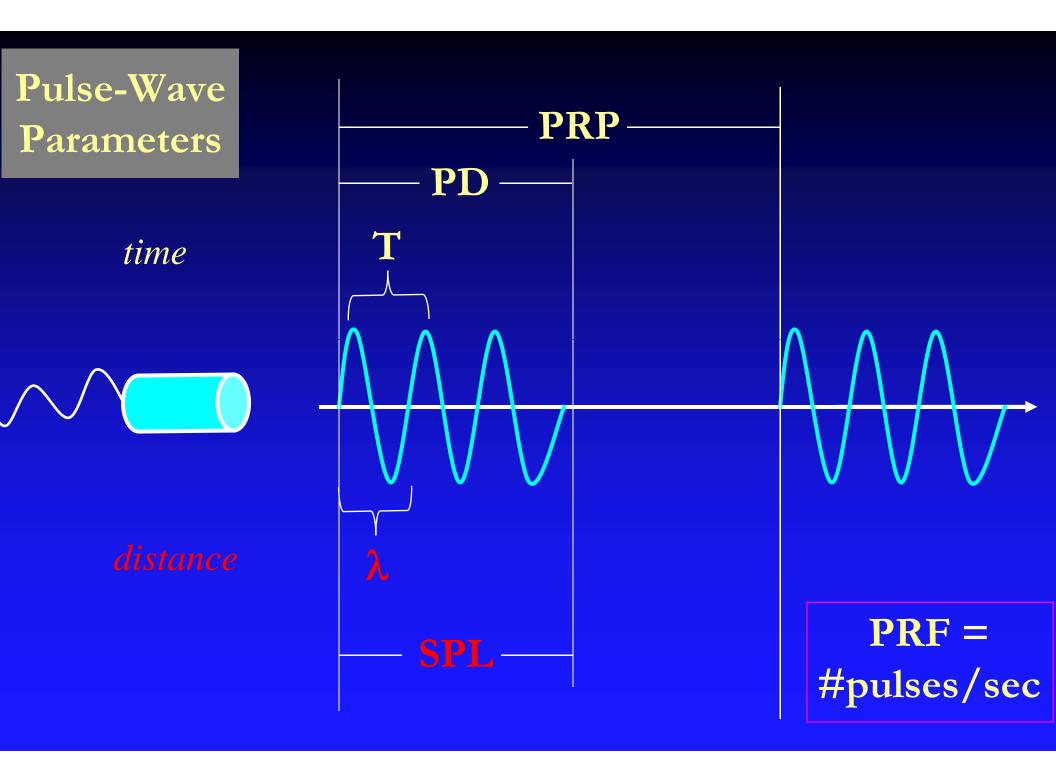
- Transmit short pulse into tissue
- Receive echoes
- Perform amplitude demodulation
- Maintain time record time for depth calculation
- Repeat to create 2D map of echo amplitude

Components of an Ultrasound Scanner

2D gray scale imaging

• Transmitter





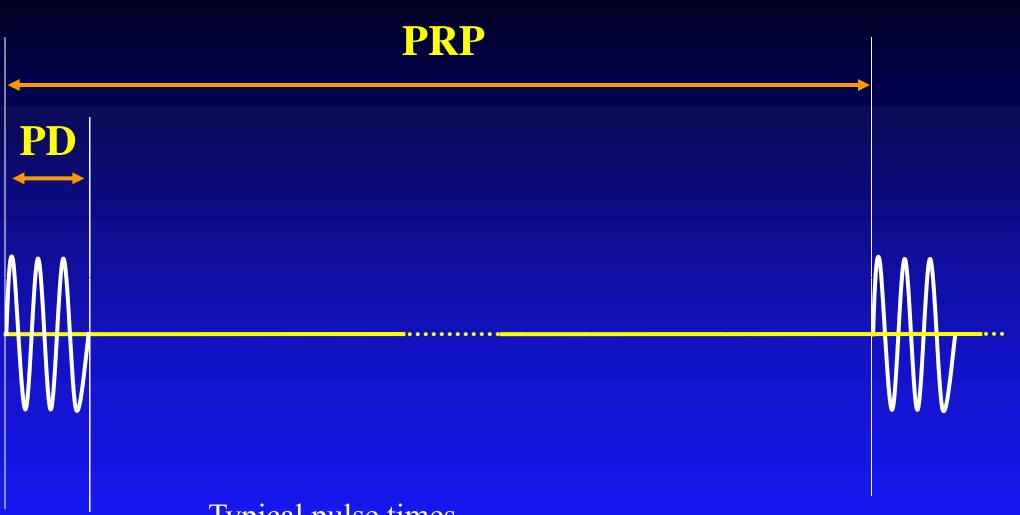
• PRF = Pulse Repetition Frequency

 PRP = Pulse Repetition Period = 1/PRF = time until pulse repeats itself Pulse-Wave Parameters

Related to temporal resolution

- PD = *Pulse Duration* = time pulse lasts
- DF = Duty Factor = PD = active timePRP total time
- SPL = Spatial Pulse Length = length of pulse in space = (#cycles/pulse) x (λ)

Related to spatial resolution

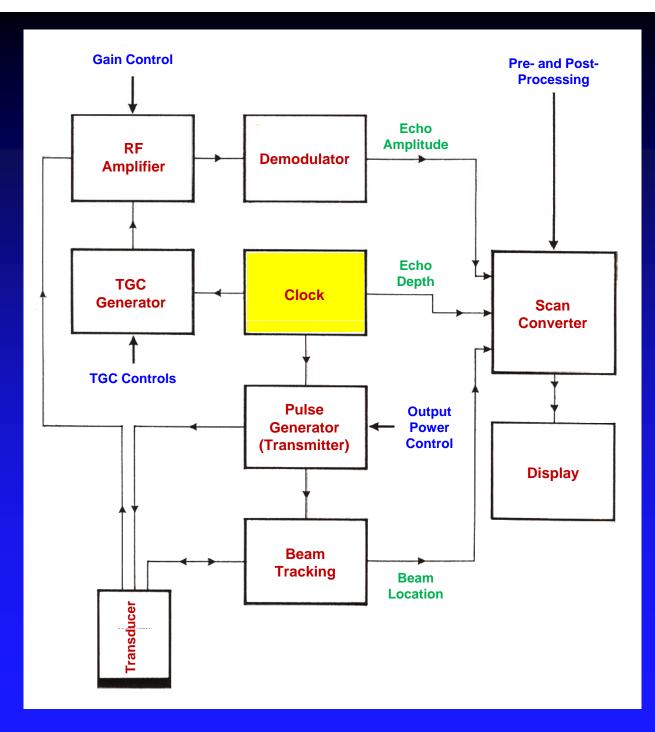


Typical pulse times

For 3-cycle 3 MHz pulse: PD = 1 microsecond For 10 cm depth: PRP = 130 microsecond

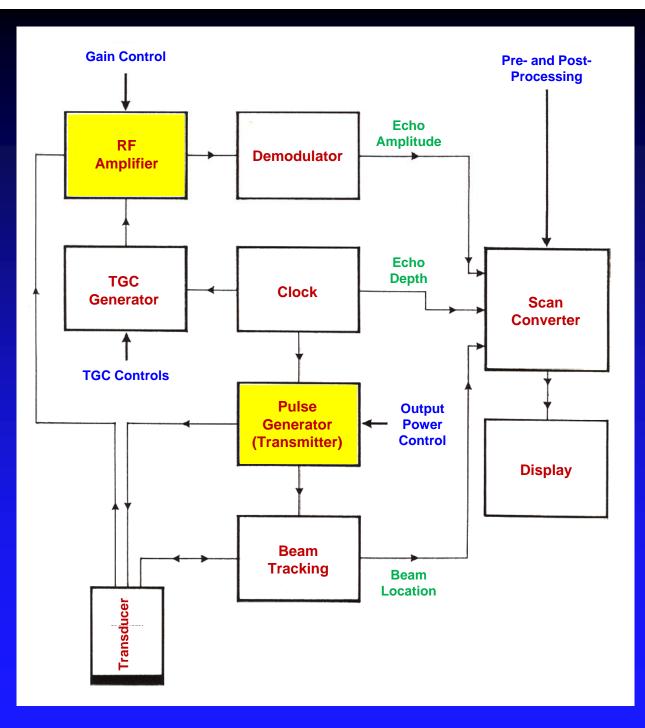
2D gray scale imaging

• Master clock for pulse and echo timing



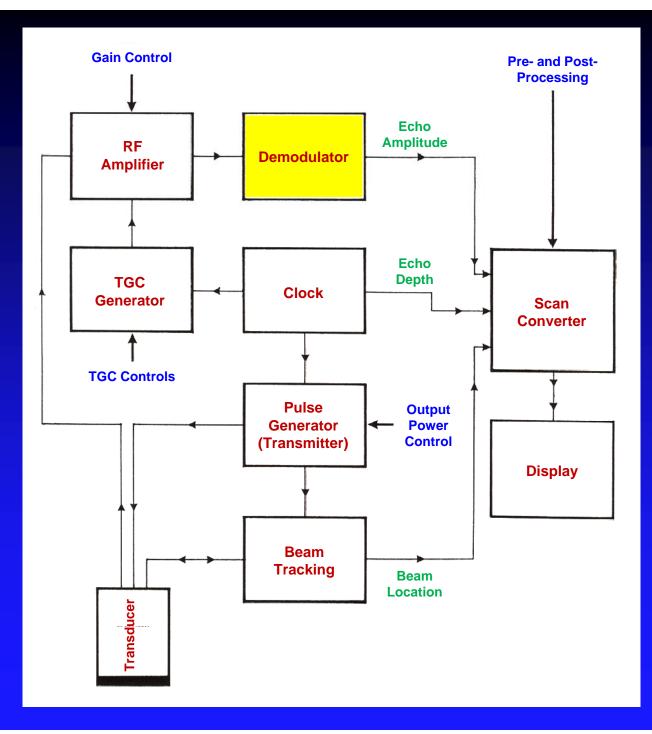
2D gray scale imaging

Short pulse transmitted
Echoes received and amplified



2D gray scale imaging

• Echo 'detection'



Signal Processing

Amplitude modulation

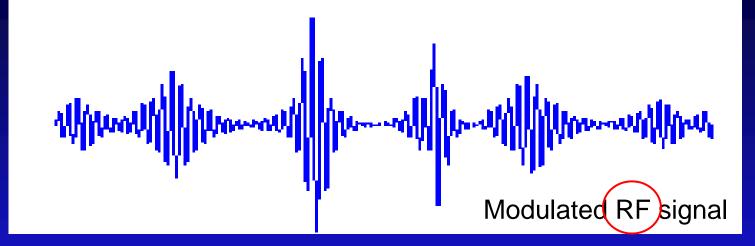
- Changes in amplitude of received energy provide information about tissue characteristics
 - Low-frequency amplitude variations superimposed on highfrequency signal
- 'Detection' or 'Demodulation' extracts the information from the returned echoes

Frequency modulation

- Changes in frequency of received energy provide information about tissue motion
- Doppler ultrasound

Signal Processing

A short pulse is transmitted and a series of echoes is received



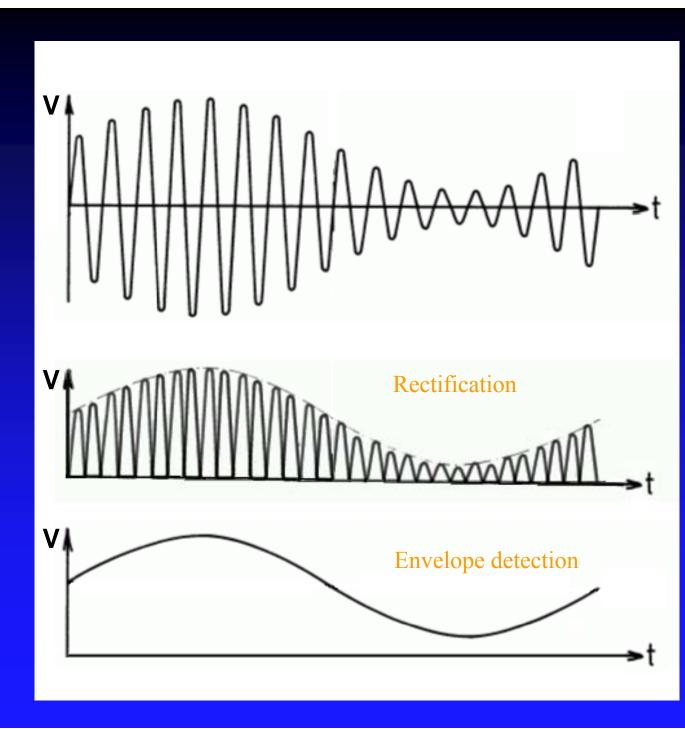
Electromagnetic Spectrum

The ultrasound echo is referred to as a 'Radio Frequency' signal because it is in the frequency range of radio waves in the electromagnetic spectrum.

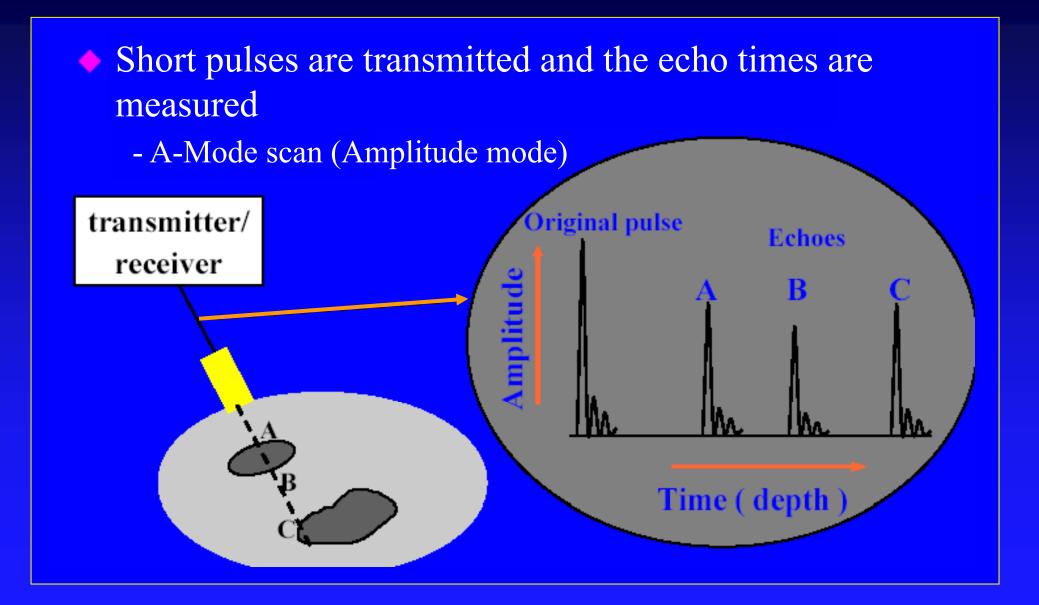
Region	Frequency
Radio	10⁶ - 10⁹
Microwave	3 x 10 ¹²
Infrared	4 x 10 ¹⁴ Medical ultrasound
Visible	7 x 10 ¹⁴ frequencies \approx 2-20 MHz
Ultraviolet	3 x 10 ¹⁷
X-Ray	3 x 10 ¹⁹
Gamma Ray	$> 3 \ge 10^{19}$

• Amplitude Demodulation

- Separation of carrier and modulating waveform
 - Rectification
 - Absolute value
 - Envelope detection
 - Low-pass filter



