

# About a few Challenges for Signal Processing in emission and transmission tomography

Pr Christian MOREL  
Centre de Physique des Particules de Marseille



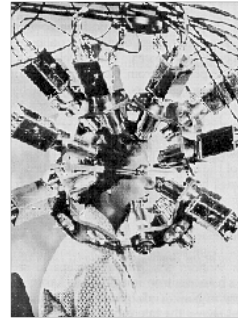
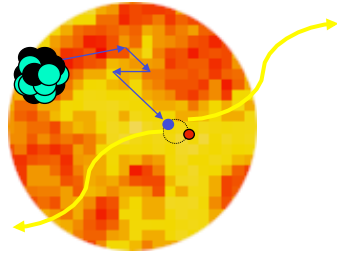
Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

**Tomography**

From Greek *tomê* (slice)  
+  
*graphô* (write)  
=  
Representation into slices

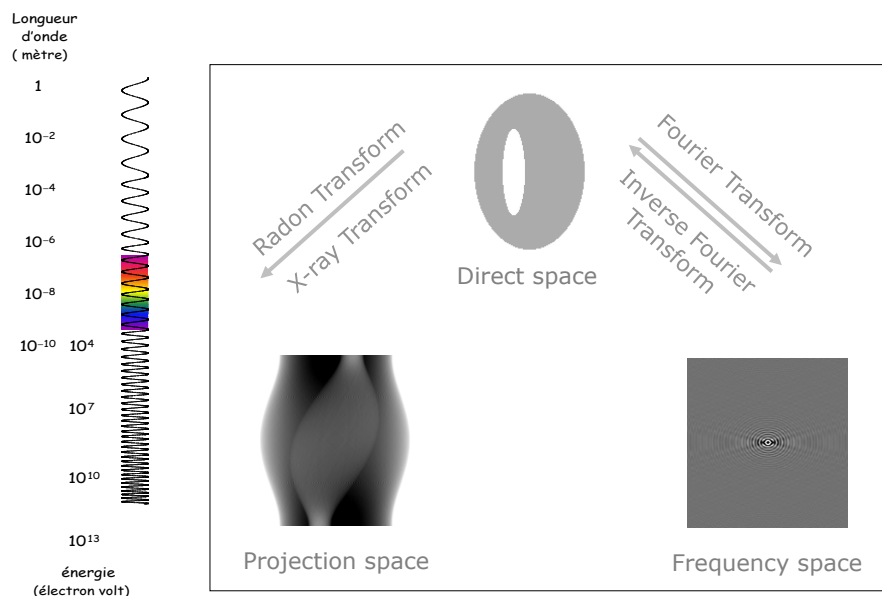
Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Positron Emission Tomography (PET)



Wrenn et al. The use of positron emitting radioisotopes for the localization of brain tumours  
*Science* **113** (1951) 525

## Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014



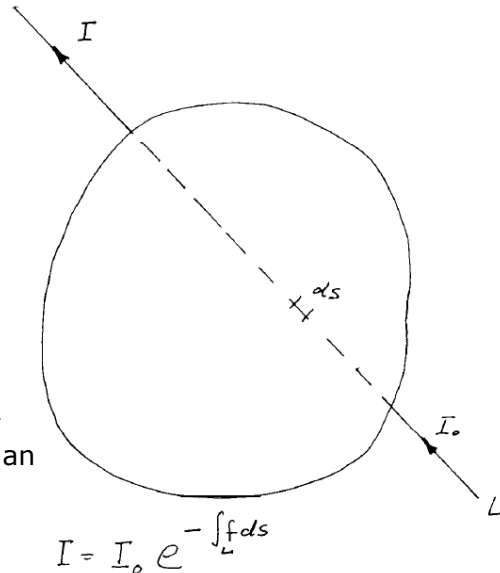
## Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Two dimensional image reconstruction

1963: Alan McLeod Cormack



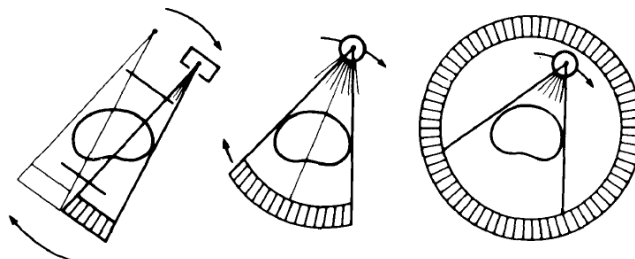
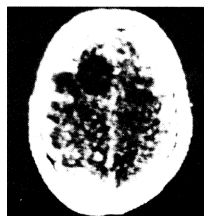
Rediscovery of an analytical inversion already published by Radon en 1917 to reconstruct an object in two dimensions (2D) from its line integrals (projections)



Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Computerized Assisted Tomography

1972: Godfrey N Hounsfield



30 detectors  
Scan time 18 seconds

300 detectors  
Scan time 2 - 4 seconds

700 stationary detectors  
Scan time 2 - 4 seconds

Development at EMI of X-ray computerized assisted tomography (CAT or CT scan)

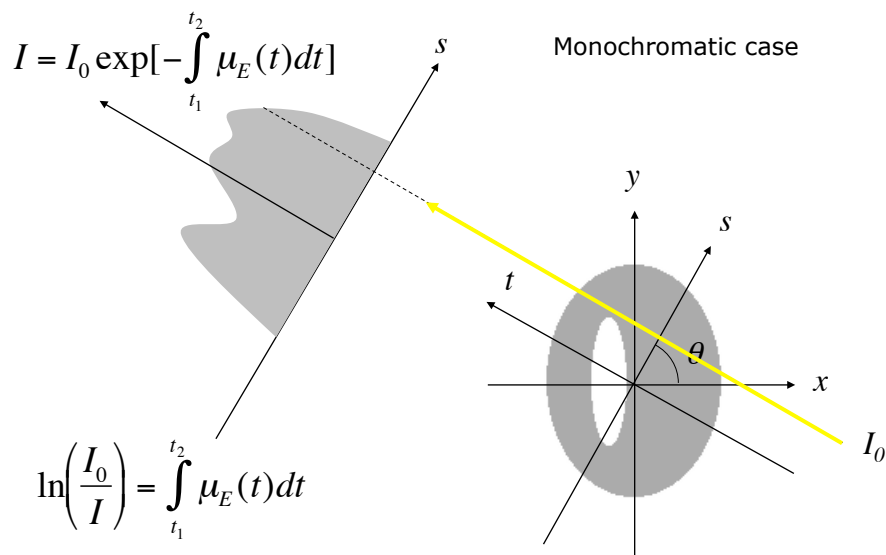
Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

# X-ray CAT or CT

1979: Hounsfield and Cormack received the Nobel Price in medicine for the development of computerized assisted tomography

Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

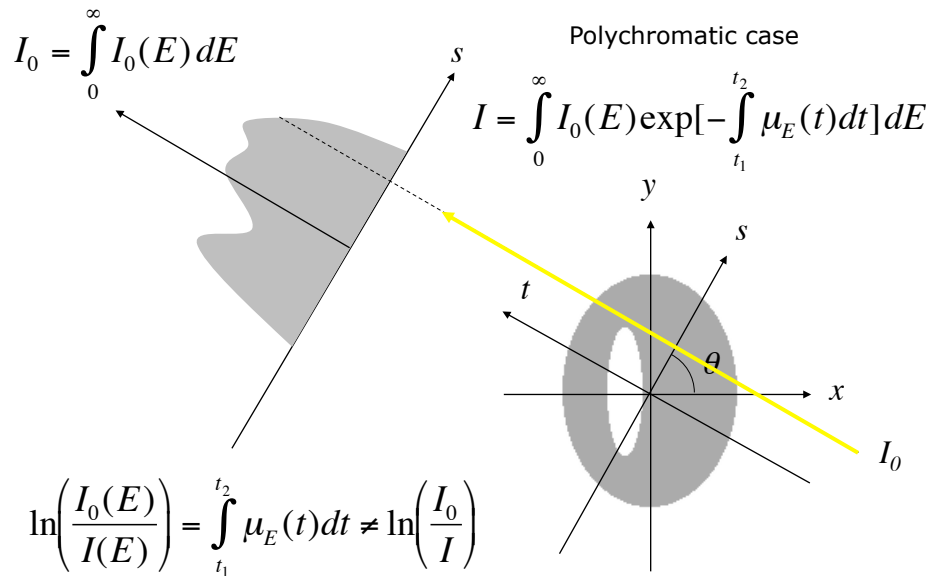
## Transmission tomography



Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

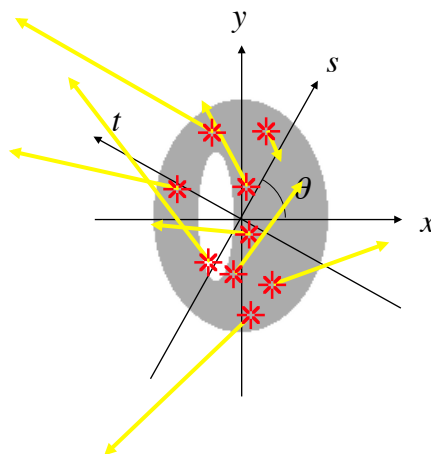


## Transmission tomography



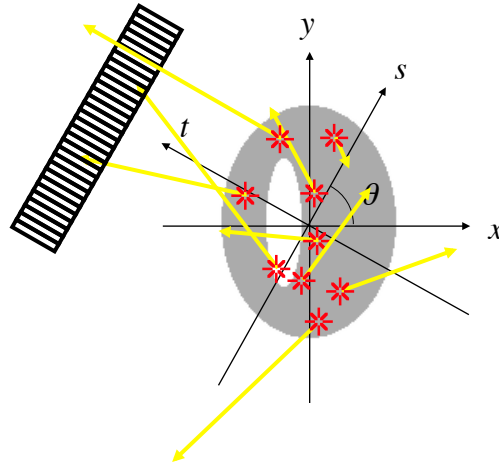
Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Emission tomography