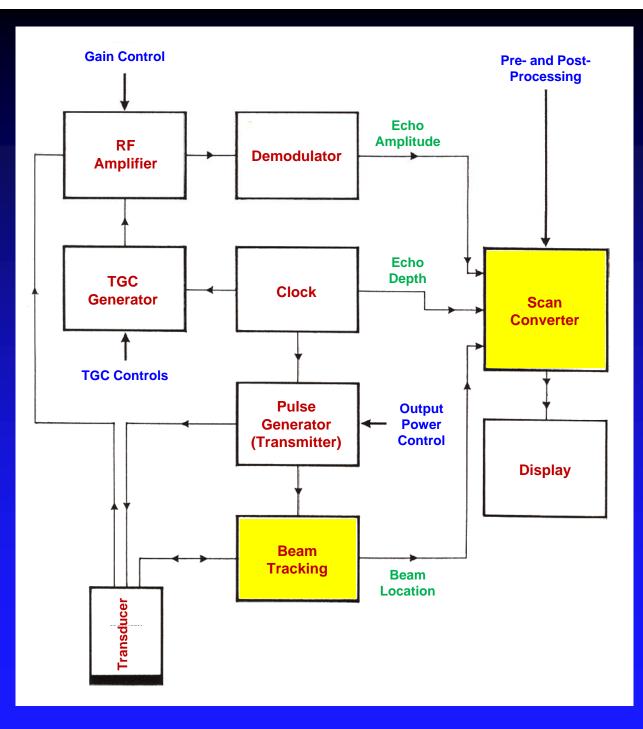
A-Mode



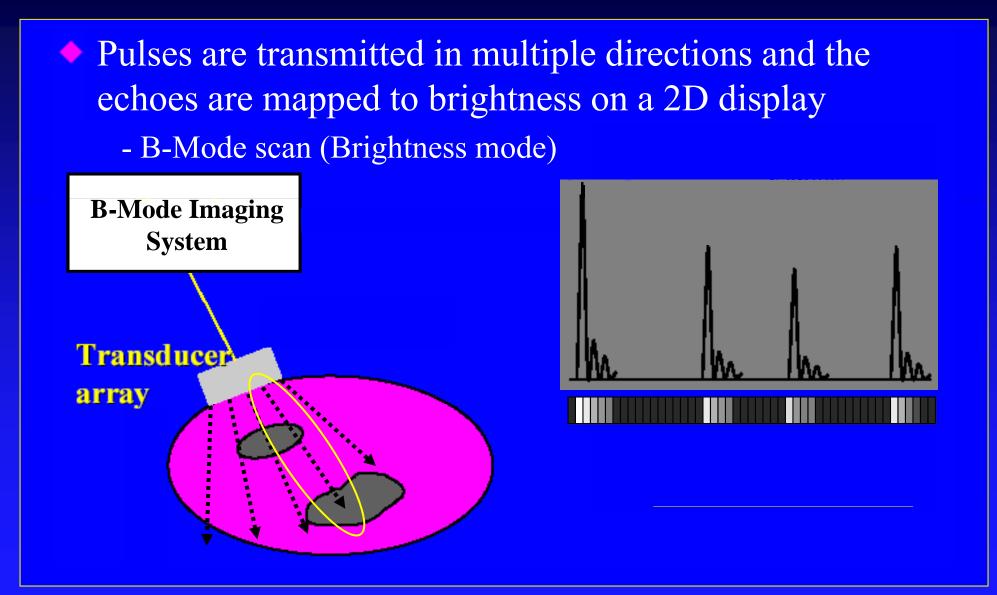
2D gray scale imaging

• Beam location saved in scan converter memory

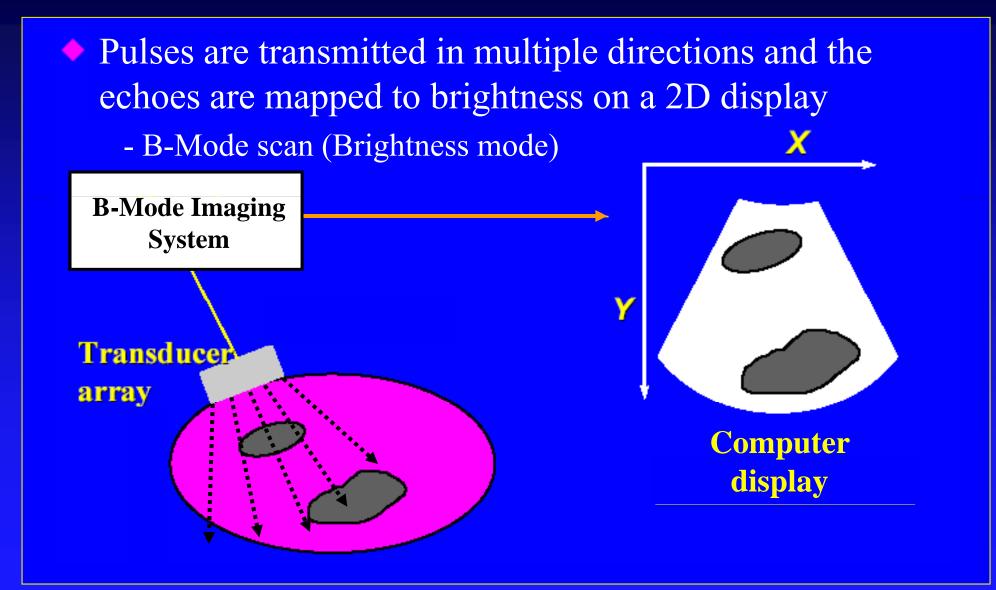
- Echo amplitude mapped to gray scale
- 2D image displayed on screen



B-Mode



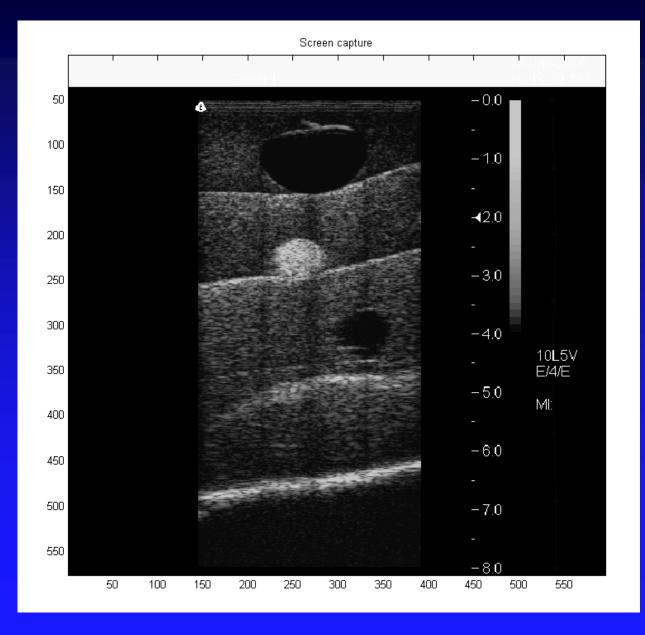
B-Mode

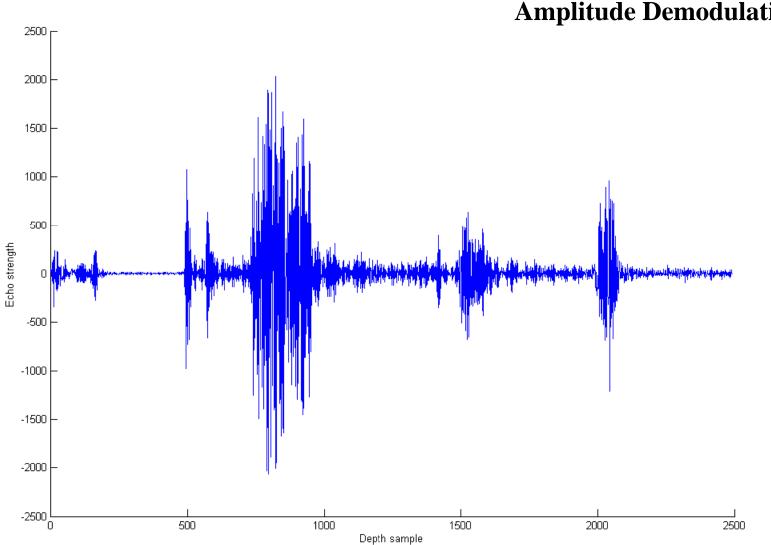


Processing Example: RF to B-Mode

Images of test phantom with Terason portable ultrasound scanner

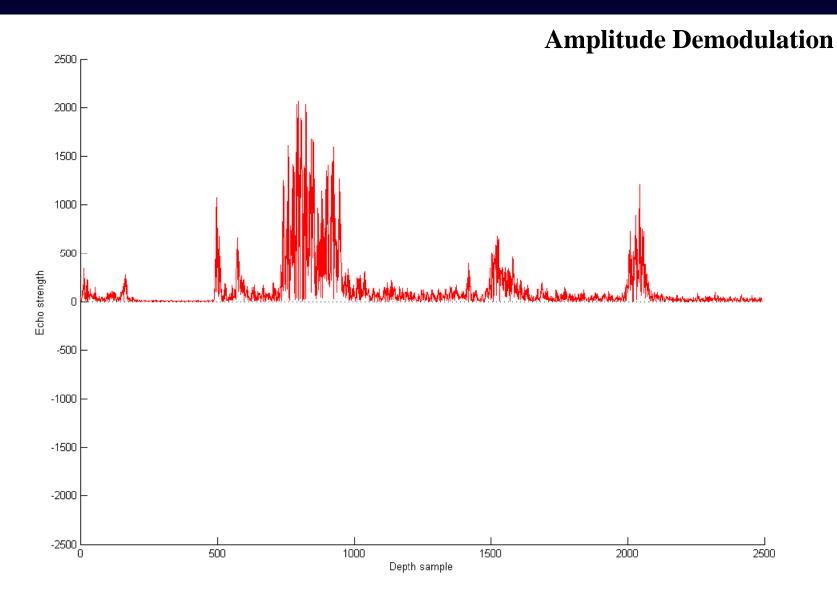
Bitmap image



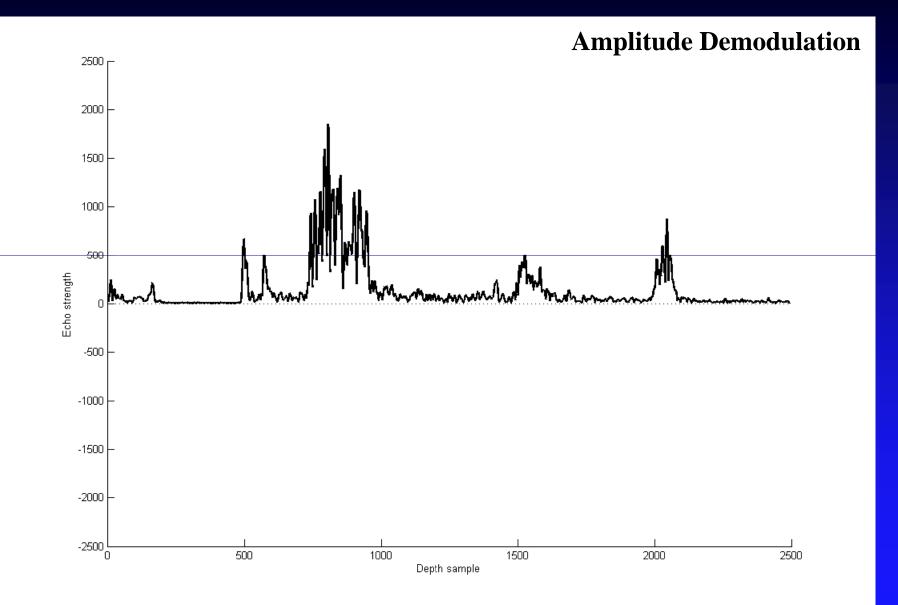


Amplitude Demodulation

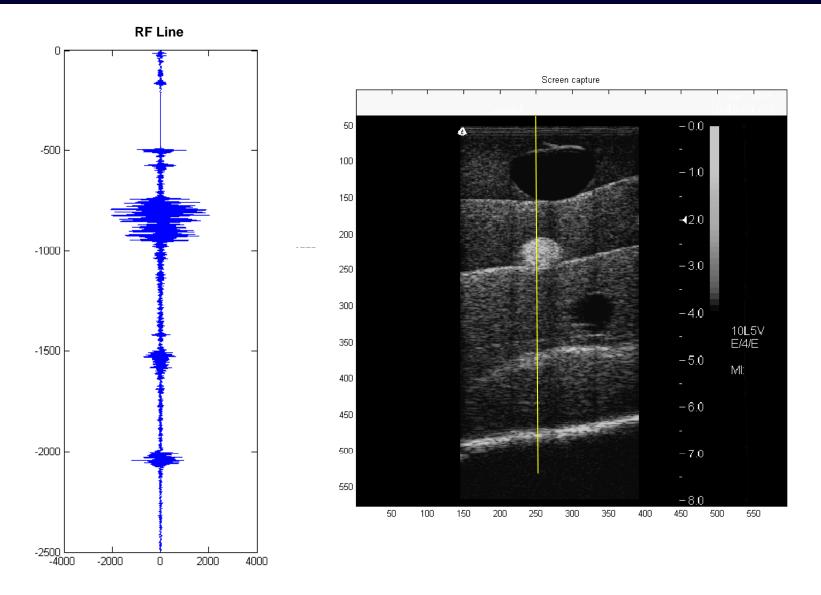
Single RF line



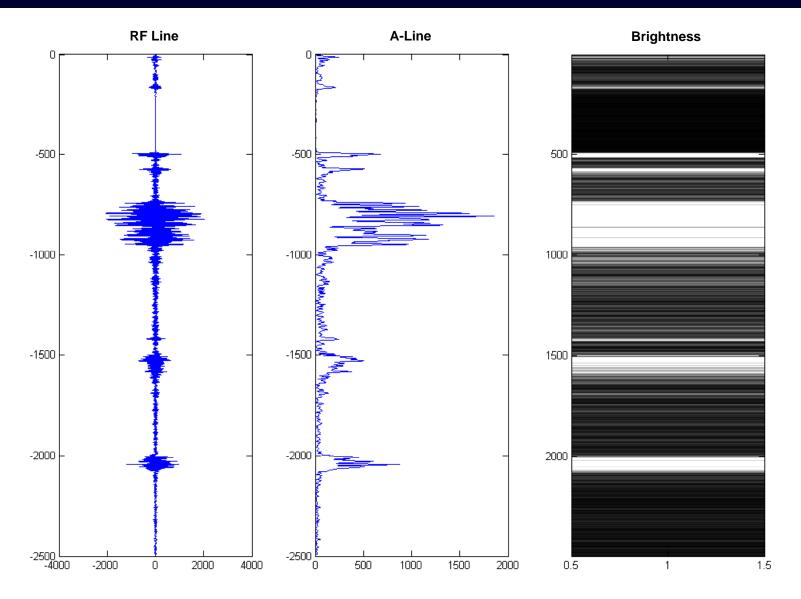
Rectified RF



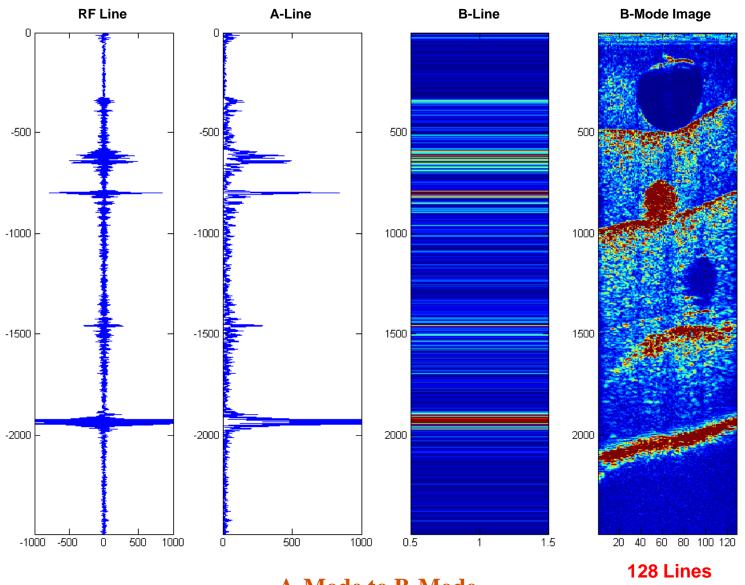
Envelope (A-Mode)