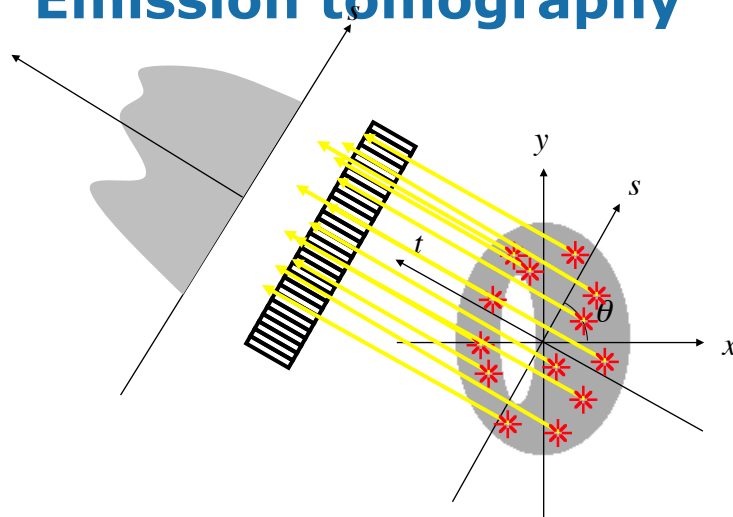
Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

# Emission tomography



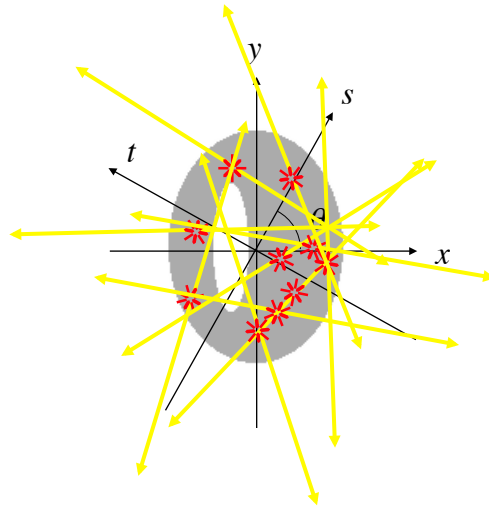
Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

# Emission tomography



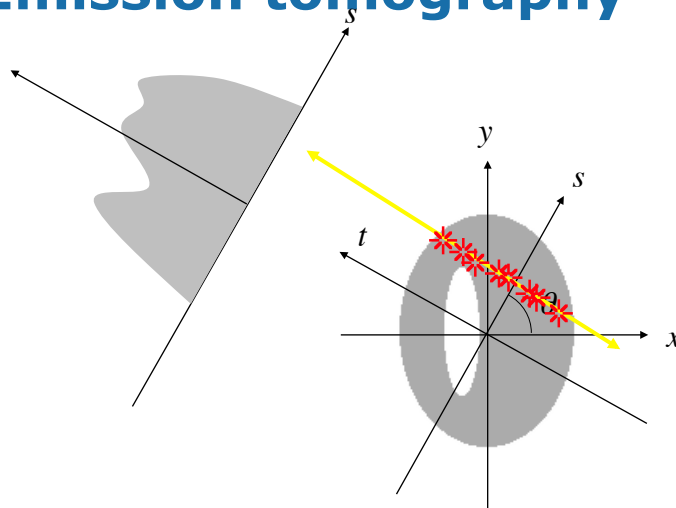
Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

# Emission tomography

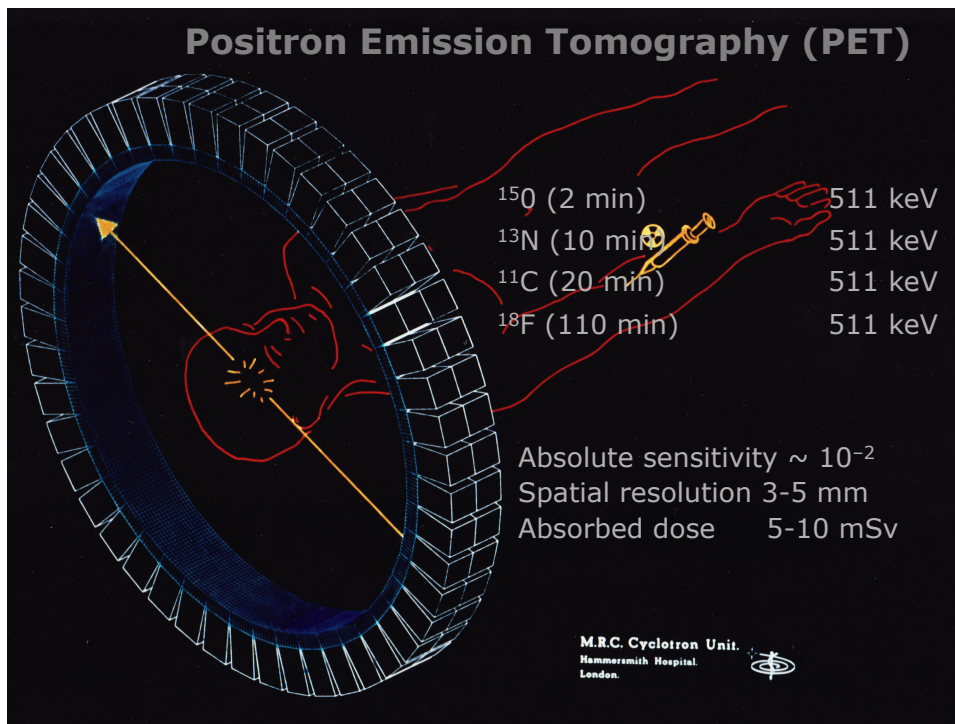


Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

# Emission tomography



Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014



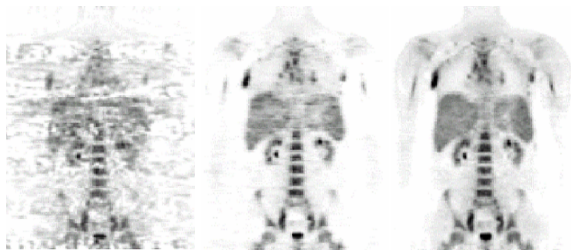
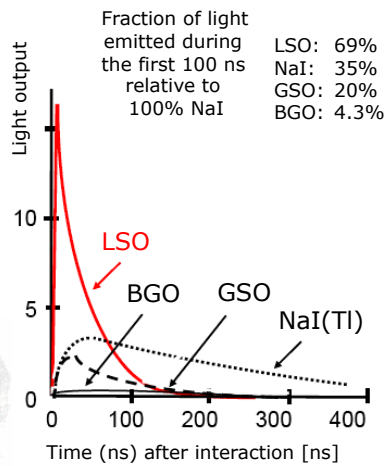
### Constant progress in instrumentation

			PET III 1975
			ECAT II 1977
			NeuroECAT 1978
			ECAT 931 1985
			ECAT EXACT HR+ 1995

Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Technical progress in PET

	BGO	LSO	GSO
Dens. [ $\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$ ]	7.13	7.4	6.7
Z effectif	74	66	61
Decay [ns]	300	35-45	30-60
ph/MeV	8200	28000	10000
% NaI(Tl)	15	75	25

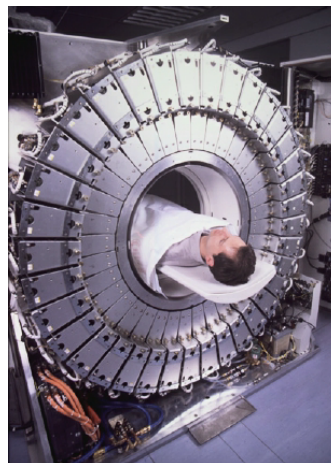
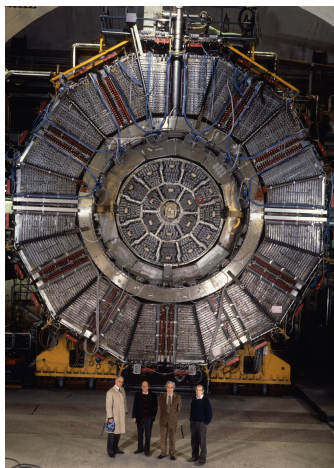


3DRP FORE+OSEM FORE+AWOSEM  
courtesy: DW Townsend, UPMC

- Detectors
- Data correction
- image reconstruction

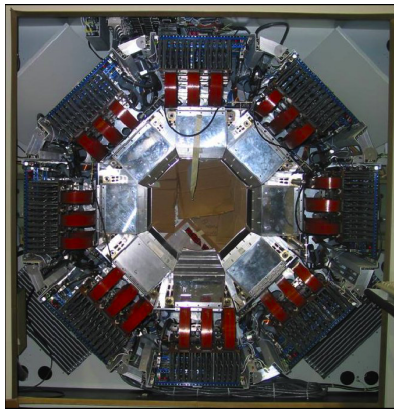
## Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Societal application of nuclear physics

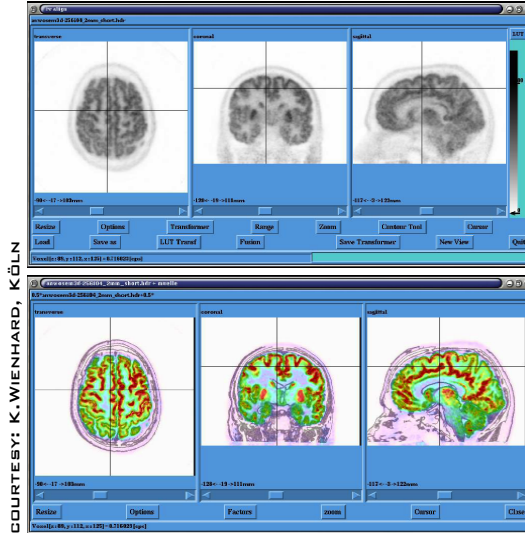


## Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## High Resolution Research Tomograph (HRRT)



- LSO/GSO phoswich
- 153600 crystals
- 1120 PMTs



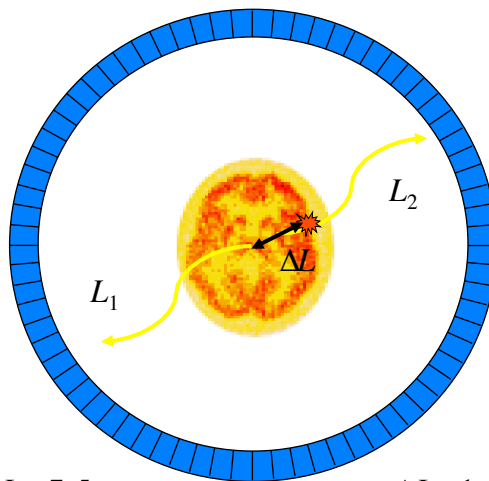
COURTESY: K. WIENHARD, KÖLN

40 min FDG fused with MRI-T1

Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Time-of-Flight PET (TOF-PET)

- $^{18}\text{F}$
- $^{11}\text{C}$
- $^{13}\text{N}$
- $^{15}\text{O}$
- $^{64}\text{Cu}$
- $^{68}\text{Ga}$
- $^{82}\text{Rb}$



$$\Delta L = \frac{L_1 - L_2}{2}$$

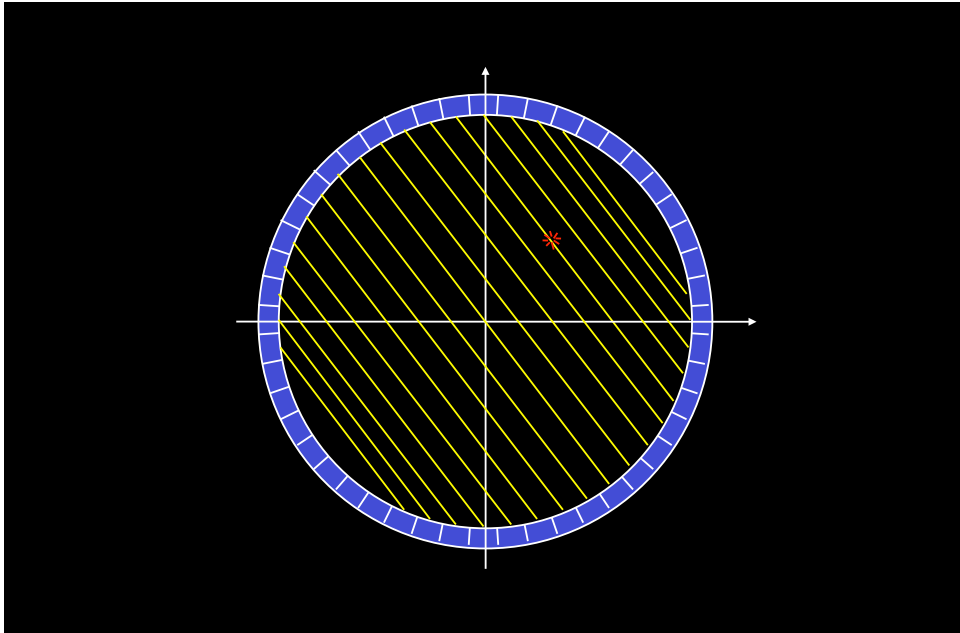
$$\Delta L = \frac{1}{2} c (t_1 - t_2)$$

$$\Delta L = \frac{1}{2} c \Delta t$$

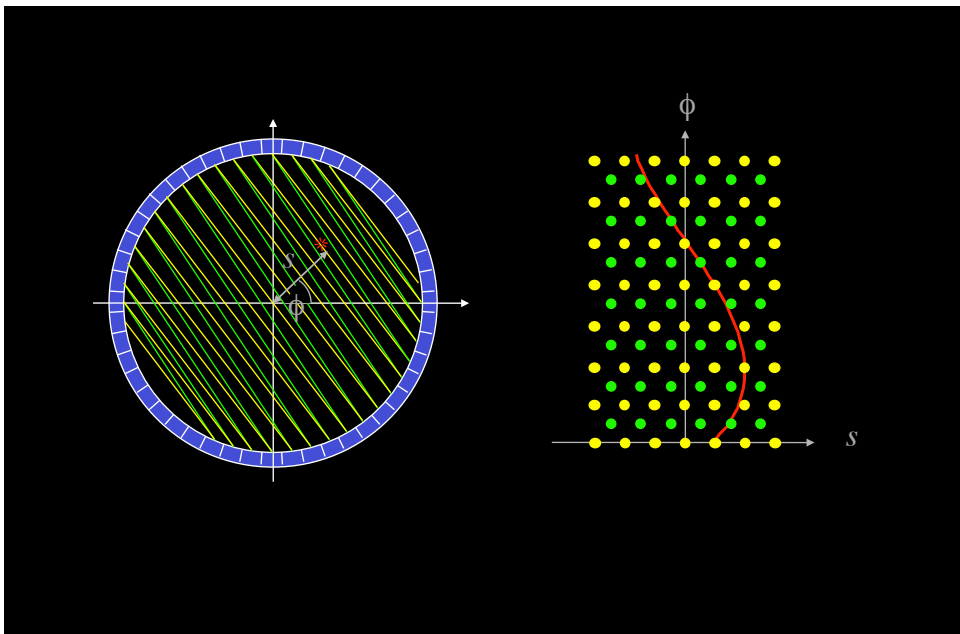
$$\Delta t = 500 \text{ ps} \Leftrightarrow \Delta L = 7,5 \text{ cm}$$

$$\Delta L = 1 \text{ mm} \Leftrightarrow \Delta t = 6,7 \text{ ps}$$

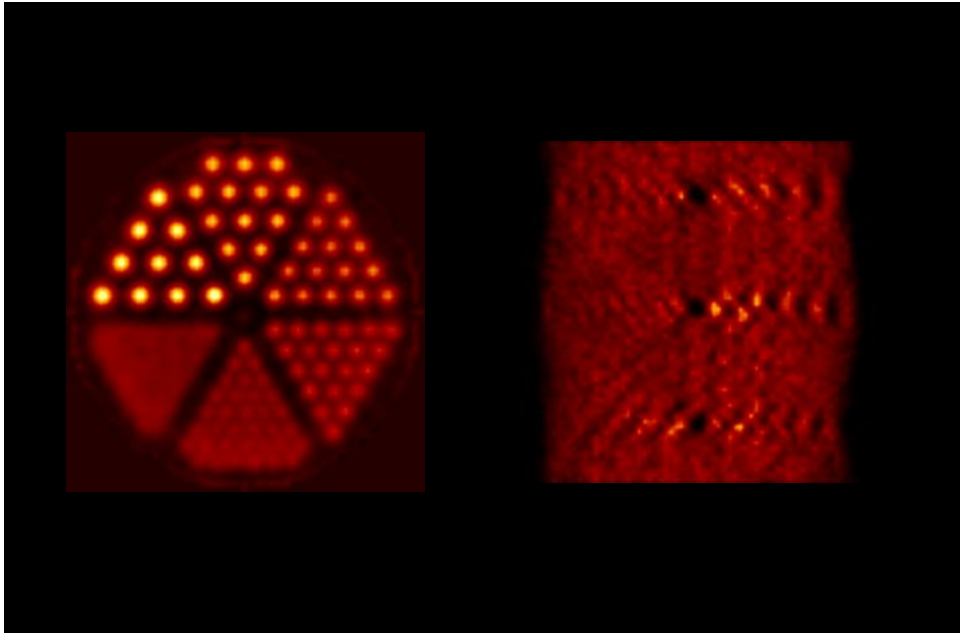
Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014



Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

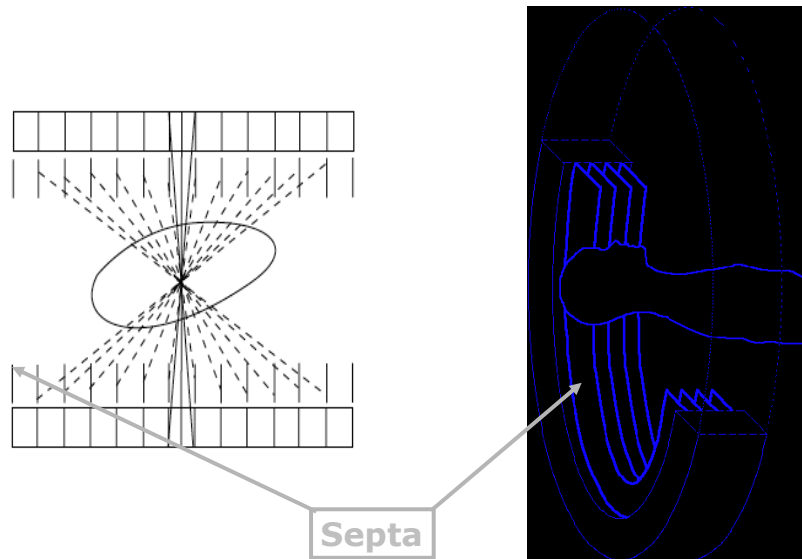


Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014



Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

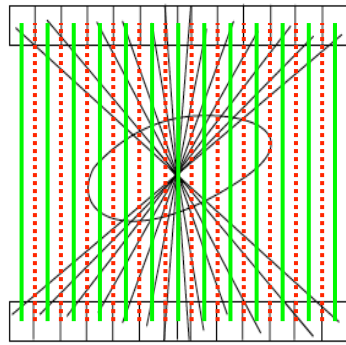
### 2D PET



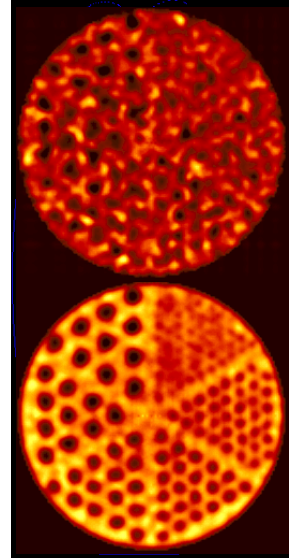
Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014