A-Mode to B-Mode



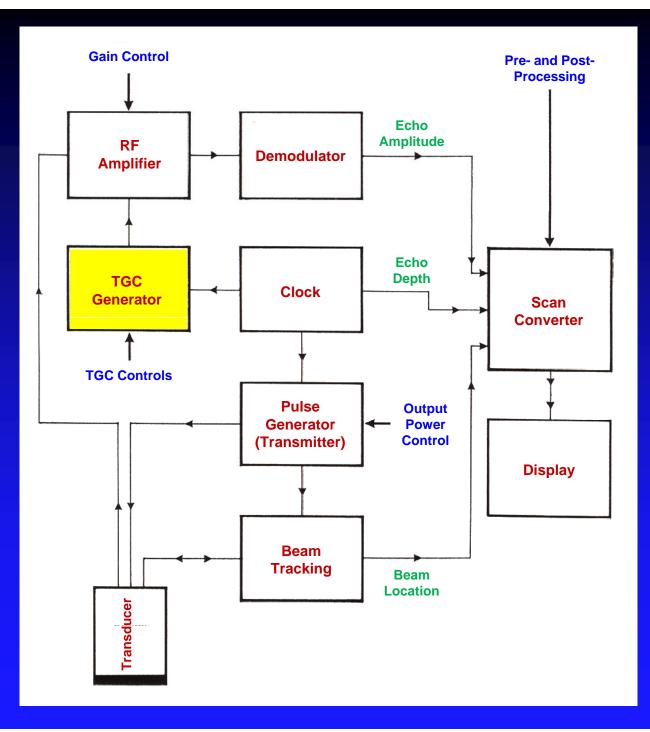
A-Mode to B-Mode



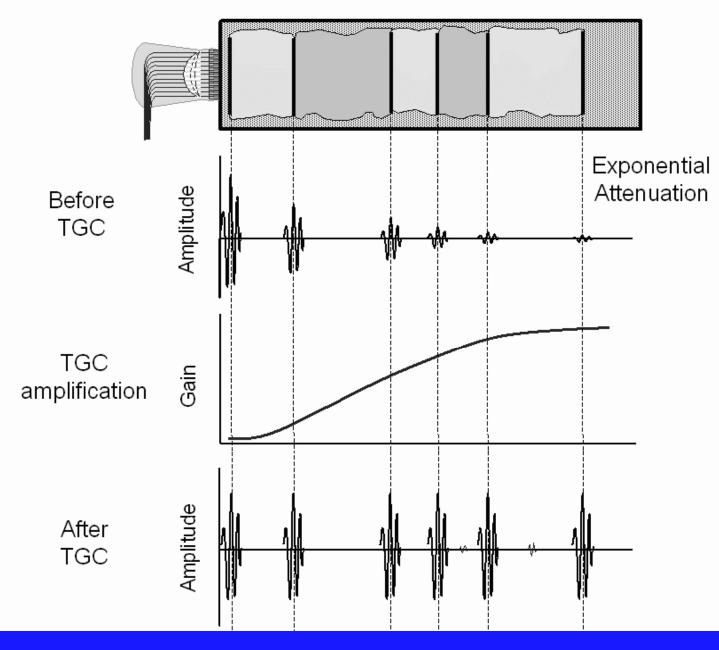
A-Mode to B-Mode

2D gray scale imaging

• Time-Gain Compensation: adjust gain as a function of time (depth) to compensate for attenuation



Equally reflective acoustic impedance boundaries



Time-Gain Compensation (TGC)

Compensate for signal attenuation as a function of depth

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Time-Gain Compensation

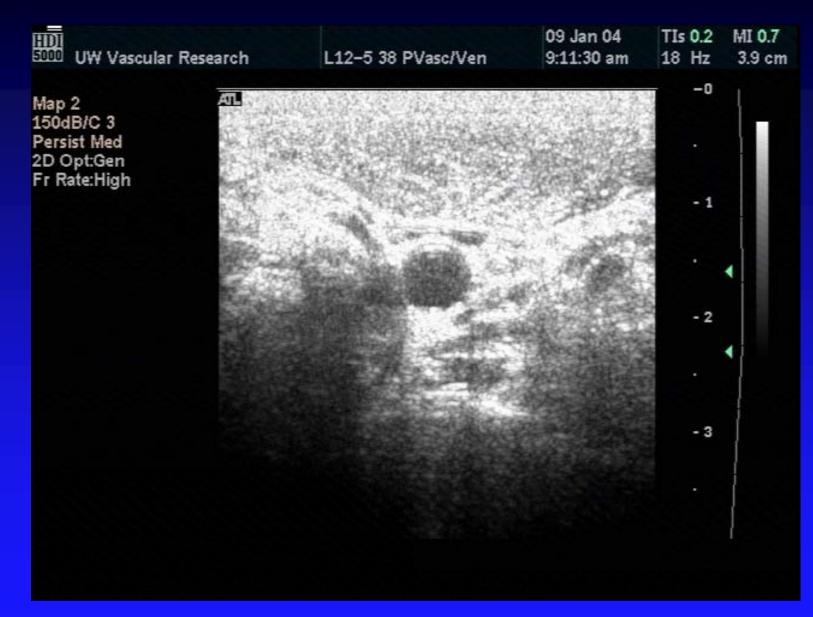
- Average attenuation rate: 0.8 dB/cm/MHz
- Variable TGC allows gain adjustment at different depths
- Multiple slider controls







TGC: correct



TGC: incorrect

Ultrasound Scanheads

- Scanhead construction and operation determine the format and characteristics of the ultrasound scan plane
 - Scanhead design affects resolution
 - Spatial and temporal
 - Range of designs available for specific imaging applications

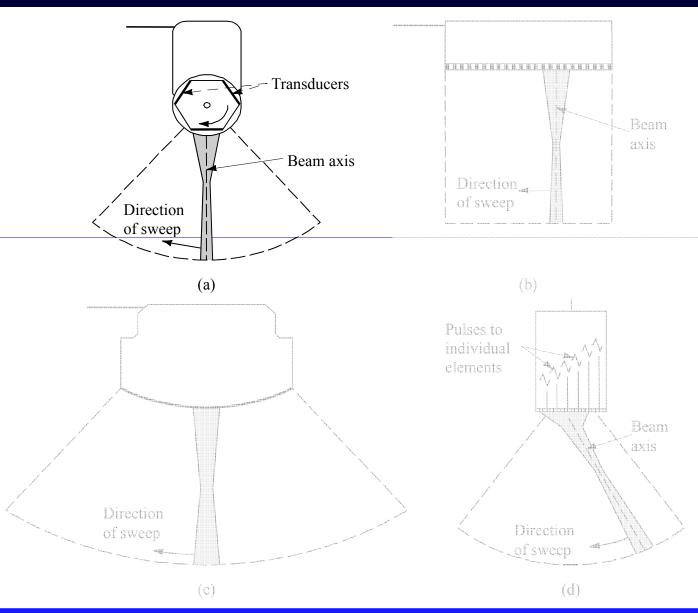
Ultrasound Scanheads

(a) Rotating mechanical device

(b) Linear array: scans an area the same width as the scanhead

(c) Curved linear array: sweeps a sector

(d) Phased array: variable timing of the excitation across elements steers the beam so that a small transducer sweeps a large area

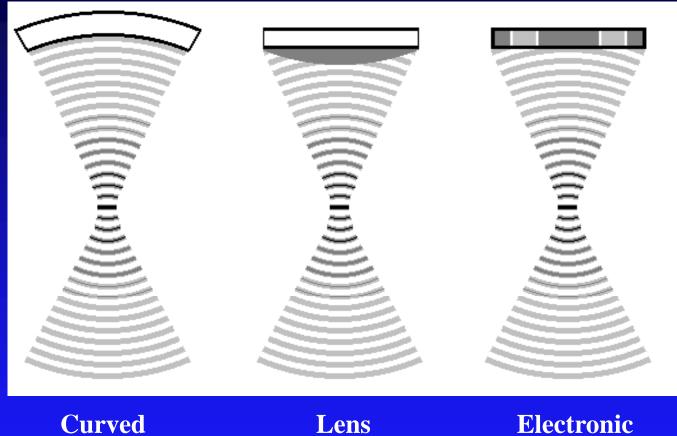


Mechanical Scanhead



- Single-element transducer is swept across the image plane by a motor
 - Prone to wear and damage over time
 - Fixed focus

Focusing Methods



Curved transducer face **Electronic** focusing (phasing)

Only <u>electronic</u> focusing allows for variable focus; all other methods have fixed focus

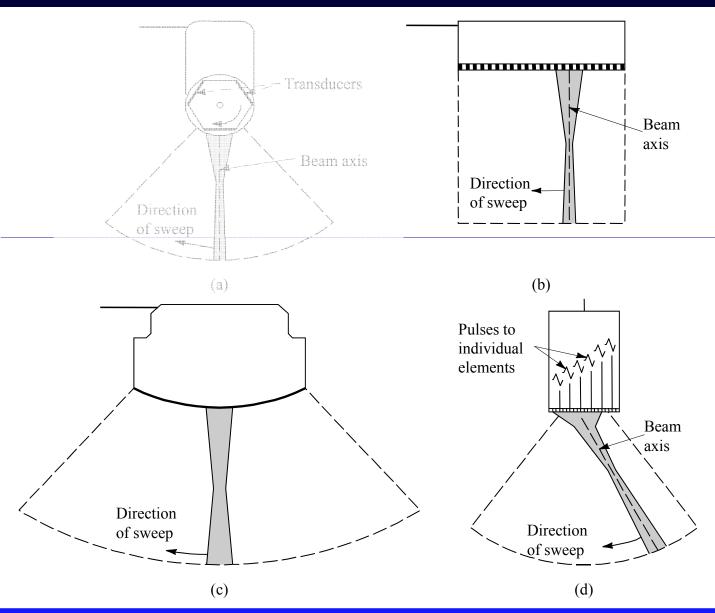
Ultrasound Scanheads

(a) Rotating mechanical device

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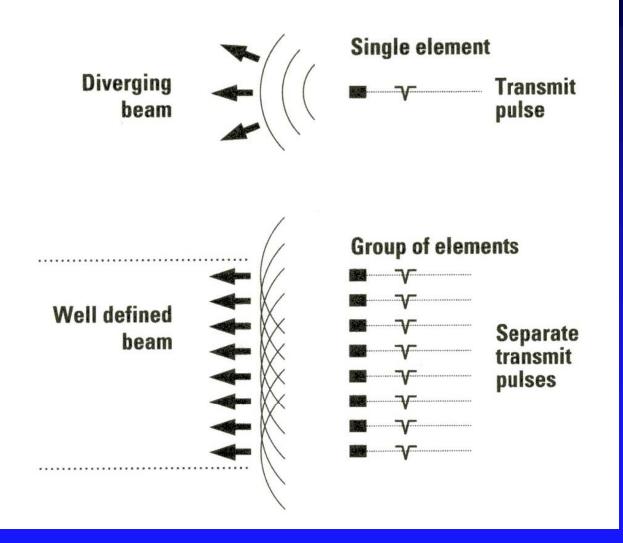
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Array Scanheads

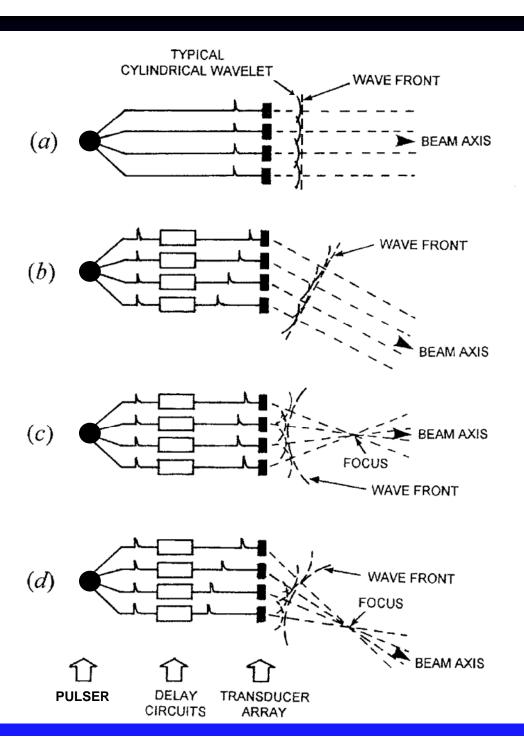


Arrays



- Ultrasound waves from different elements sum
- Adjust <u>timing</u> of excitation across the elements to steer and focus the beam

Zagzebski

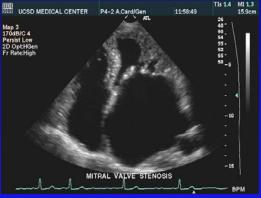


Arrays

Electronic arrays control the excitation time of multiple transducer elements to steer and focus the ultrasound beam

Steered

Focused



Sector scan

Steered and Focused

Resolution

• **Detail (geometric) resolution**

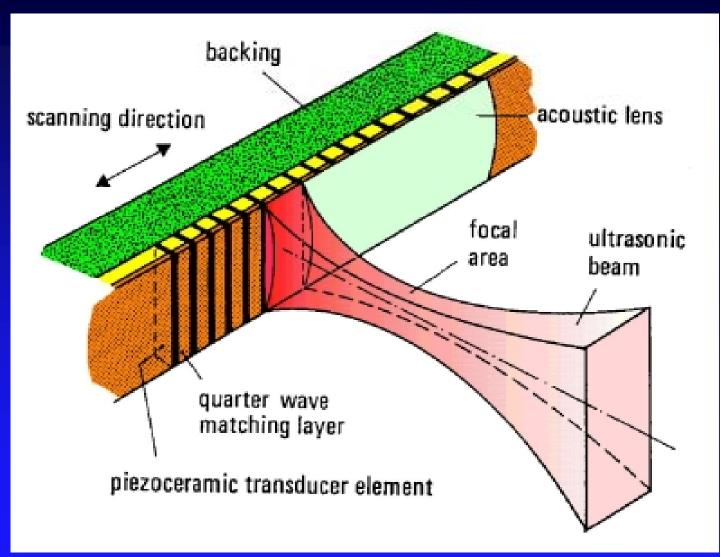
• Temporal (frame-rate) resolution

Arrays

Transducer

 elements in
 linear electronic
 arrays are not
 symmetric

Beam pattern
 is not
 symmetric

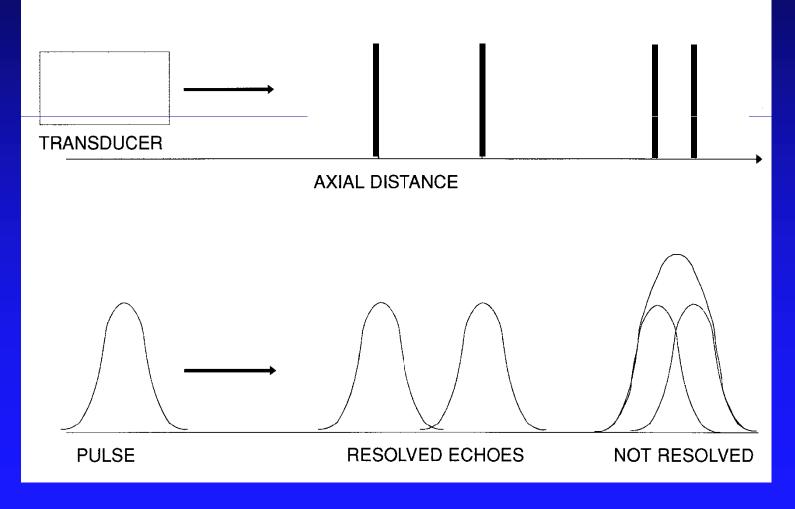


Detail Resolution

- Axial: along the scan line (depth)
 - Axial Resolution = 1/2 x (Spatial Pulse Length)
 - Constant with depth
 - Improves with increased frequency
- Lateral: perpendicular to the scan line within the image plane
 - Lateral Resolution = Beam width
 - Varies with depth
 - Improves with focusing and with increased frequency