## 2D ...



2D  
3D

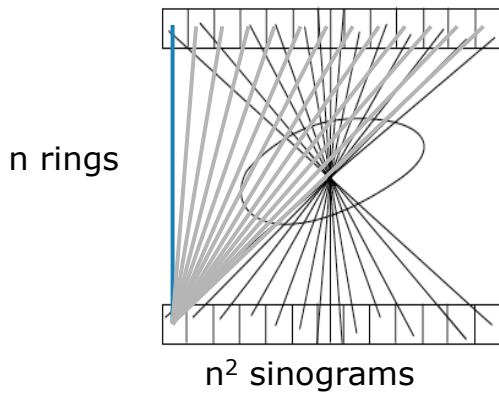


Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## ... and 3D PET

Direct LORs

Oblique LORs

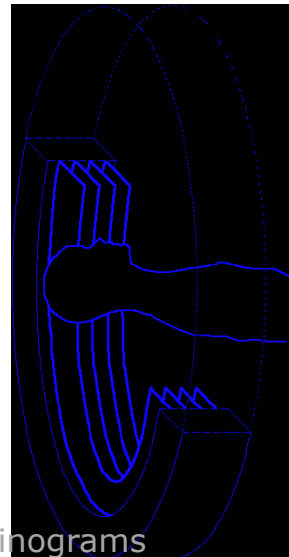


n rings

$n^2$  sinograms

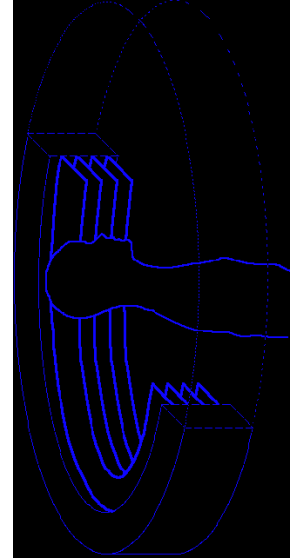
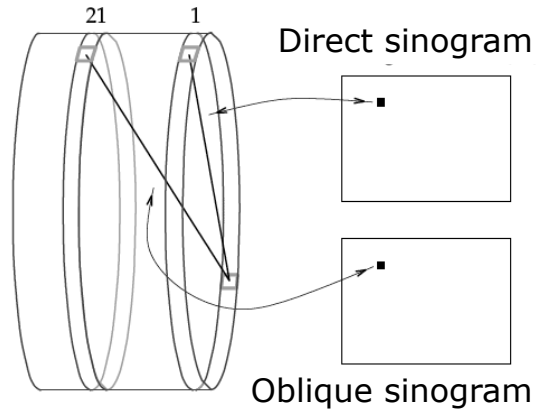
n direct sinograms

$n(n-1)$  oblique sinograms

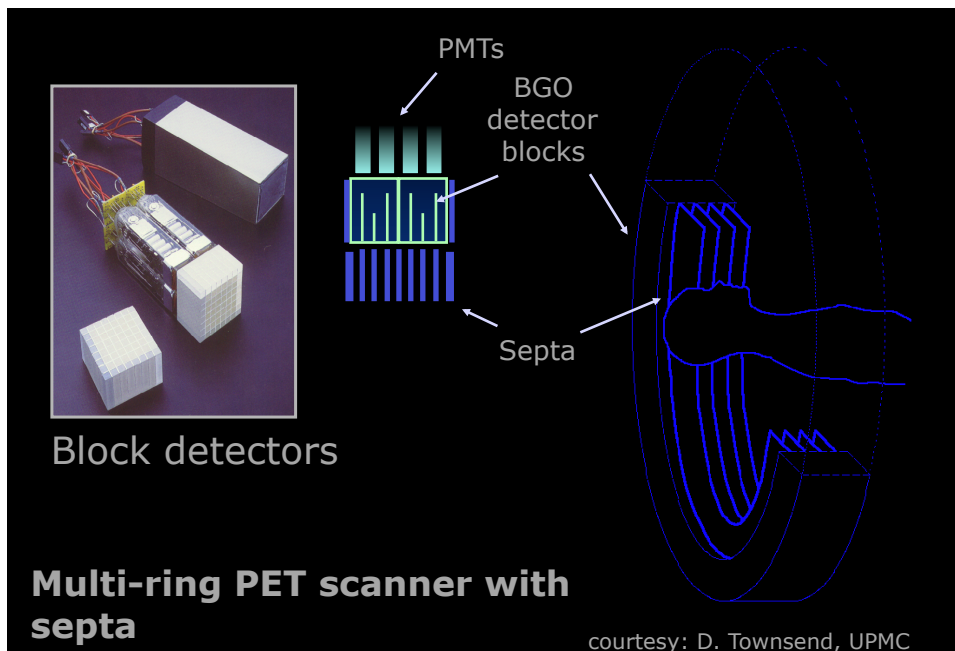


Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## ... and 3D PET

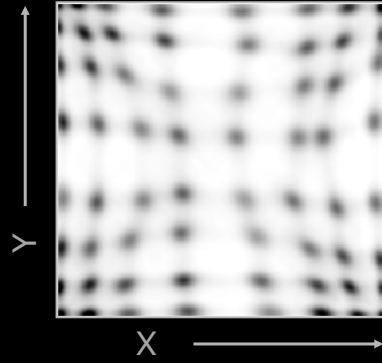


Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014



Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Block detector: spatial localization



$$X = \frac{(D + B) - (C + A)}{S}$$

$$Y = \frac{(A + B) - (C + D)}{S}$$

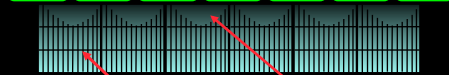
$$S = A + B + C + D$$

where  $LLD < S < ULD$

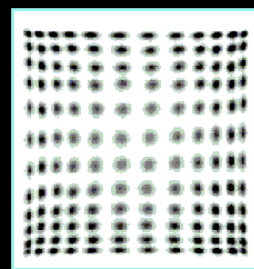
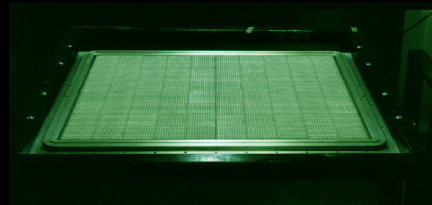
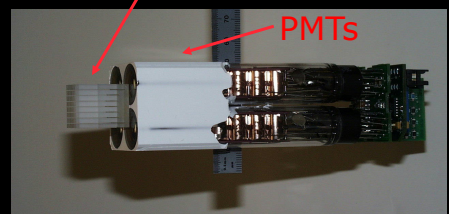
courtesy: D. Townsend, UPMC

Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Quadrant sharing panels



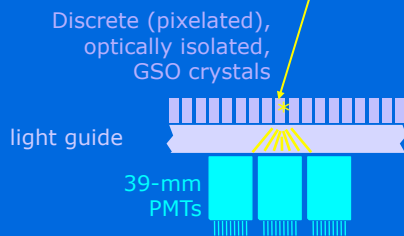
Scintillator Light guide



courtesy: D. Townsend, UPMC

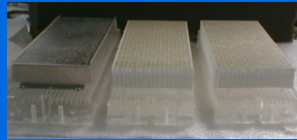
Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Pixelated-continuous detector



This design ensures a homogeneous response and light collection, which best preserves system energy resolution

- individual scintillating crystals
- optically continuous lightguide
- closely packed PMTs



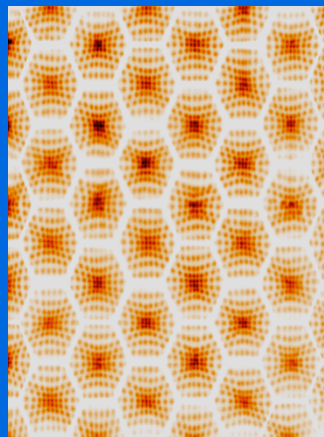
courtesy: J. Karp, U Penn



PHILIPS

Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Pixelated-continuous detector



courtesy: J. Karp, U Penn

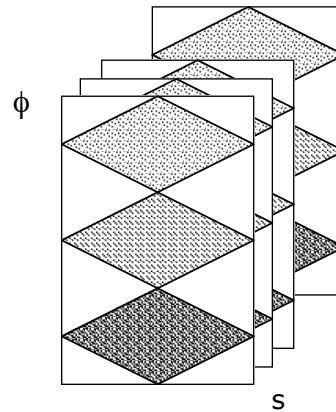
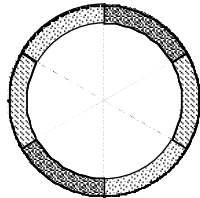