Axial Resolution





Axial Resolution

- Axial Resolution = (Spatial Pulse Length) / 2
- SPL = (# cycles/pulse) x λ

• Improve axial resolution by

- reduced number of cycles
- increased frequency
- $\lambda = c/f$

• Wavelength is affected by frequency and the medium

c = propagation speed f = transmit frequency

• Ultrasound wavelengths in tissue are less than 1 mm

Axial Resolution

Example: 3-cycle pulse

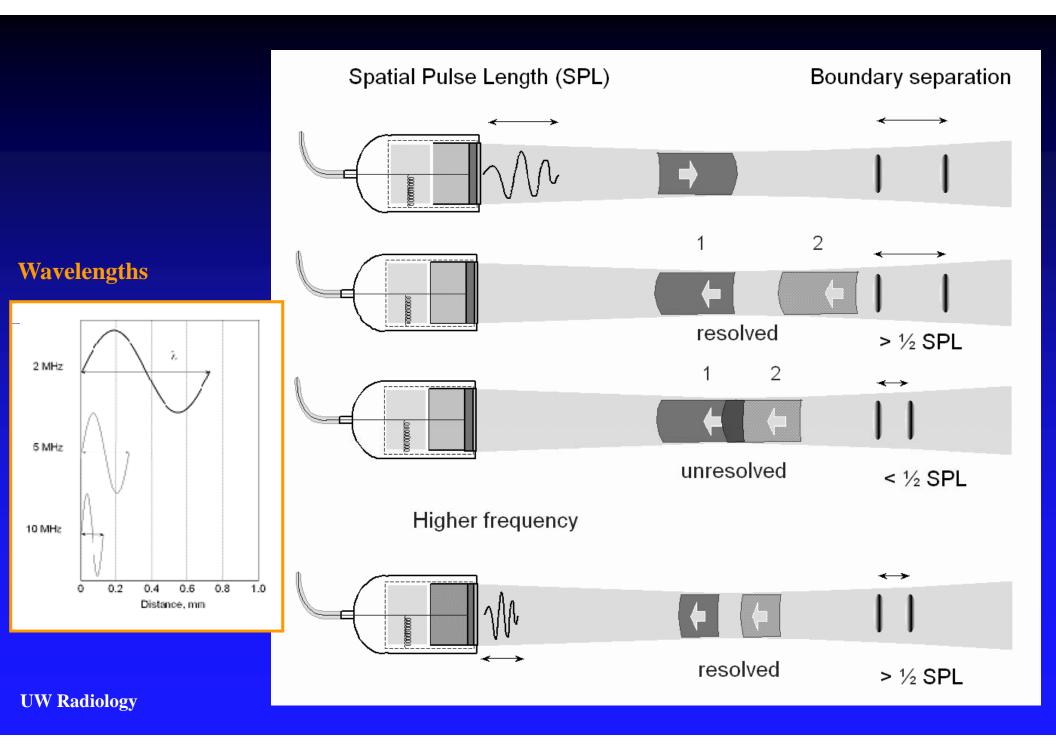
5 MHz transducer

- $\lambda = c/f$
 - $= (1540 \text{ m/s}) / (5 \times 10^6 \text{ Hz})$
 - = 0.308 mm

 $\frac{10 \text{ MHz transducer}}{\lambda = c/f}$ $= (1540 \text{ m/s}) / (10 \times 10^6 \text{ Hz})$

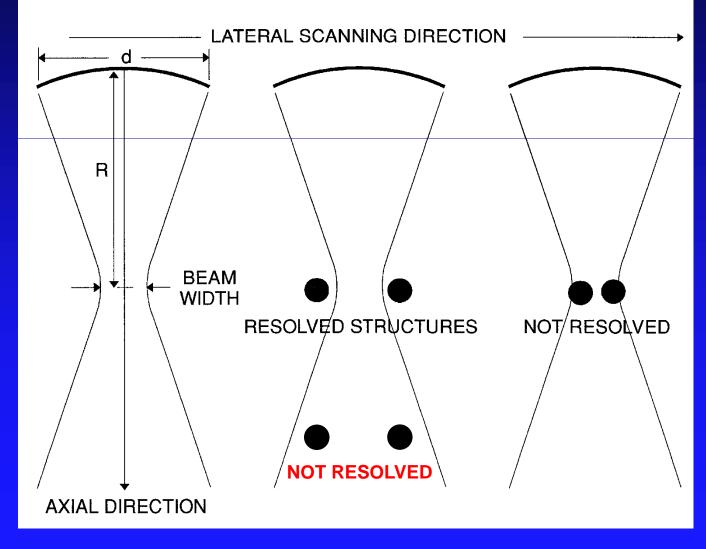
= 0.154 mm

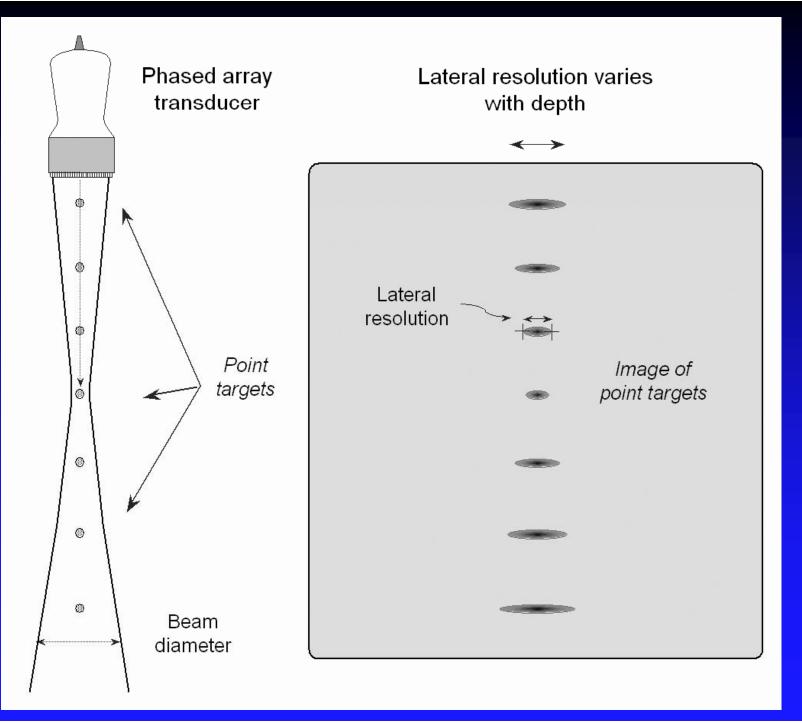
Axial resolution = $(3 \times \lambda) / 2$ = 0.462 mm Axial resolution = $(3 \times \lambda) / 2$ = 0.231 mm



Lateral Resolution

LATERAL RESOLUTION IN B-SCANS

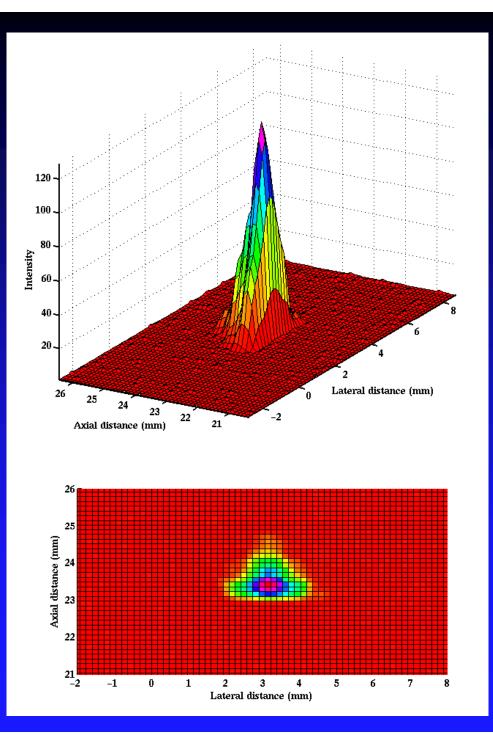




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Axial and Lateral Resolution





Axial and Lateral Resolution

Plot of image brightness from a string target

Imaging depth: 4.8 cm

Target depth: 2.3 cm

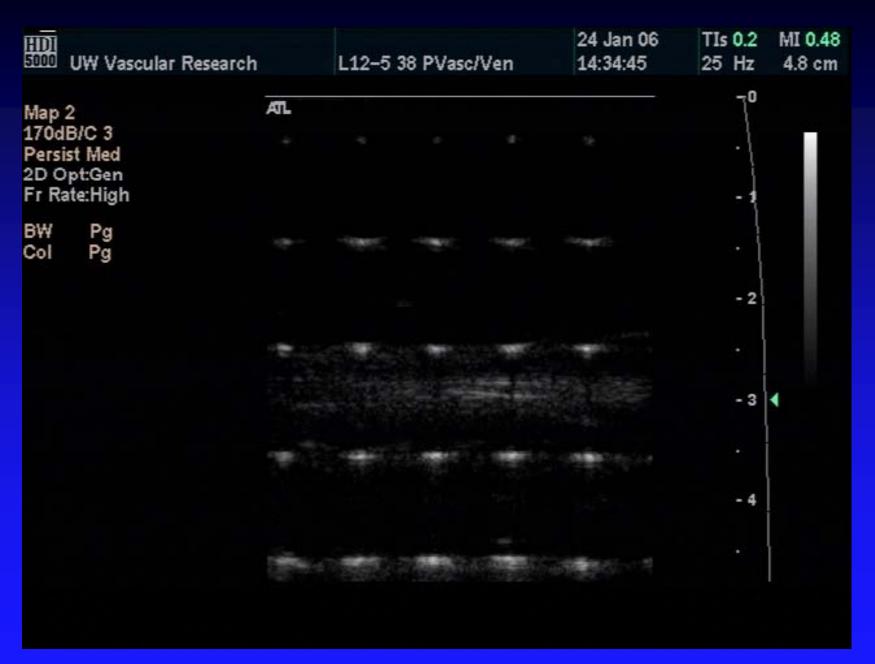
Focal depth: 3.5 cm

Beam direction

ATL L10-5 on HDI 3000

UW Vascular Research		L12-5 3	8 PVasci	Ven	24 Jan 06 14:34:33	TIs 0.0 25 Hz	MI 0.52 4.8 cm
Map 2	ATL.					0	
170dB/C 3 Persist Med 2D Opt:Gen Fr Rate:High							1
B₩ Pg						1	
Col Pg		1				•]	
						- 2	
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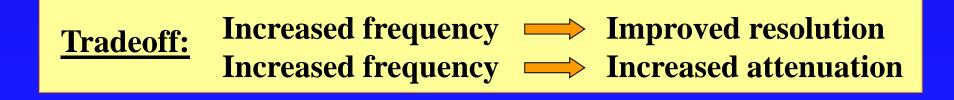
Focus Depth



Focus Depth

Detail Resolution

MHz	Axial resolution	Lateral resolution	Wave length (mm)
3.0	1.1 mm	2.8 mm	0.5
4.0	0.8 mm	1.5 mm	0.375
5.0	0.6 mm	1.2 mm	0.3
7.5	0.4 mm	1.0 mm	0.2
10.0	0.3 mm	1.0 mm	0.15



Frequency Tradeoffs

Increased frequency — Improved resolution Increased frequency Increased attenuation

- **Use lower frequencies for deeper structures** •
- Use highest frequency that can penetrate to the \bullet depth of interest



<u>Transcranial</u> 1.5 - 2.0 MHz

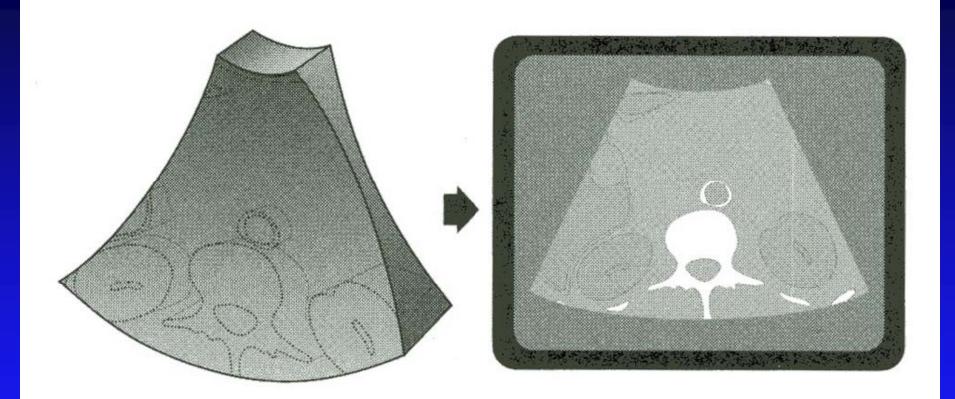
Cardiac 2.0 - 5.0 MHz

Abdominal 2.0 - 5.0 MHz

Musculoskeletal 5.0 - 12.0 MHz

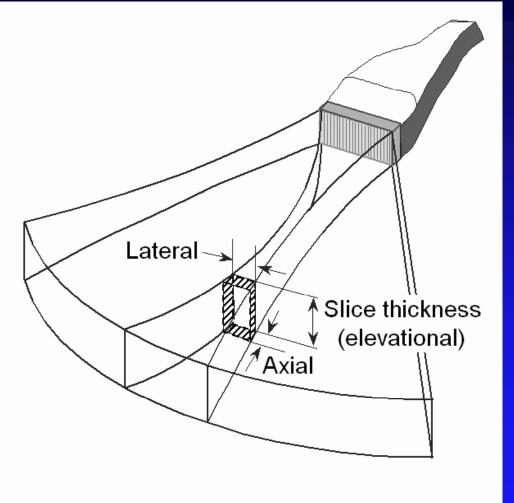
Peripheral Vascular 7.0 - 15.0 MHz

Beam Thickness

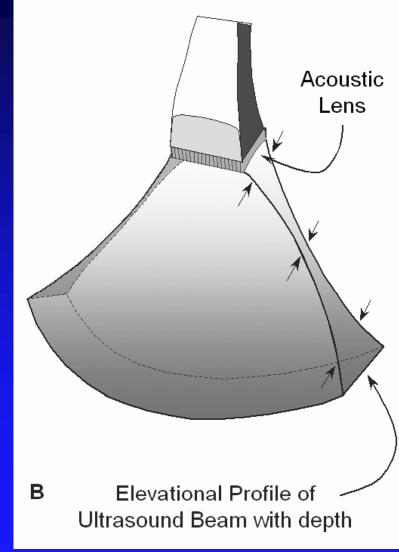


- Beam pattern perpendicular to 2D image plane
- Beam thickness (elevation) generally larger than lateral beam width
- Fixed focus set by acoustic lens

Beam Thickness



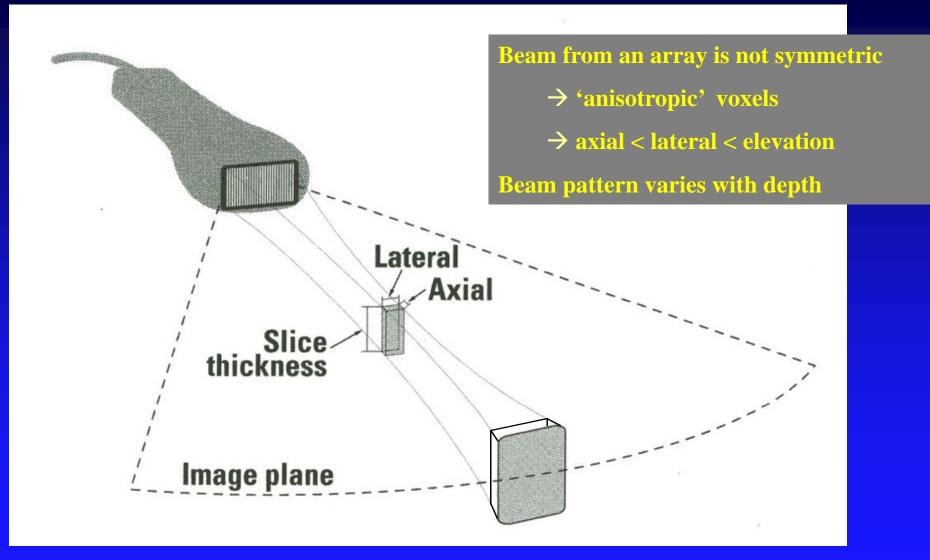
A Resolution components in 3-D space.



'Beam Thickness'

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Array Resolution



Zagzebski

Resolution

• **Detail (geometric) resolution**

• <u>Temporal</u> (frame-rate) resolution

Temporal Resolution

Frame Rate: the number of 2D images that can be produced per second

Decreases with increasing imaging depth

• Decreases with increasing number of scan lines

Temporal Resolution

Pulse Repetition Frequency

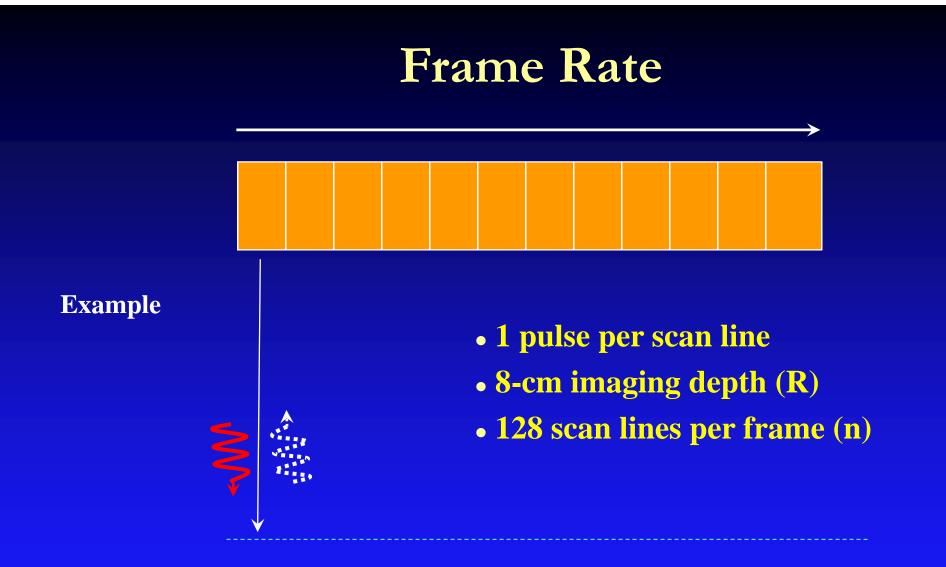
- If echoes can arrive from as far as depth R, then we must wait <u>at</u> <u>least</u> until t = 2R/c to transmit the next pulse
- Therefore the Pulse Repetition Frequency (PRF) must be $\leq c/2R$

<u>Frame Rate</u>

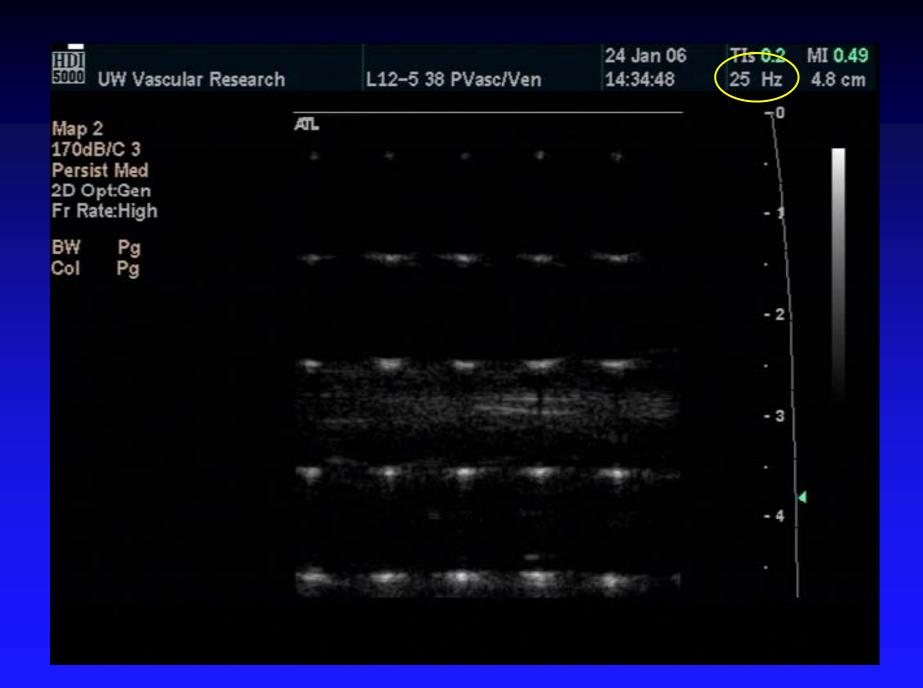
- Each pulse echo is used to construct one line of a 2D B-mode image
- If the B-mode image is made up of n lines, then the time to scan one 2D frame is n(2R/c) = n/PRF
- Therefore the maximum Frame Rate is

$$FR_{max} = PRF/n = c/2Rn$$

R = range = maximum depthn = number of scan lines per frame

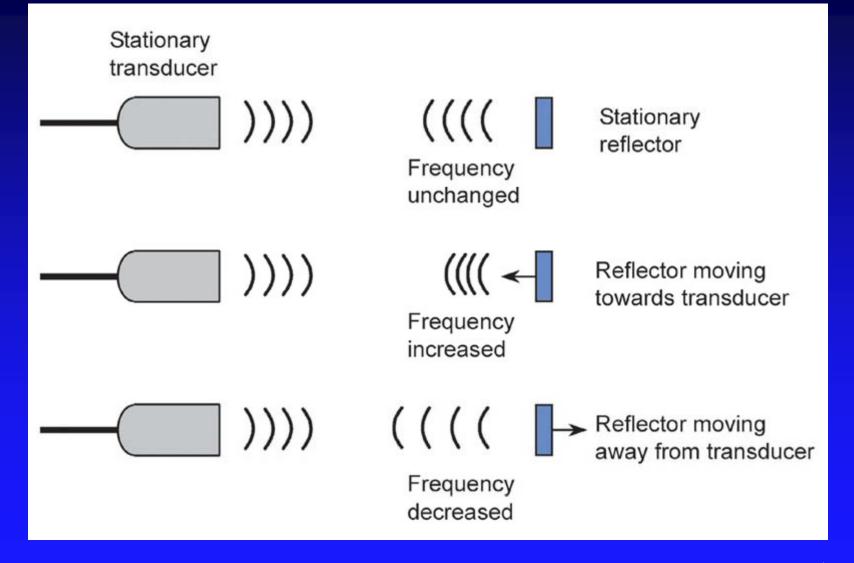


→ maximum PRF = c/2R = 9625 Hz
→ maximum Frame Rate = PRF/n = 75 frames/sec





Doppler Imaging



Amersham Medical

The Doppler Shift

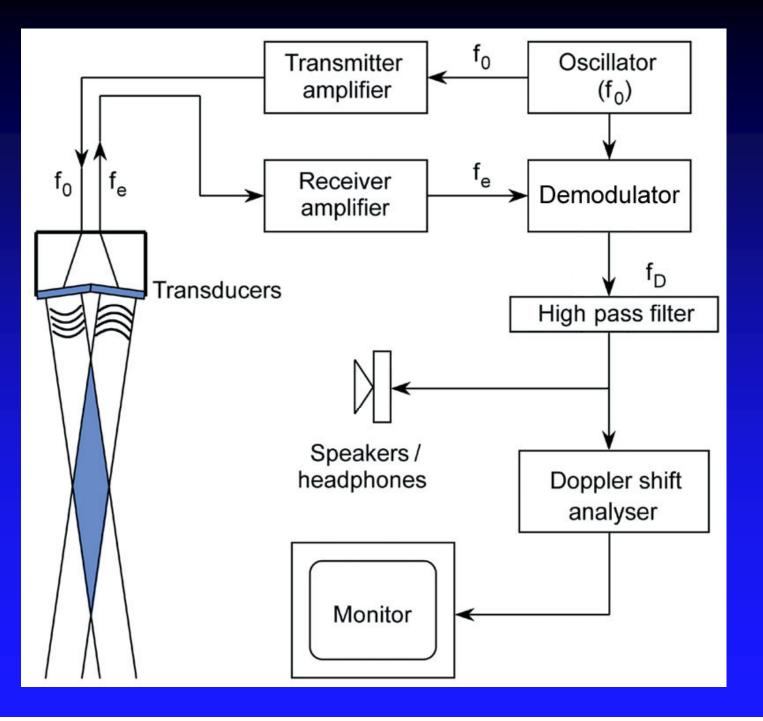
- The Doppler shift is the change in the frequency of sound due to motion of the source of the sound or the observer (or both)
- It equals 2 times the transmit frequency multiplied by the velocity and the cosine of the angle of incidence, all divided by the propagation speed of sound in human soft tissue

$\Delta f = 2 v f_{f} \cos \theta$ v = velocity $f_{t} = transmit frequency$ θ = angle of insonation c = speed of sound in human soft tissue

Doppler Imaging

• Visualization of anatomy and blood flow

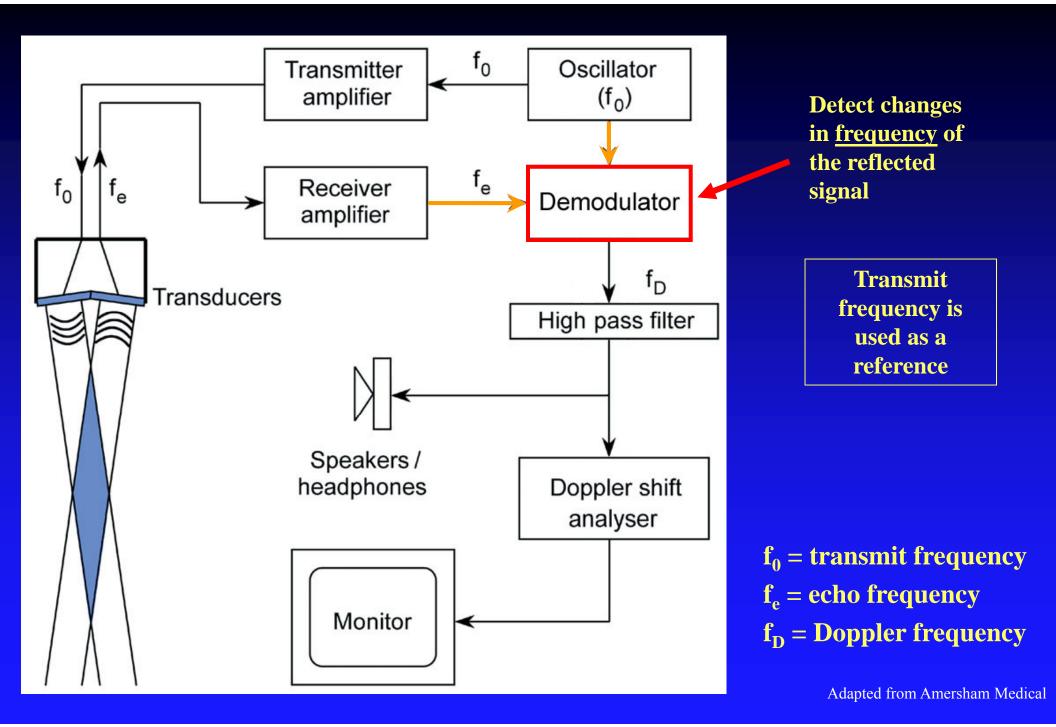
- Frequency shifts due to moving scatterers (red blood cells) are measured and displayed
- Color Doppler
 - 2D image showing presence, speed, direction, and character of blood flow
- Spectral Doppler
 - Detailed flow measurement at a single location