PHILIPS

Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Response of a rotating pair of detectors

Detectors

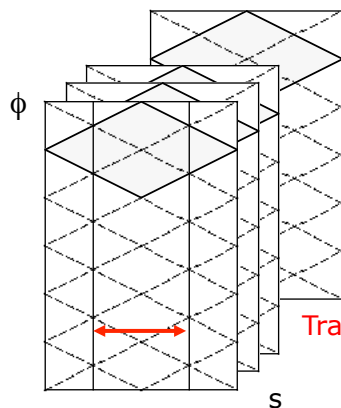


$n^2$  sinograms

Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

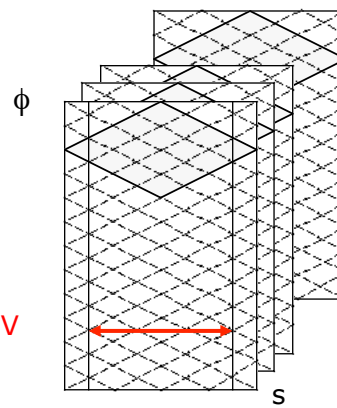
## Response of a rotating pair of detectors

6 angular positions



$n^2$  sinograms

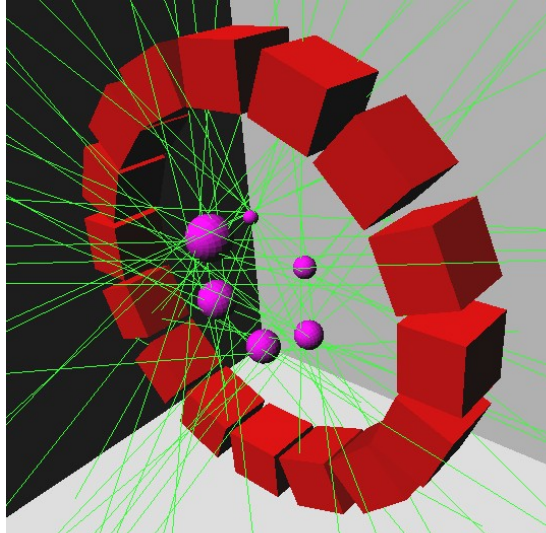
12 angular positions



$n^2$  sinograms

Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

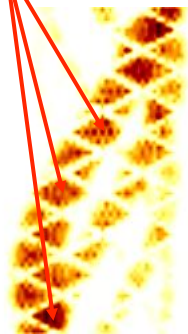
## Response from a ring of bloc detectors



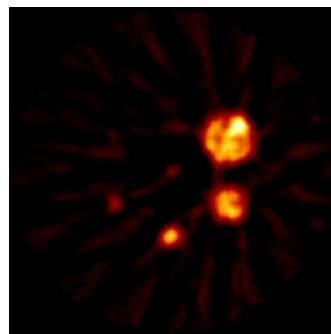
Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Response from a ring of bloc detectors

Diamonds



Direct sinogram



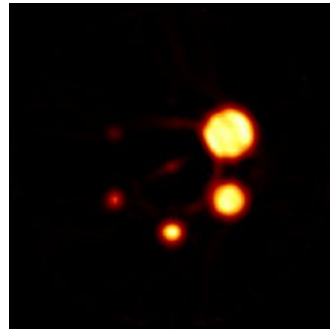
Reconstructed transverse slice

Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Response from a rotating ring of bloc detectors



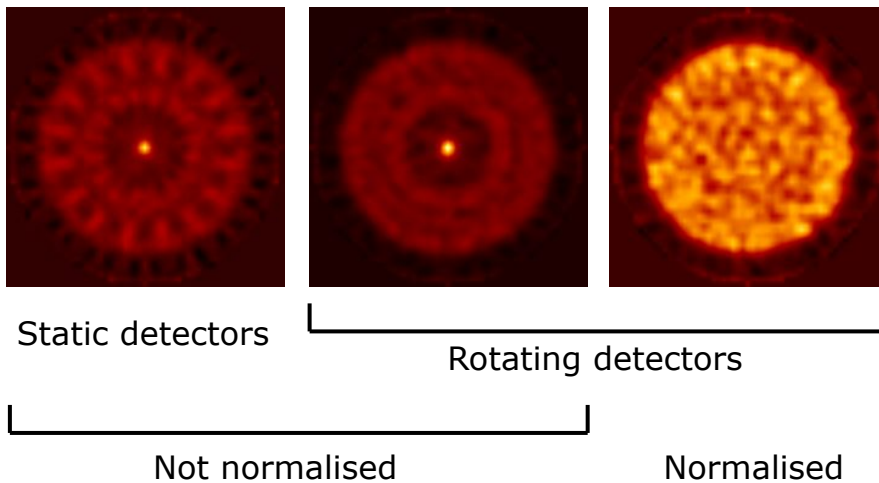
Direct sinogram



Reconstructed transverse slice

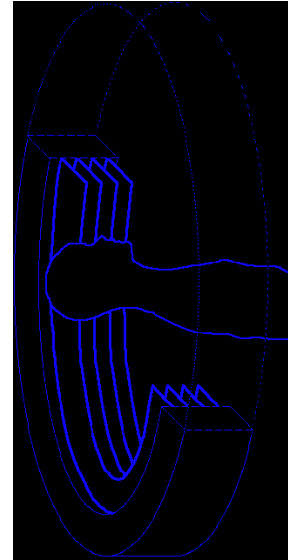
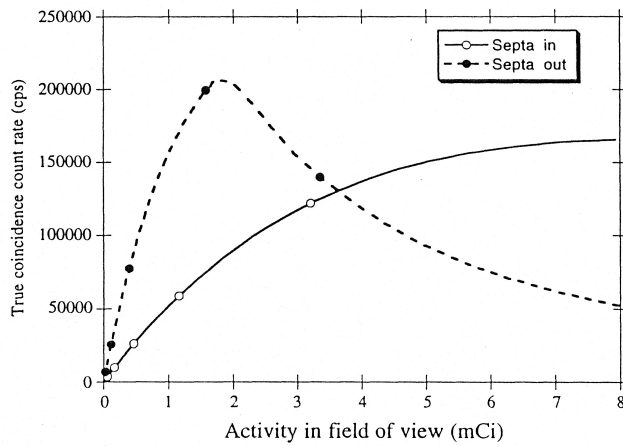
Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Simulation of a uniform phantom



Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Count rate curves in 2D and 3D PET

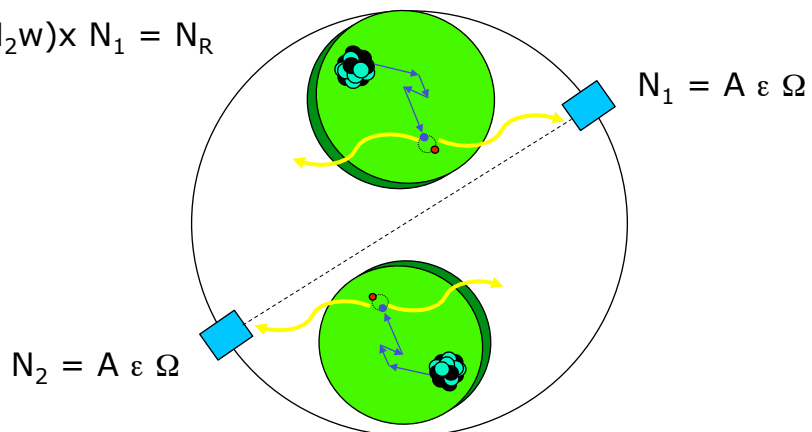


Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Detection of random coincidences