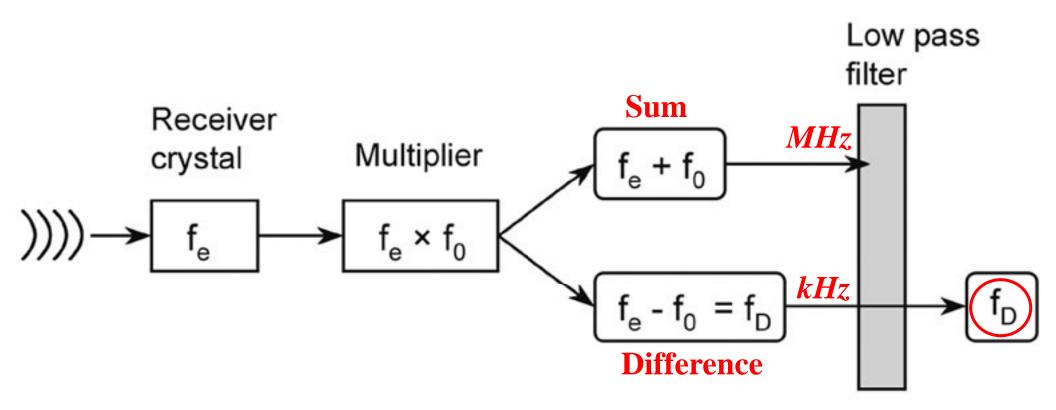
Basic Doppler Instrument

Continuous Wave

 $f_0 = transmit frequency$ $f_e = echo frequency$ $f_D = Doppler frequency$



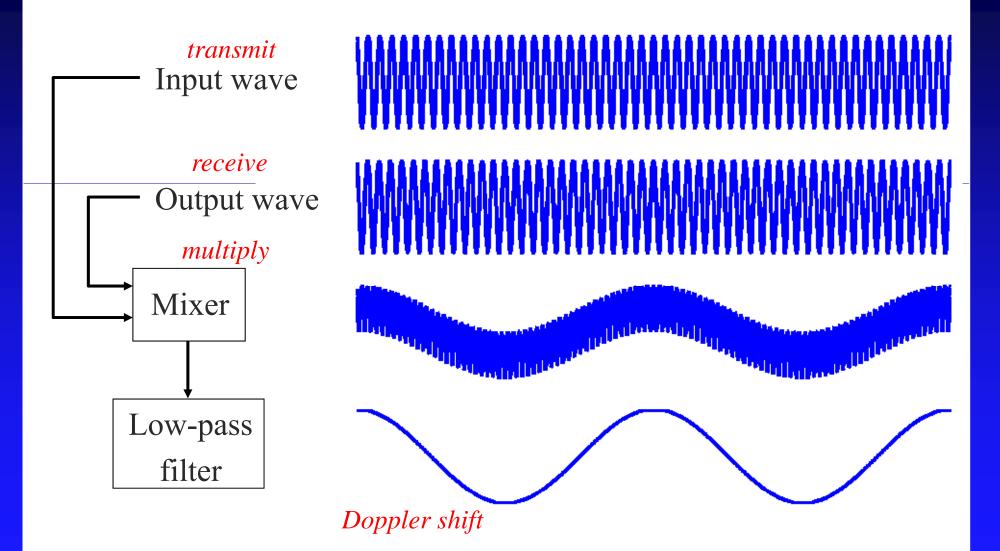
Demodulation



f₀ = transmit frequency
f_e = echo frequency (received)
f_D = Doppler frequency

Amersham Medical

Demodulation

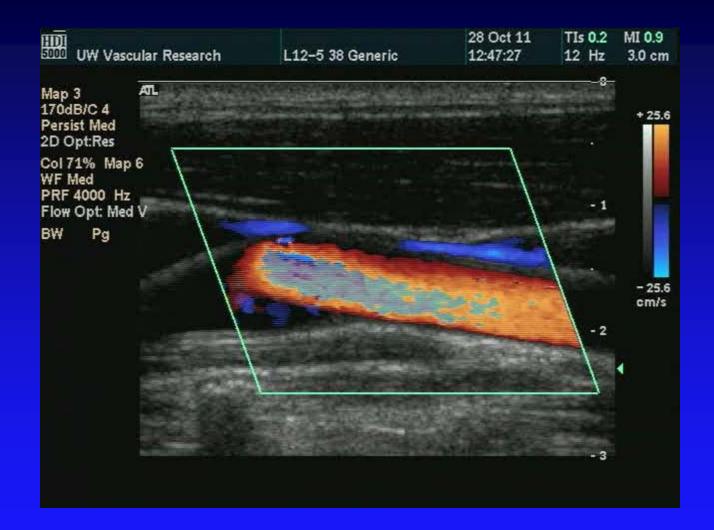


Kerwin / UW

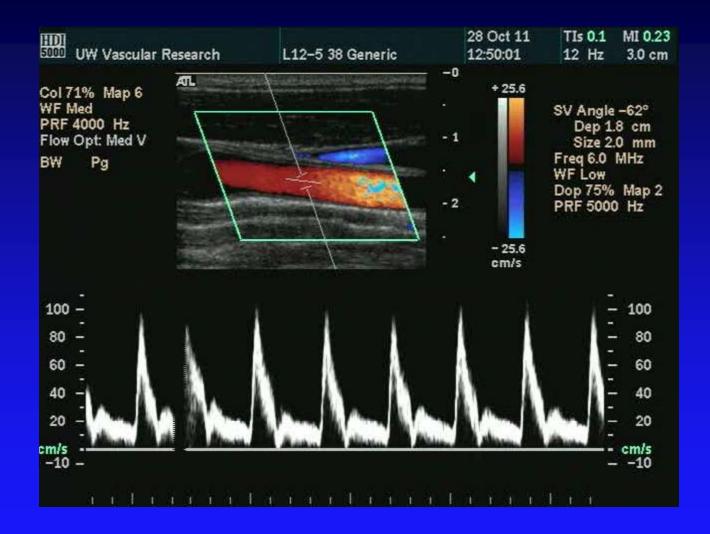
Doppler Imaging

• Visualization of anatomy and blood flow

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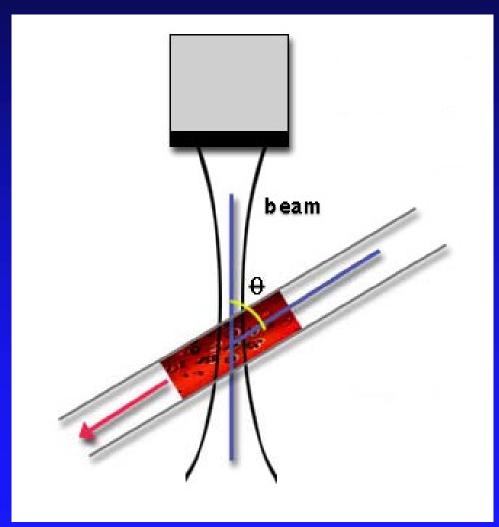


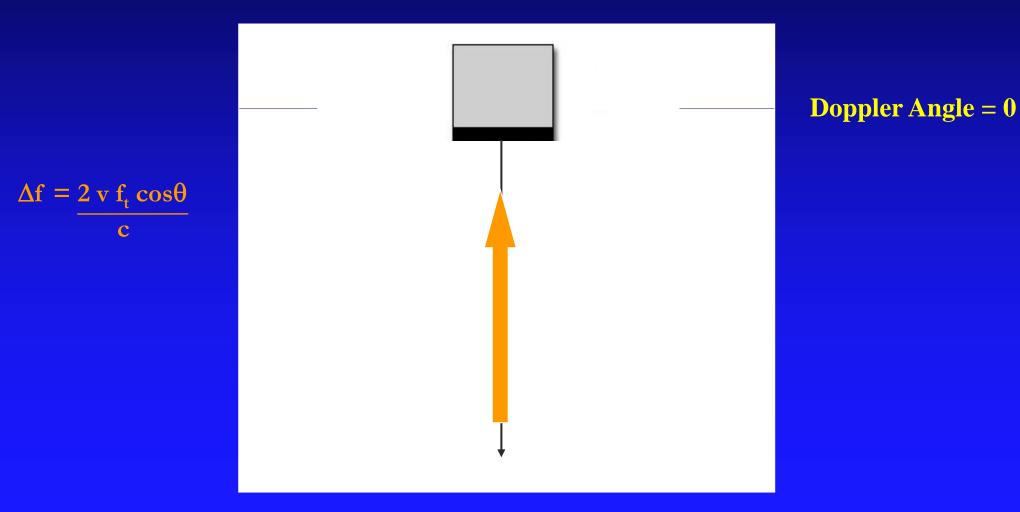


Spectral Doppler

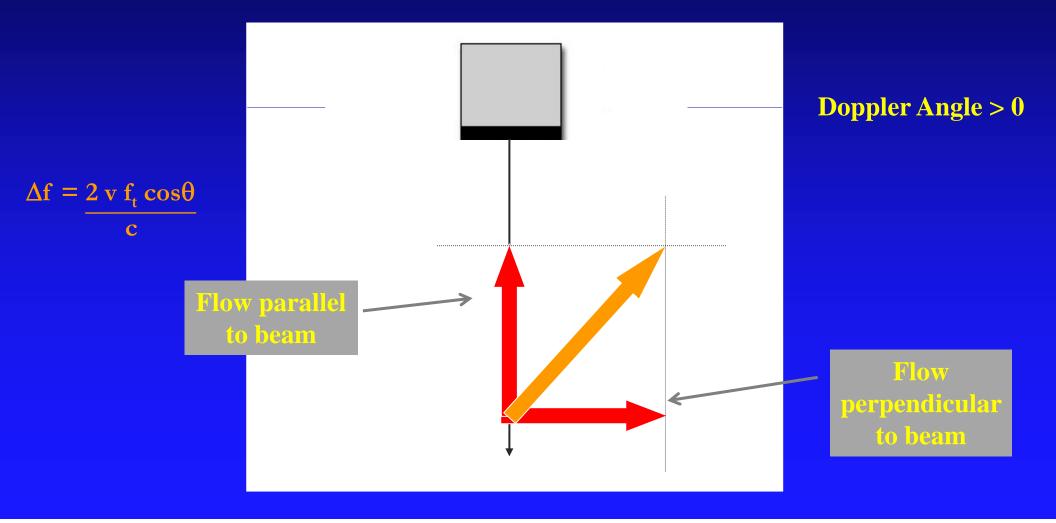
- Angle between sound travel & flow
- 0 degrees
 - flow in direction of sound travel
- 90 degrees
 - flow perpendicular to sound travel
 - no Doppler shift

$$\Delta f = \frac{2 v f_t \cos\theta}{c}$$

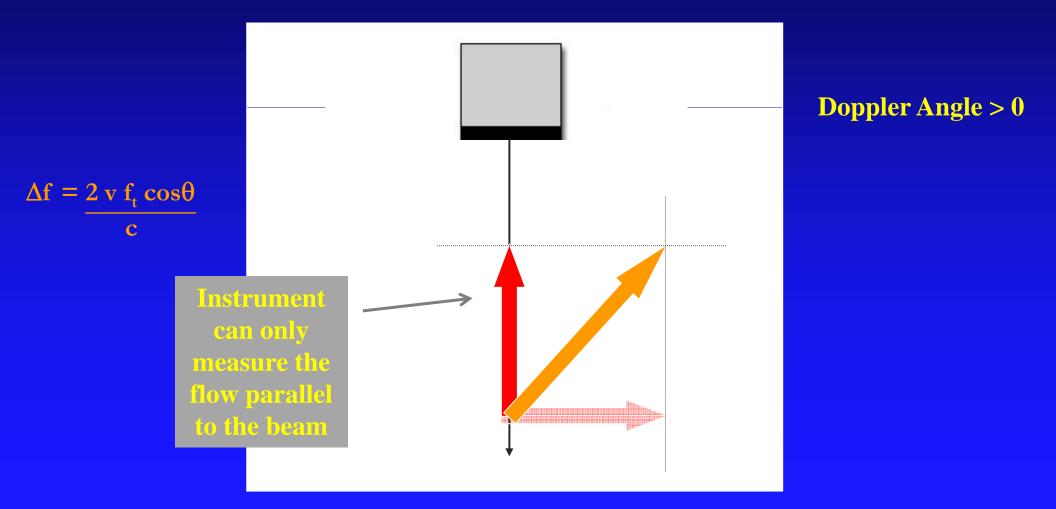




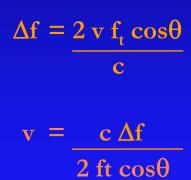
• Flow vector can be separated into two vectors

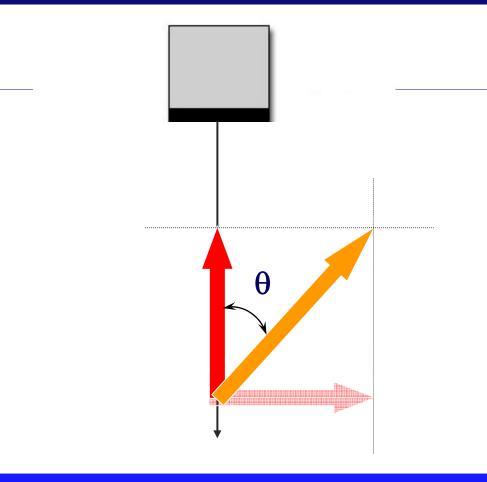


• Flow vector can be separated into two vectors



• Flow vector can be separated into two vectors



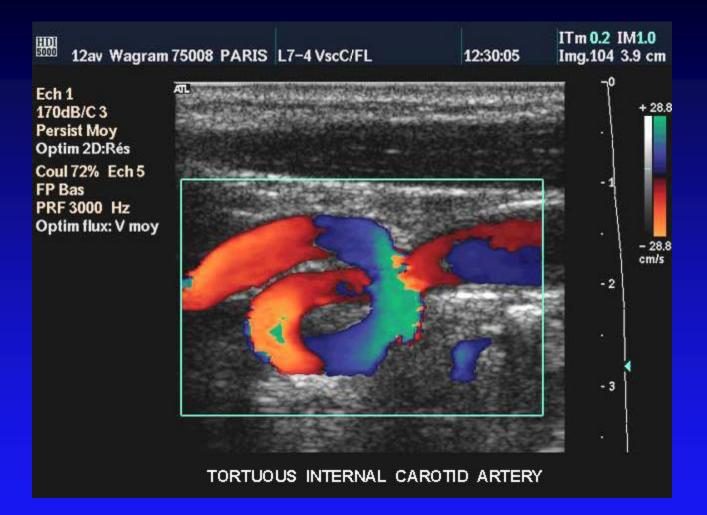


Doppler Angle > 0

Sensed flow always
 ≤ actual flow

• Cosine corrects for angle in the velocity calculation

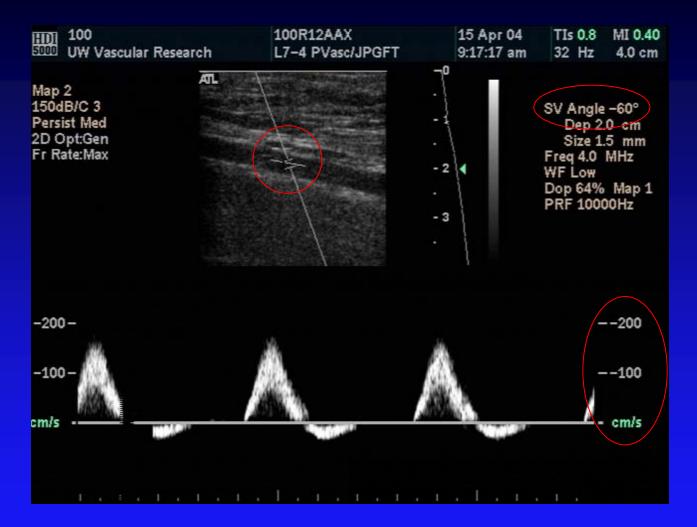
Color Doppler



Color flow systems represent the velocity in each pixel as a single value represented by a color selected from a color scale

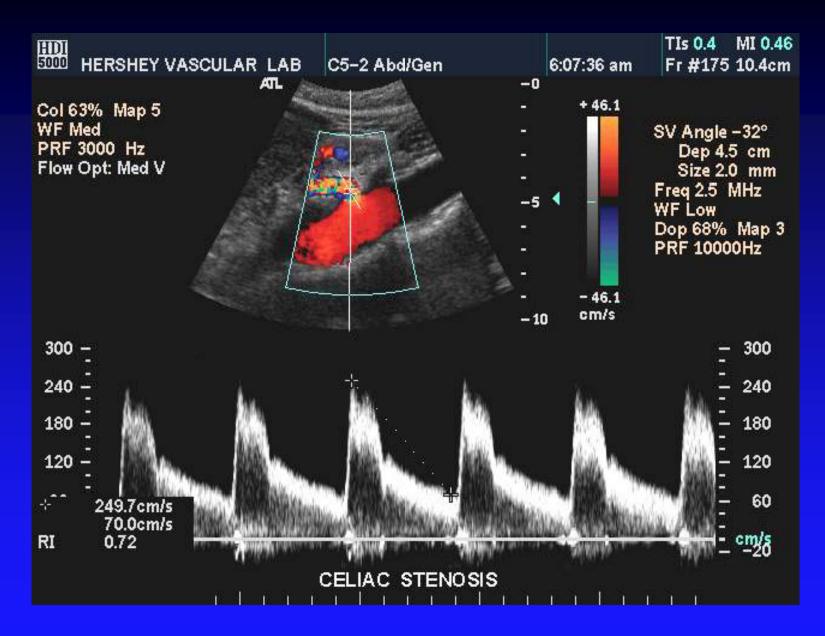
Note: velocity estimate changes with angle

Pulse Wave (Spectral) Doppler



Pulse wave systems measure the Doppler frequency spectrum at a specified depth and display the calculated velocities as a function of time

Angle estimate provided by operator



Color Doppler guidance to sites of interest for Spectral Doppler

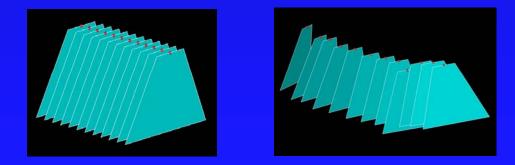
Three-Dimensional Ultrasound Imaging

3D Ultrasound

- Limitations of 2D ultrasound
 - 2D slices through a 3D structure
 - spatial relationships (between images and studies) are not preserved