When  $N_1$  gets ahead  $N_2$

$$(N_2 w) \times N_1 = N_R$$



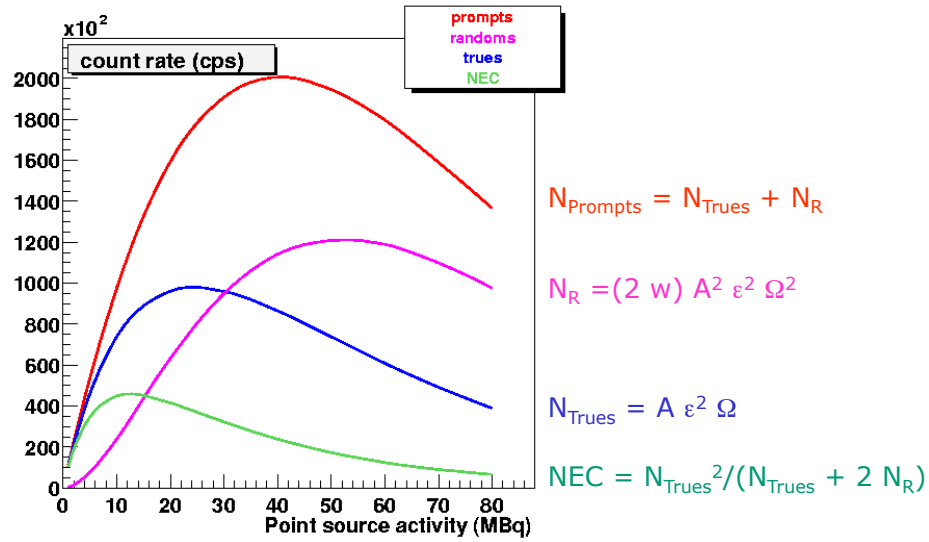
When  $N_2$  gets ahead  $N_1$

$$(N_1 w) \times N_2 = N_R$$

Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

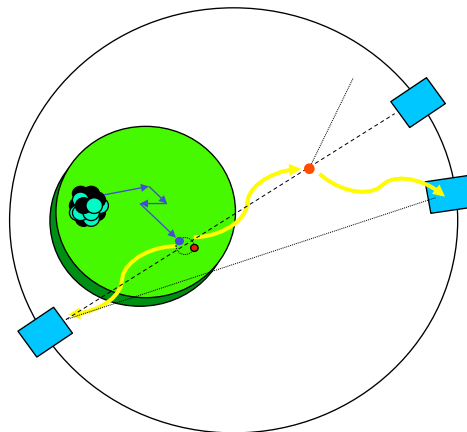


## Detection of random coincidences



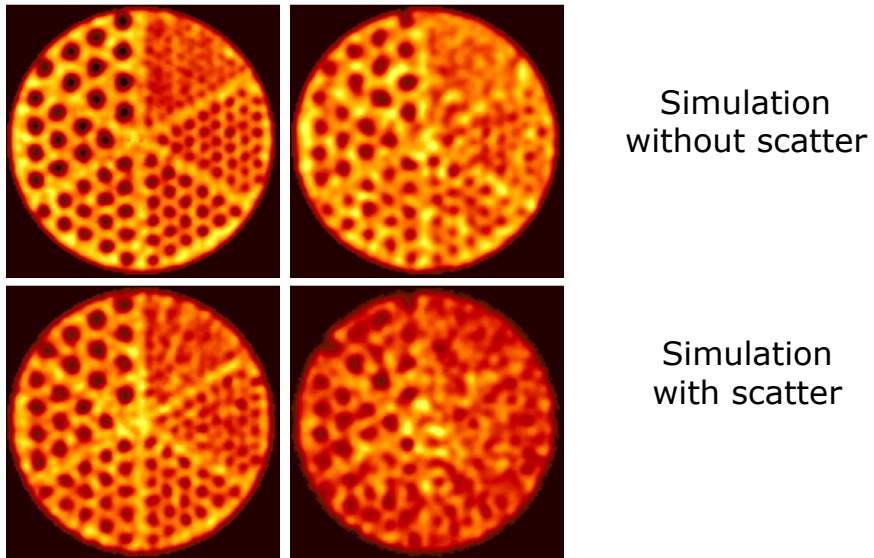
Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Detection of scattered coincidences



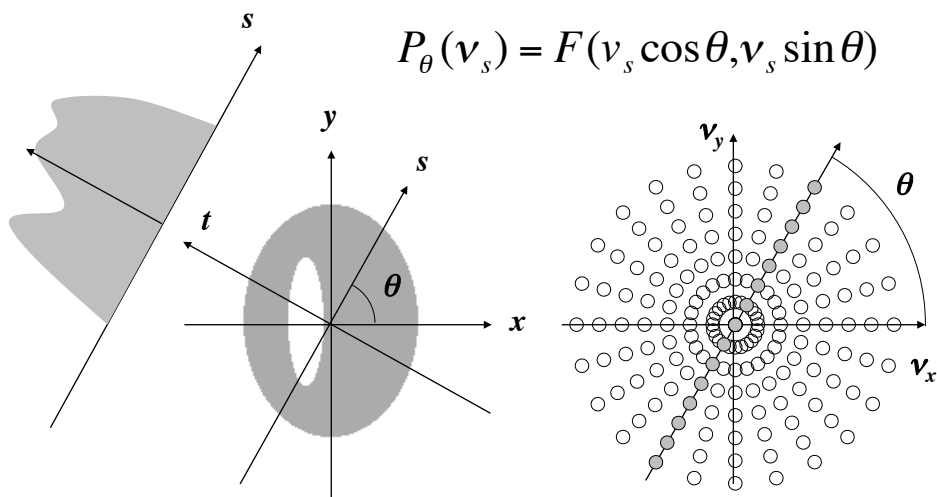
Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Detection of scattered coincidences



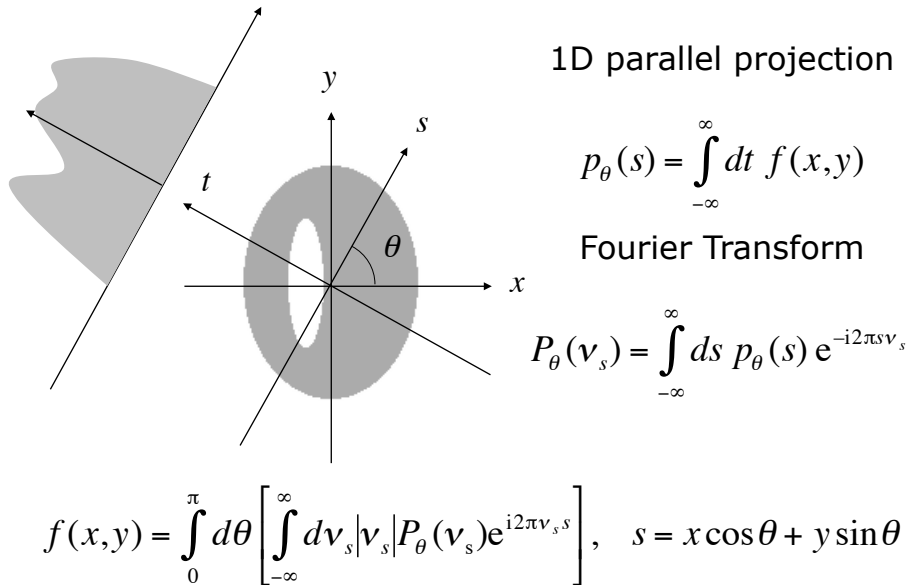
Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Central Slice Theorem

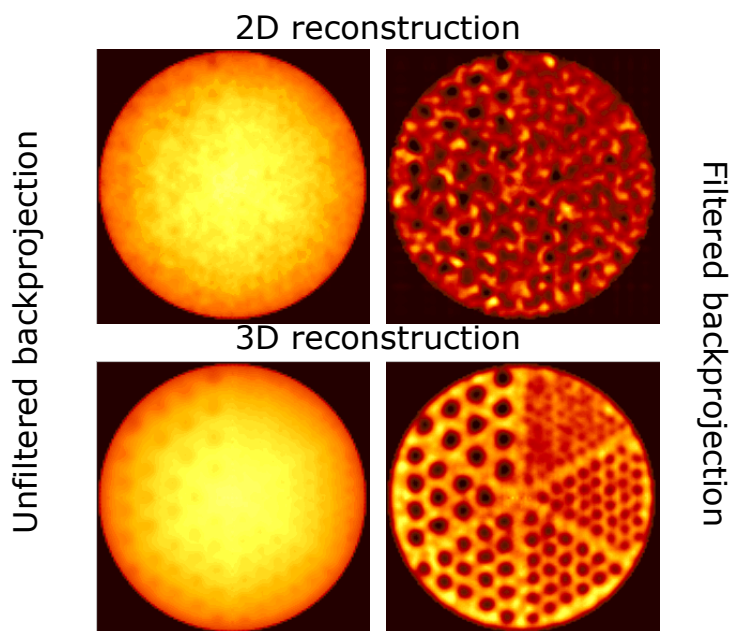


Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## 2D Filtered Back-Projection (2D FBP)

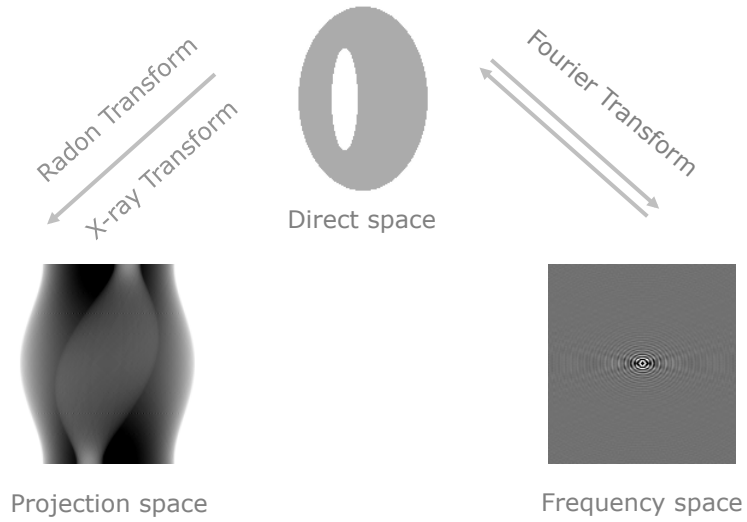


Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014



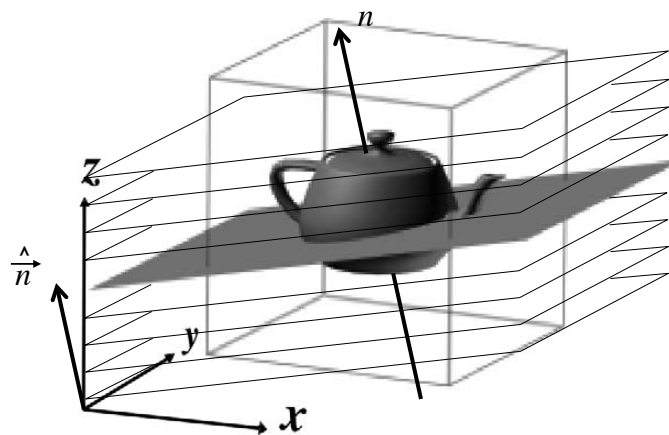
Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Image reconstruction



Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

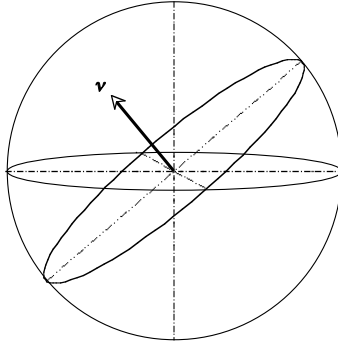
## Inversion of the 3D Radon Transform



Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Modulation Transfer Function of a 2D Filter

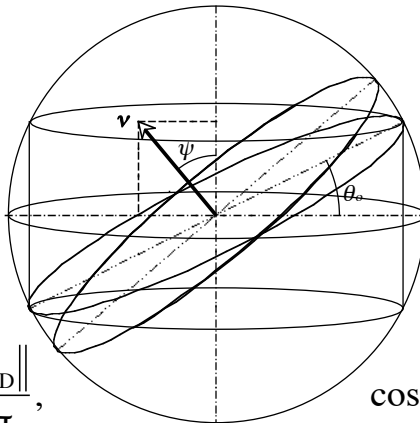
$$T(\vec{v}_{3D}) = \iint_{\Omega} d^2\hat{u} \delta(\hat{u} \cdot \vec{v}_{3D}) H(\hat{u}, \vec{v}_{3D}) = 1, \forall \vec{v}_{3D} \in \mathbb{R}^{3*}$$



$$T(\vec{v}_{3D}) = \iint_{4\pi} d^2\hat{u} \frac{1}{\|\vec{v}_{3D}\|} \delta(\hat{u} \cdot \frac{\vec{v}_{3D}}{\|\vec{v}_{3D}\|}) = \frac{2\pi}{\|\vec{v}_{3D}\|}$$

Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

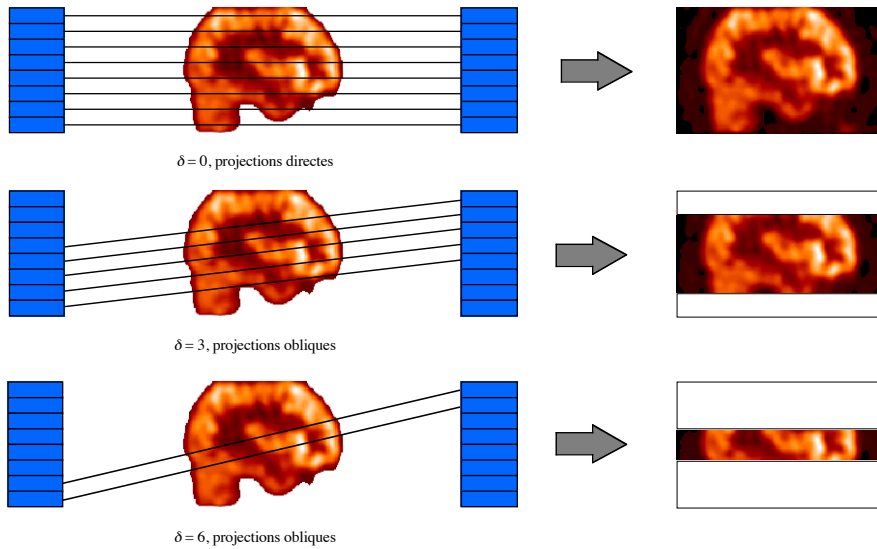
## 2D Colsher Filter (1980)



$$H_{Colsher}(\vec{v}_{3D}) = \begin{cases} \frac{\|\vec{v}_{3D}\|}{2\pi}, & \cos\psi \geq \cos\theta_0 \\ \frac{\|\vec{v}_{3D}\|}{4} \frac{1}{\arcsin(\sin\theta_0/\sin\psi)}, & \cos\psi < \cos\theta_0 \end{cases}$$

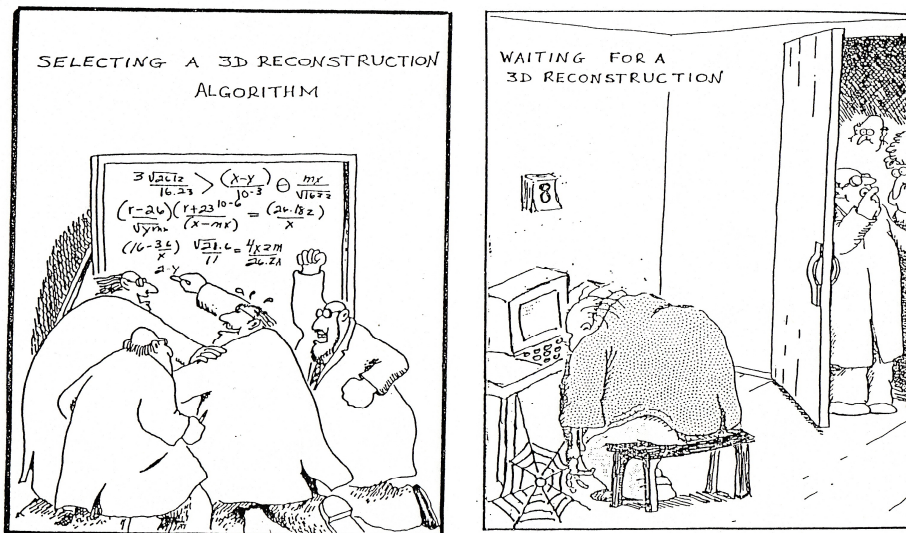
Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## 3D Re-Projection algorithm (3DRP)



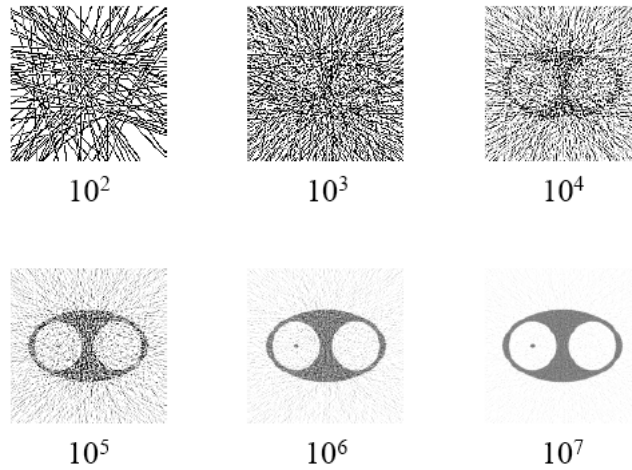
Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## 3D Re-Projection algorithm (3DRP)



Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Image reconstruction and statistics



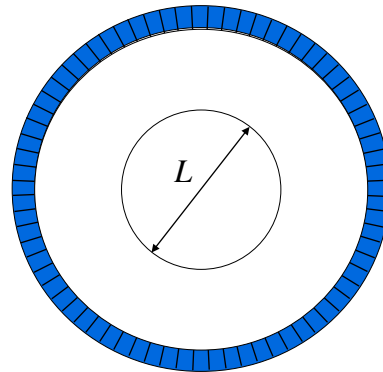
courtesy: C. Comtat, CEA-SHFJ

Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Signal-to-noise ratio and counting statistics

$$\frac{A}{\Delta A} = \sqrt{N_{\beta^+}} \Rightarrow N_{\beta^+} = \left( \frac{A}{\Delta A} \right)^2$$

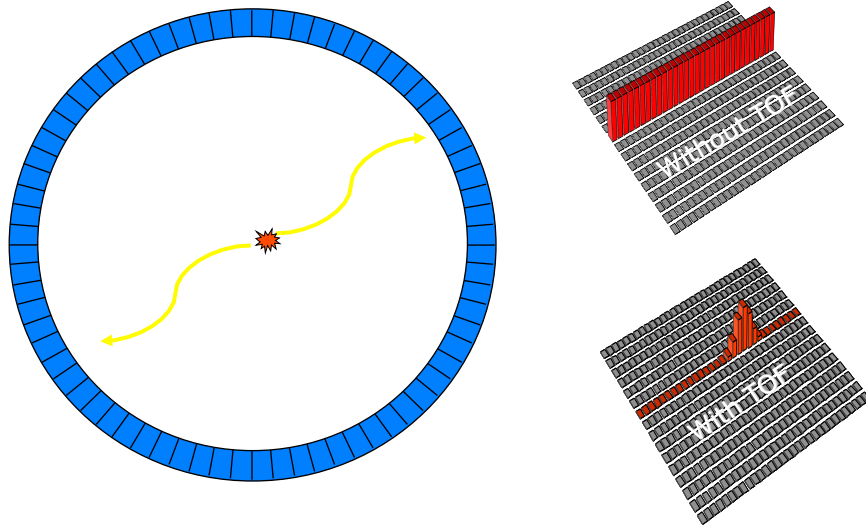
$$N_{Tot} = \left( \frac{L}{d} \right)^3 \times \left( \frac{A}{\Delta A} \right)^2 \times \left( \frac{L}{d} \right)$$



Improving spatial resolution by a factor 2 involves to  
 increase statistics by a factor 16  
 to getting the same signal-to-noise ratio  
 in the reconstructed image

Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Signal-to-noise ratio and counting statistics



Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## TOF-PET and improvement of SNR

$$N_{Tot} = \left(\frac{L}{d}\right)^3 \times \left(\frac{A}{\Delta A}\right)^2 \times \left(\frac{L}{d}\right)$$

$$N_{ToF} = \left(\frac{L}{d}\right)^3 \times \left(\frac{A}{\Delta A}\right)^2 \times \left(\frac{\Delta L}{d}\right)$$

Variance reduction factor  $f = \frac{L}{\Delta L} = \frac{2L}{c\Delta t}$

$$\Delta L = \frac{1}{2} c \Delta t$$

Whole - body imaging  $L = 35 \text{ cm} \Rightarrow f > 1$  if  $\Delta t < 2,3 \text{ ns}$

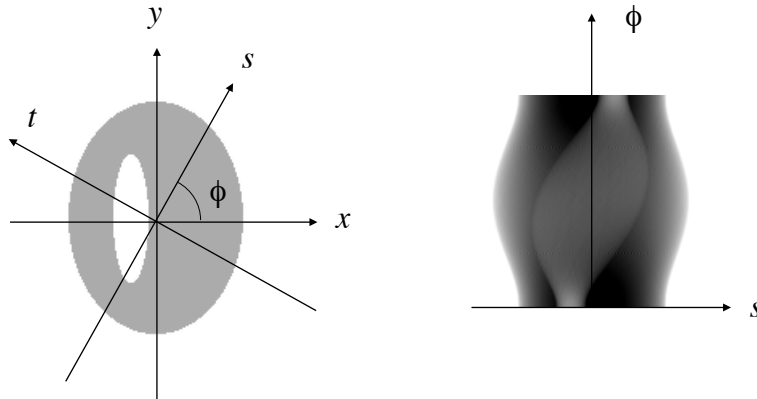
Brain imaging  $L = 20 \text{ cm} \Rightarrow f > 1$  if  $\Delta t < 1,3 \text{ ns}$

Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014



## Support of the Fourier Transform of the X-ray Transform

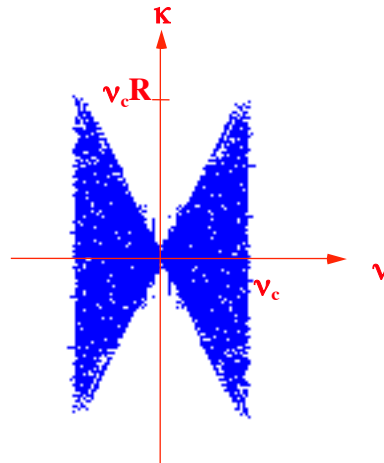
$$g(s, \phi) = \int dt f(s \cos \phi - t \sin \phi, s \sin \phi + t \cos \phi)$$



Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Support of the Fourier Transform of the X-ray Transform

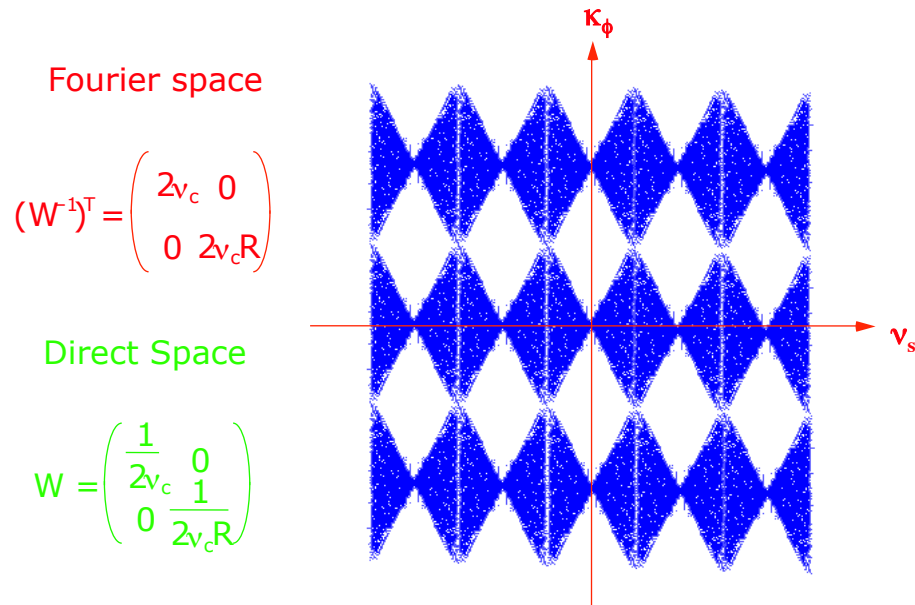
$$G(\nu_s, \kappa_\phi) = \text{TF}_{2D}[g(s, \phi)]$$



$$g(s, \phi) = \int dt f(s \cos \phi - t \sin \phi, s \sin \phi + t \cos \phi)$$

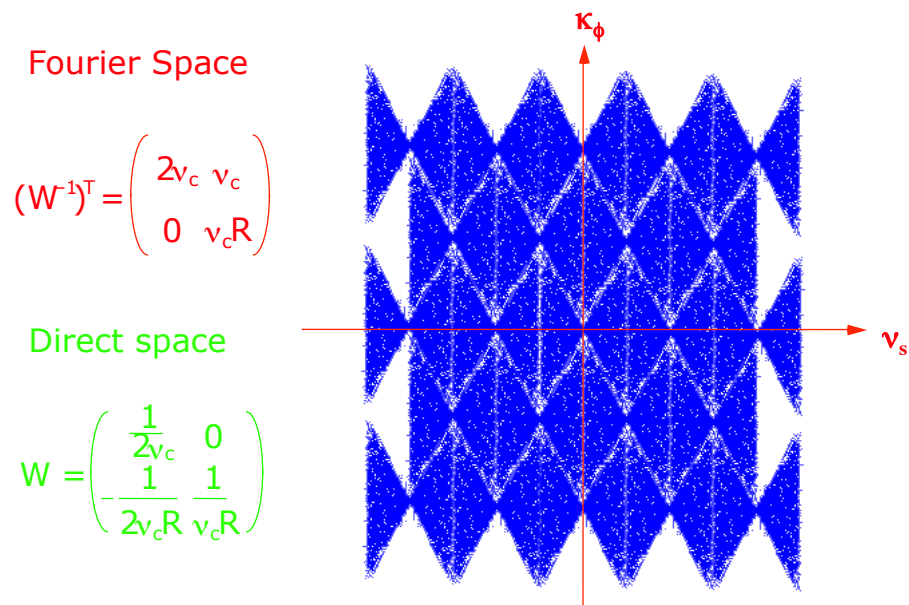
Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

## Orthogonal sampling of the 2D X-ray Transform



Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

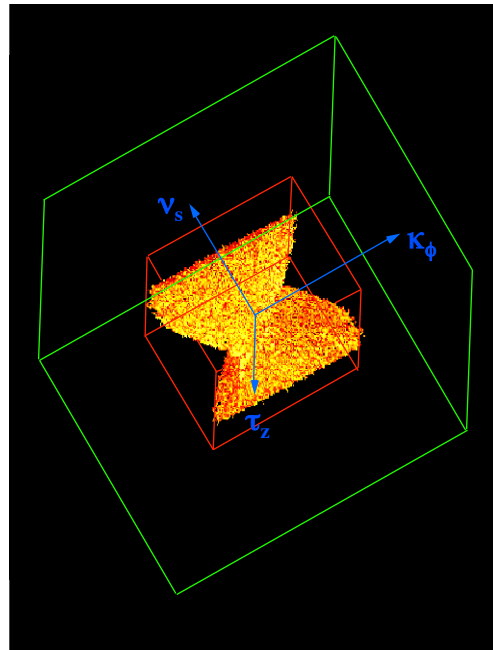
## Interleaved sampling of the 2D X-ray Transform



Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

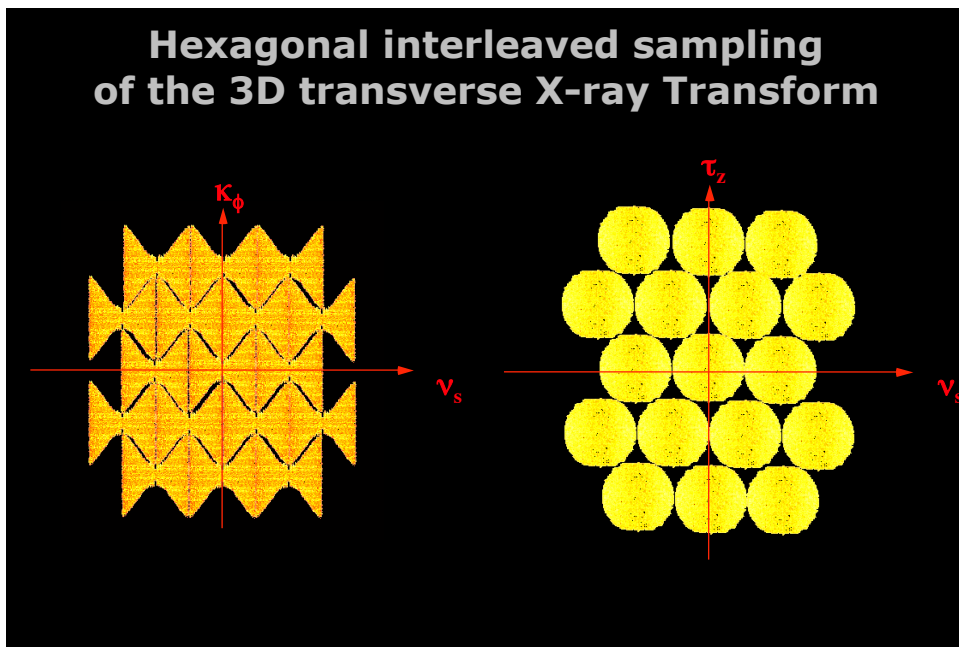
**Support of the Fourier Transform of the 3D transverse X-ray Transform**

$$G(v_s, \kappa_\phi, \tau_z) = \text{TF}_{3\text{D}}[g(s, \phi, z)]$$



Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014

**Hexagonal interleaved sampling of the 3D transverse X-ray Transform**



Signal Processing in Tomography – INFIERI – Paris – July 15 2014