• Benefits of 3D ultrasound

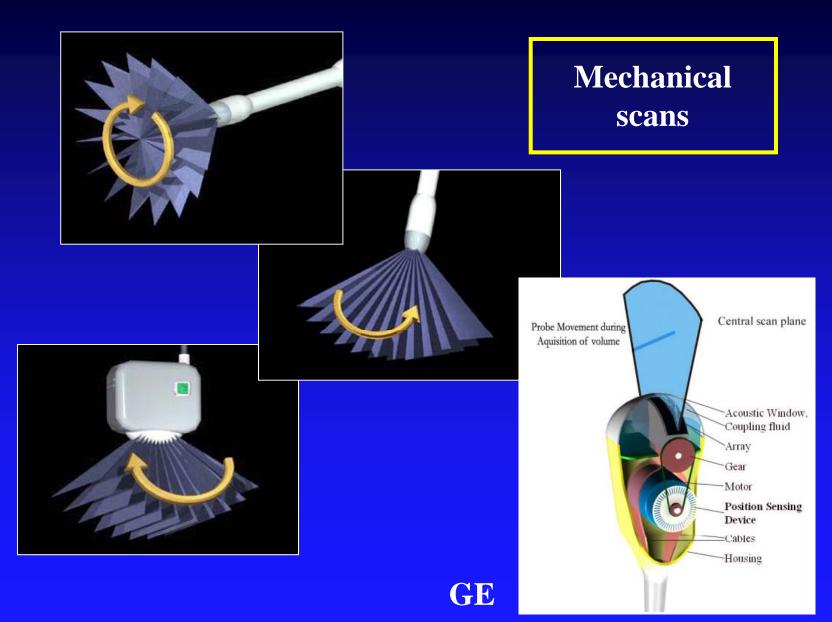
- robust displays enhance interpretation
- measurements require fewer geometric assumptions
- Acquisition methods
 - relate multiple 2D images in a 3D coordinate system
 - capture data in a 3D volume



3D Ultrasound Methods: Mechanical



Medison



3D Ultrasound Methods: Freehand

Freehand systems





Optical Image Guided Technologies



Magnetic Ascension Technology

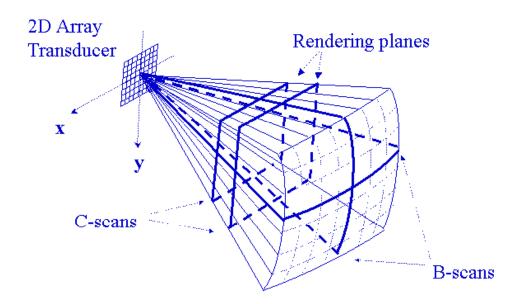
Articulated arm FARO

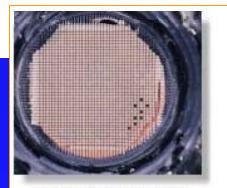
3D Ultrasound Methods: Volume Scan

2D array transducer

- N x N arrays are used to steer the ultrasound beam in both the azimuth and elevation directions
- Interrogate a pyramidal-shaped region and produce a volumetric image at high speeds without moving the transducer

• Recently-developed transducers include a 64 x 64 = 4096 element array operating at 3.5 MHz



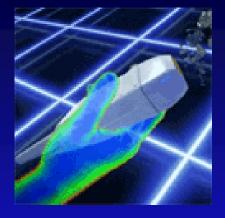


2-D matrix-array at Duke

Stennet, von Ramm Carnegie Mellon / Duke

3D Ultrasound Methods: Volume Scan

2D array transducer



Tricuspid / Mitral



• N x N arrays are used to steer the ultrasound beam in both the azimuth and elevation directions

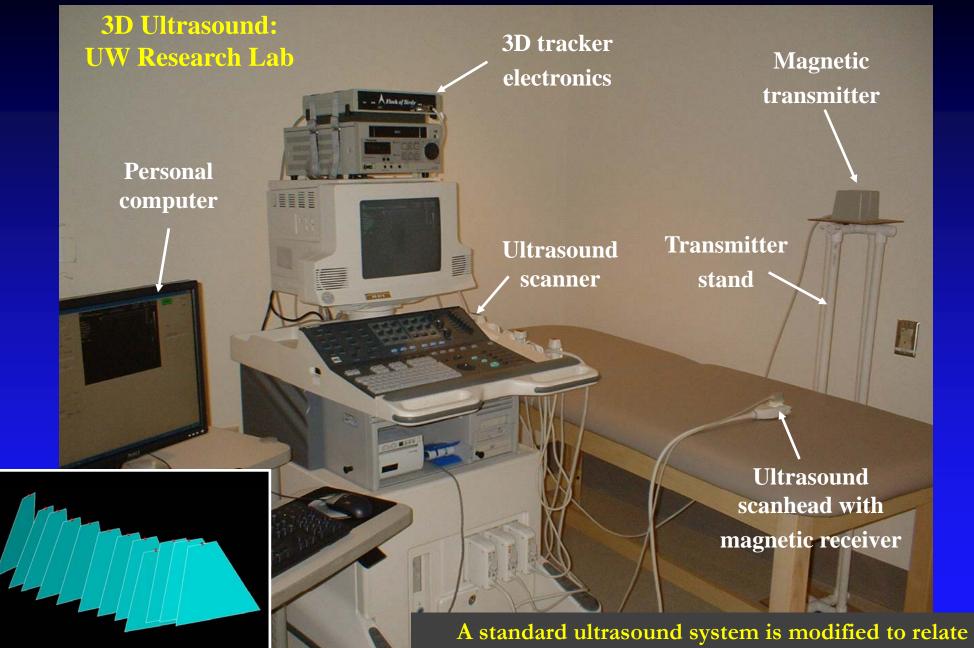
• Interrogate a pyramidal-shaped region and produce a volumetric image at high speeds without moving the transducer

• Recently-developed transducers include a 64 x 64 = 4096 element array operating at 3.5 MHz



Aortic / Tricuspid / Mitral

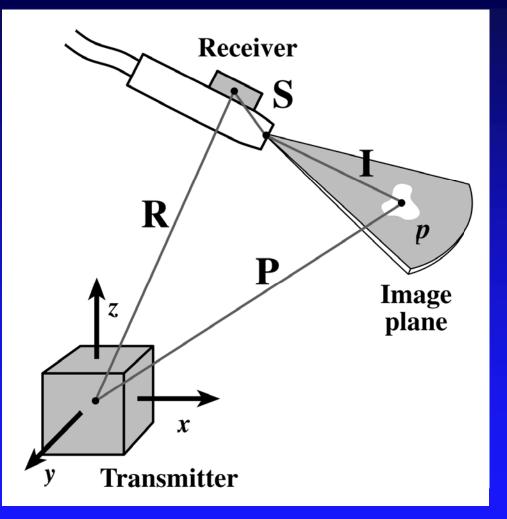
Philips Sonos 7500



Arbitrary image position and orientation

multiple 2D images in a 3D reference coordinate system

3D Ultrasound: Scanhead Tracking



- Relate pixel locations in ultrasound image with points in the 3D reference coordinate system
 - R: tracking output
 - S: calibration
 - I: in-plane pixel location
 - P: 3D pixel location

Volume Reconstruction

- Insert 2D image data into a regular 3D grid
- No manual interaction required
- Variety of display options

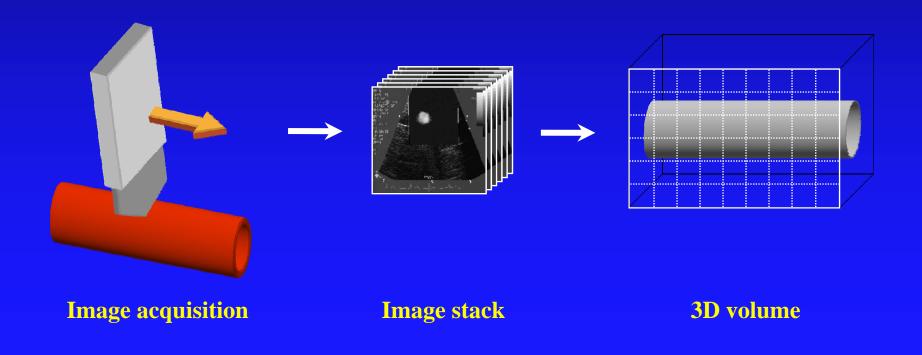
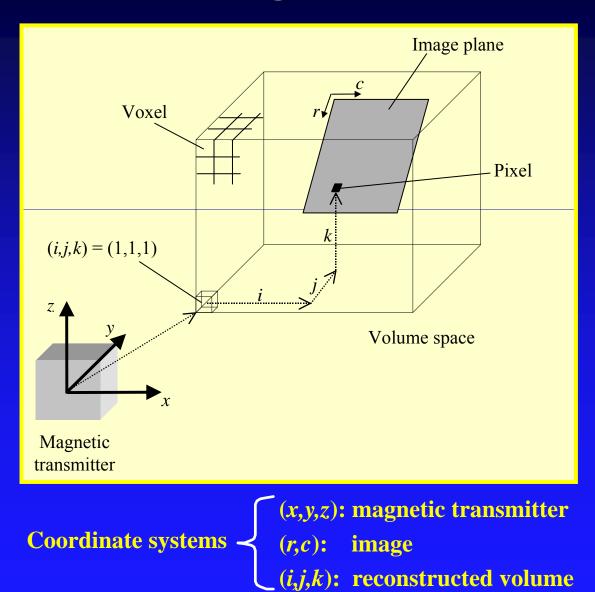


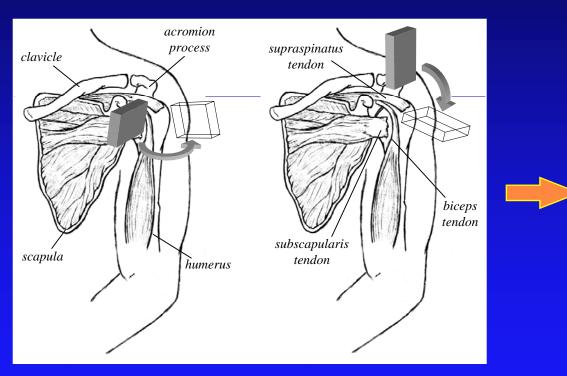
Image-to-Volume Processing



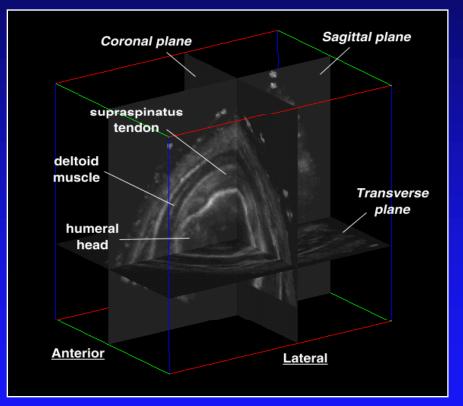
 Calculate volume bounds in transmitter coordinate system based on all images

- Specify voxel size in mm
- Calculate 3D location of pixel
- Calculate voxel number corresponding to pixel's 3D location
- Insert pixel value in voxel

Shoulder Rotator Cuff



Images acquired from multiple windows



3D volume reconstruction

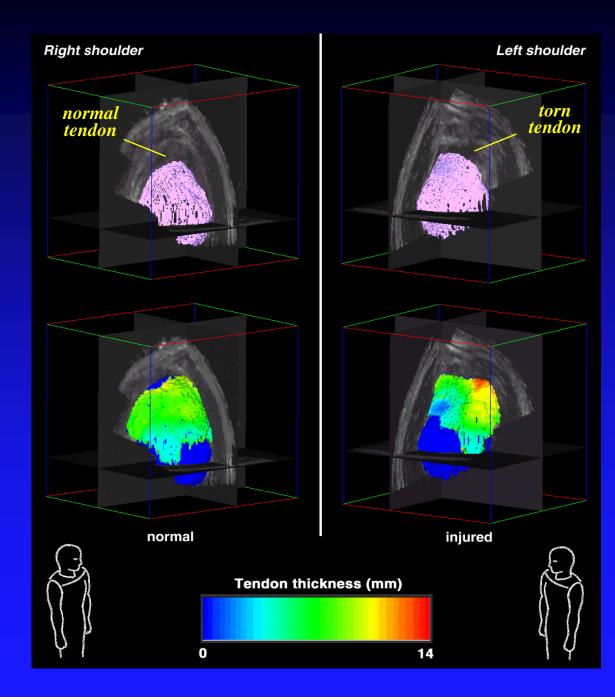
Rotator Cuff Thickness

• Tendon thickness measurements show changes in morphology in a subject with an acute tear of the left supraspinatus tendon. In particular note

the nearly uniform thickness
 of the normal tendon (≈ 7 mm)

the absence of the tendon on the anterior side of the bone in the injured shoulder

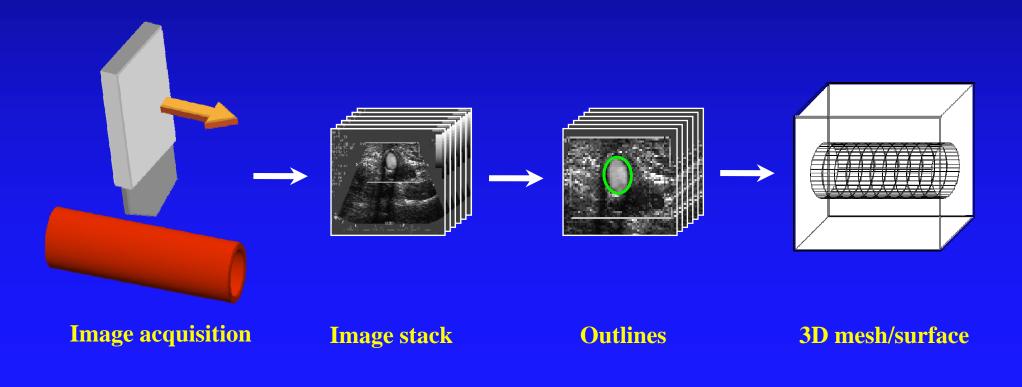
a pronounced bulge of the retracted end of the torn tendon (thickness ≈ 14 mm)



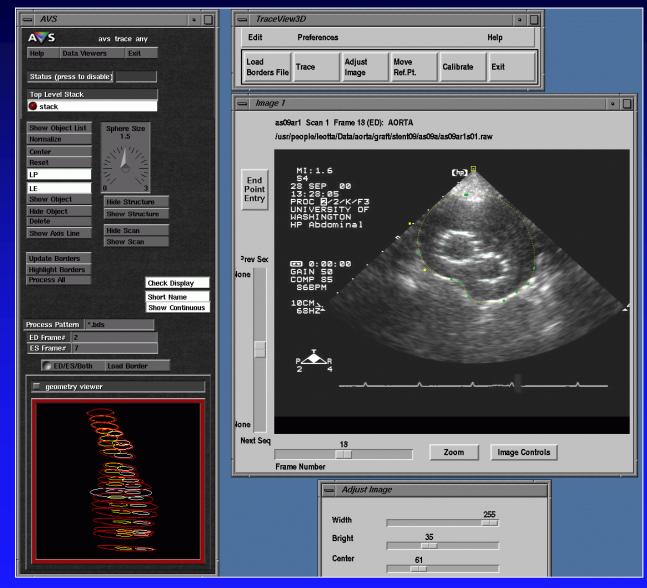
Leotta and Martin UMB, 26:509, 2000

Surface Reconstruction

- The vessel is traced on each image
 - manual or semi-automated
- Outline points are connected to create a surface for visualization and measurement



Surface Reconstruction

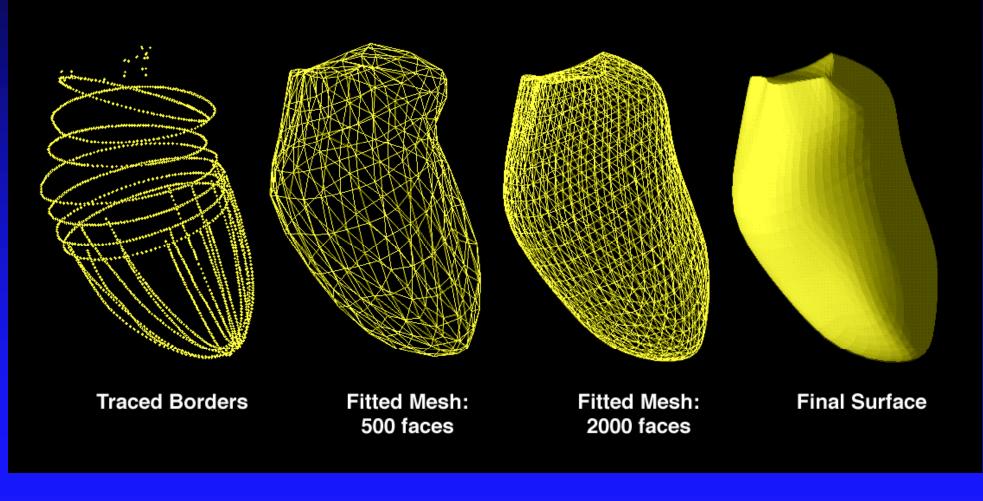


- Image outlining for structure measurement
- Segment multiple structures of interest
- 3D viewing window helps assess /guide tracing

Cardiovascular Research Training Center, UW

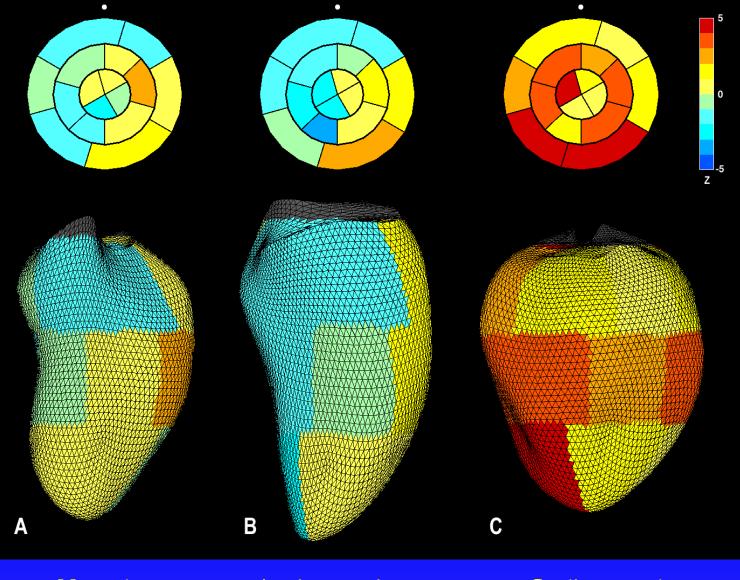
Surface Reconstruction

Left Ventricle: Endocardium



Leotta et al. J Am Soc Echocard, 1997

Cardiac Shape



Compare
individual
reconstructed
surfaces to a
normal model
derived from
imaging of a
representative
population

•

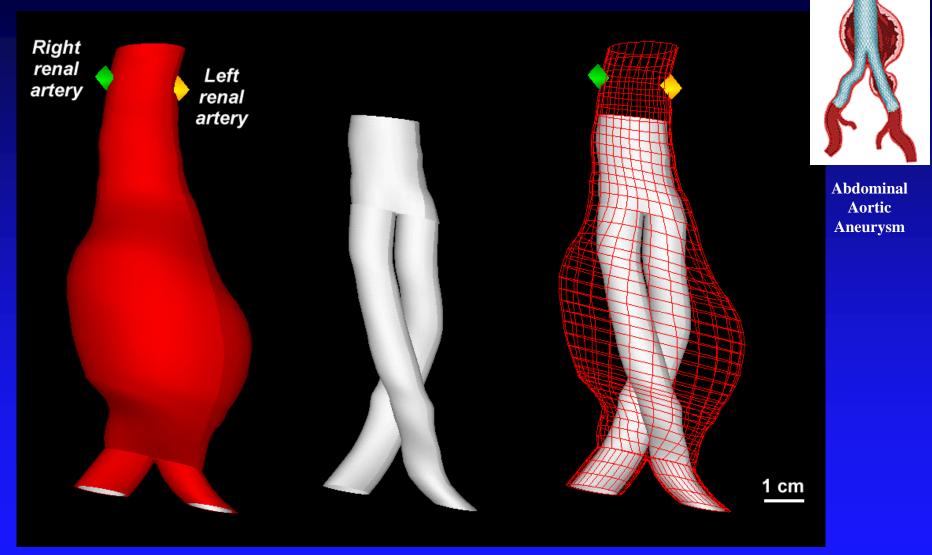
Normal

Aortic stenosis

Cardiomyopathy

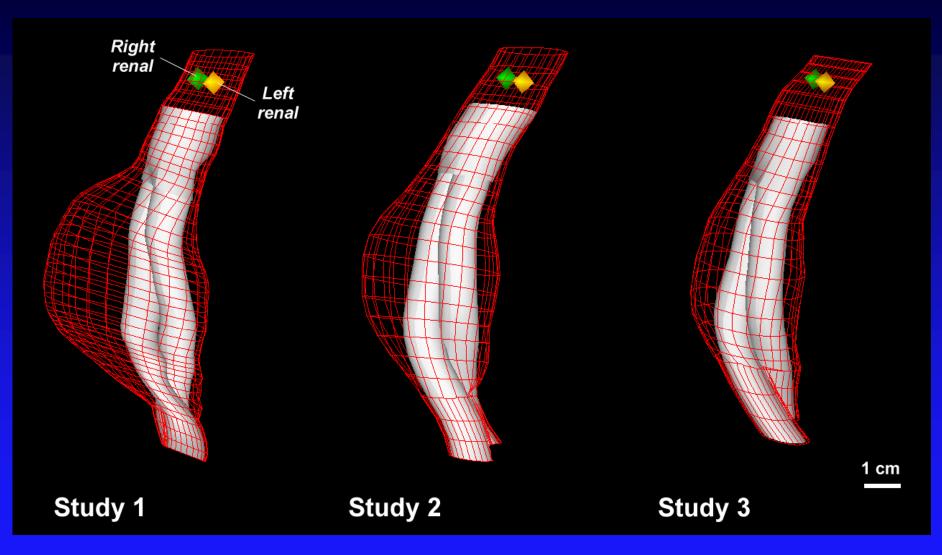
Munt et al. J Am Soc Echocard, 1998

AAA with Endovascular Graft



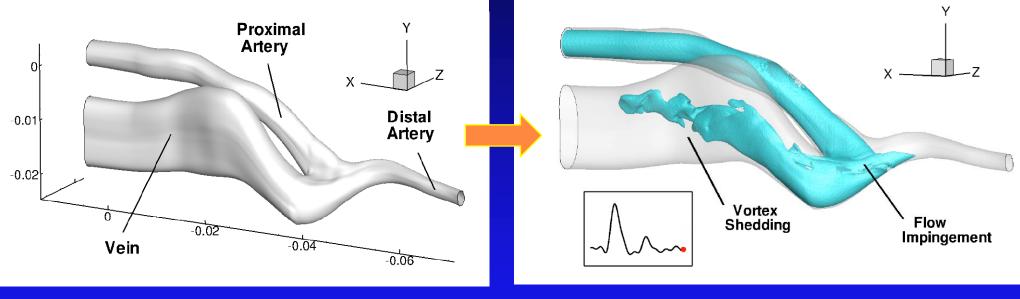
Anterior view of an aneurysm repaired by placement of an endovascular graft

AAA Serial Study



Repaired aneurysm imaged 2 weeks (*left*), 6 months (*center*) and 1 year (*right*) after graft placement

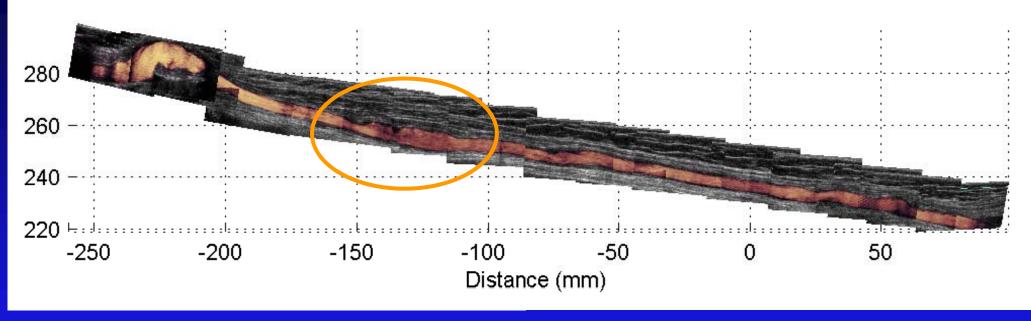
Computational Flow Modeling for Dialysis Access Surgical Planning



3D surface model

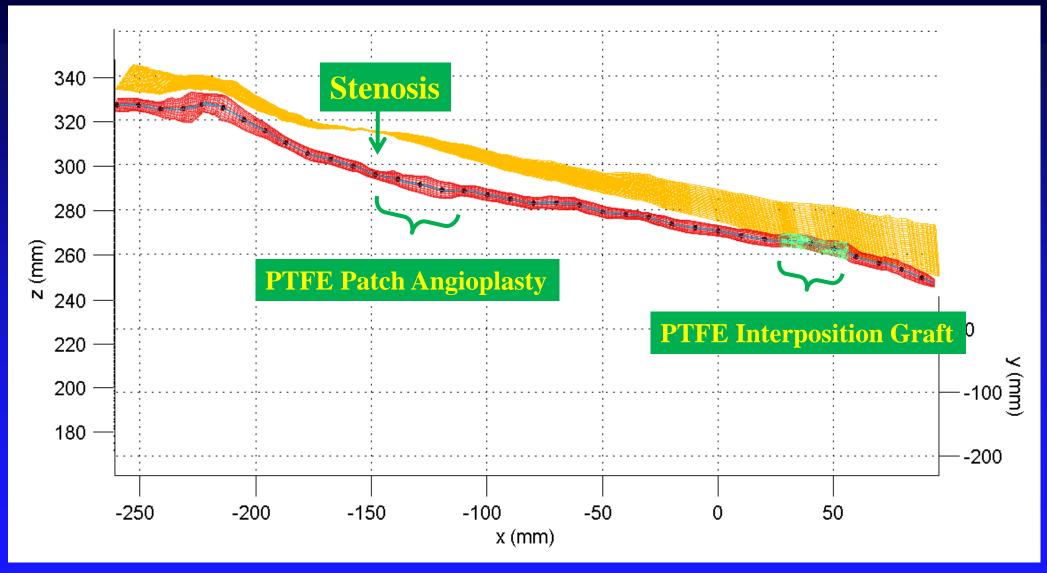
Computational flow model

Dialysis Access Arteriovenous Fistula

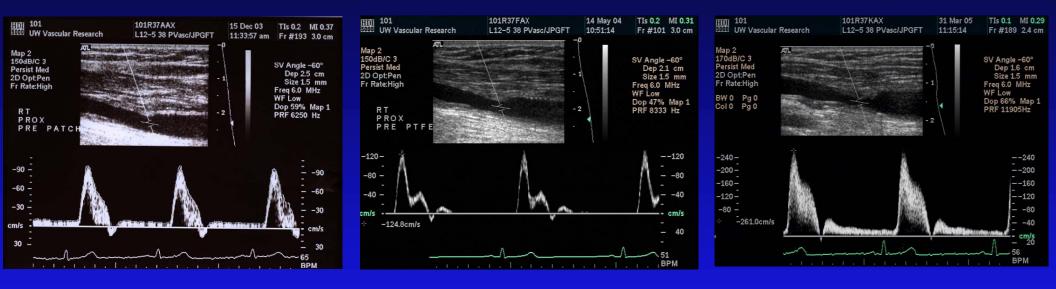


6 months post-revision

- Vein graft with progressing stenosis at site proximal to a PTFE patch angioplasty repair
 - Femoral to above-knee popliteal reversed saphenous vein graft
 - Original graft: November 1996
 - Revision: November 2003



6 months post-revision

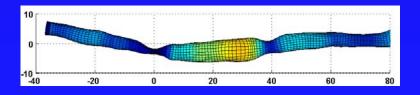


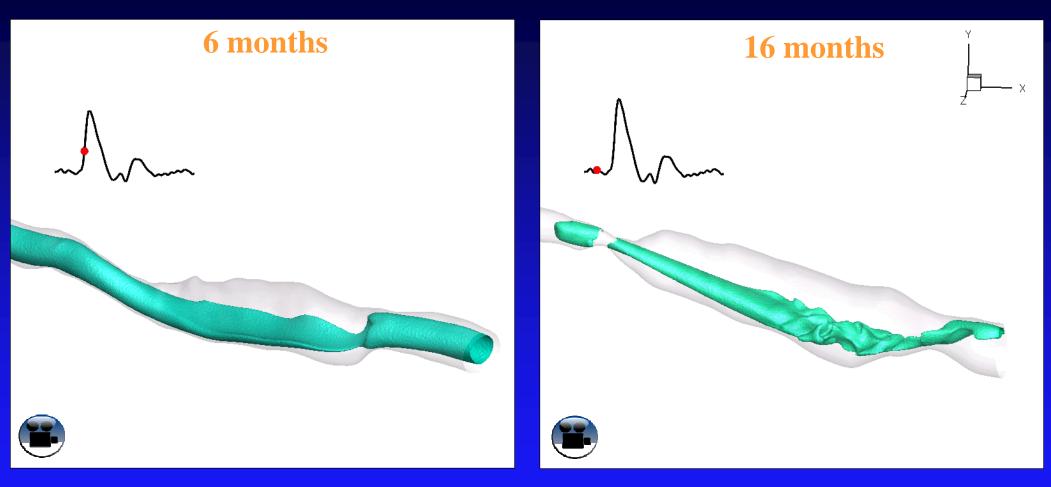
1 month

6 months

16 months

- Vein graft with progressing stenosis at site proximal to a PTFE patch angioplasty repair
 - Femoral to above-knee popliteal reversed saphenous vein graft
 - Revision: November 2003

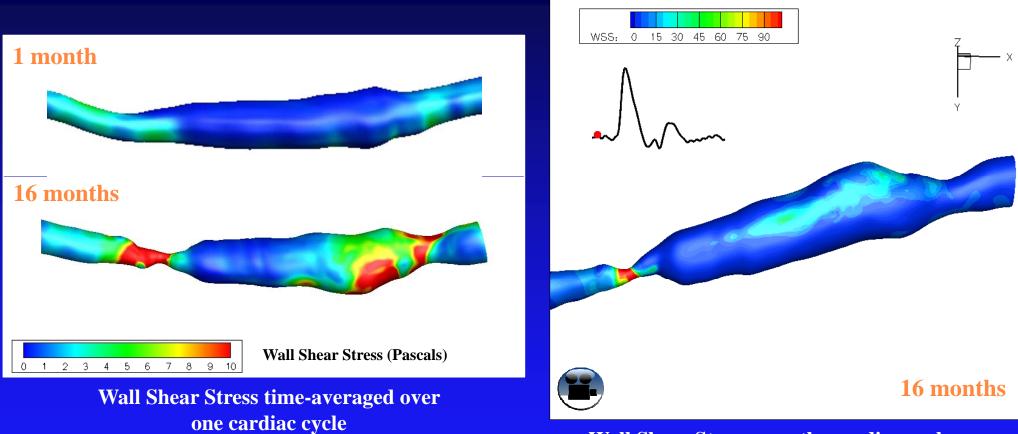




Axial Velocity over the Cardiac Cycle

• Turbulent jet impinging on vessel wall leads to dilation over time

McGah et al., J Biomech Eng, 2011



Wall Shear Stress over the cardiac cycle

<u>Wall Shear Stress</u>: stress (force per unit area) that is applied parallel or tangential to a face of a material

McGah et al., J Biomech Eng, 2011