

# CS 598 WSI: Advanced Wireless Networks and Sensing Systems

## Lecture 10: Wireless Sensing Deepak Vasisht

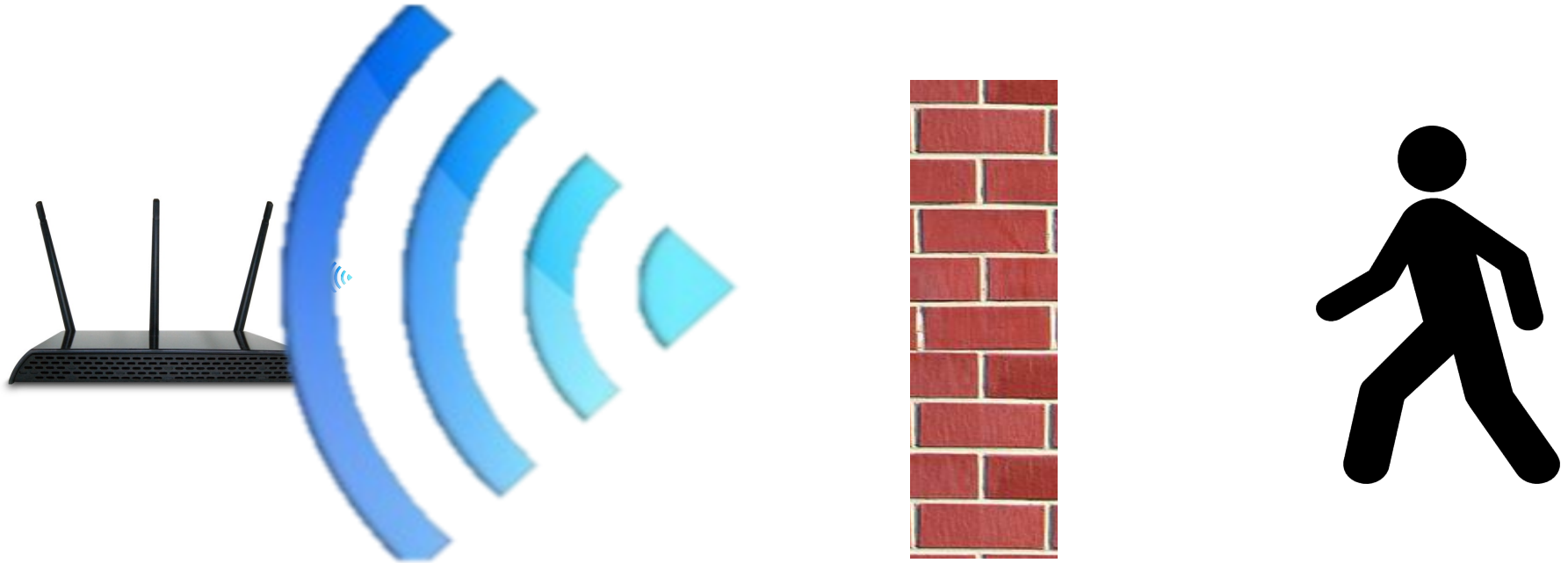
\*Slides Courtesy of Prof. Fadel Adib

# WiVi: Tracking People Through Walls with WiFi

# Key Idea



# Challenges



Challenge #1: Wall reflection is 10,000x stronger than any reflections coming from behind the wall

Challenge #2: Tracking people from their reflections

How Can We Eliminate the Wall's  
Reflection?

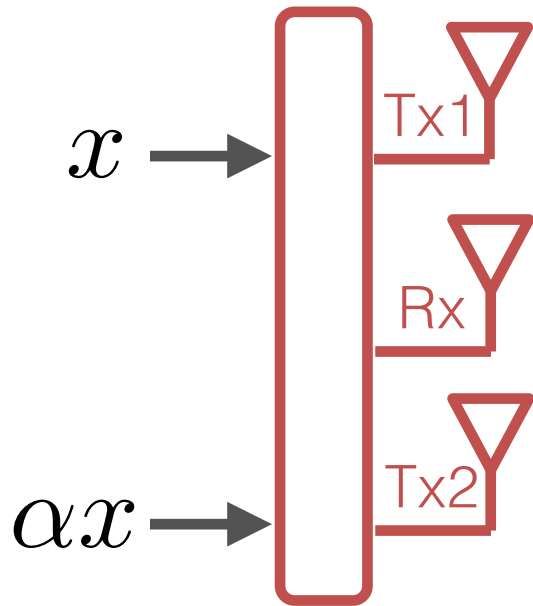
Idea: Transmit two waves that cancel each other when they reflect off static objects but not moving objects

Wall is static  disappears

People tend to move  detectable

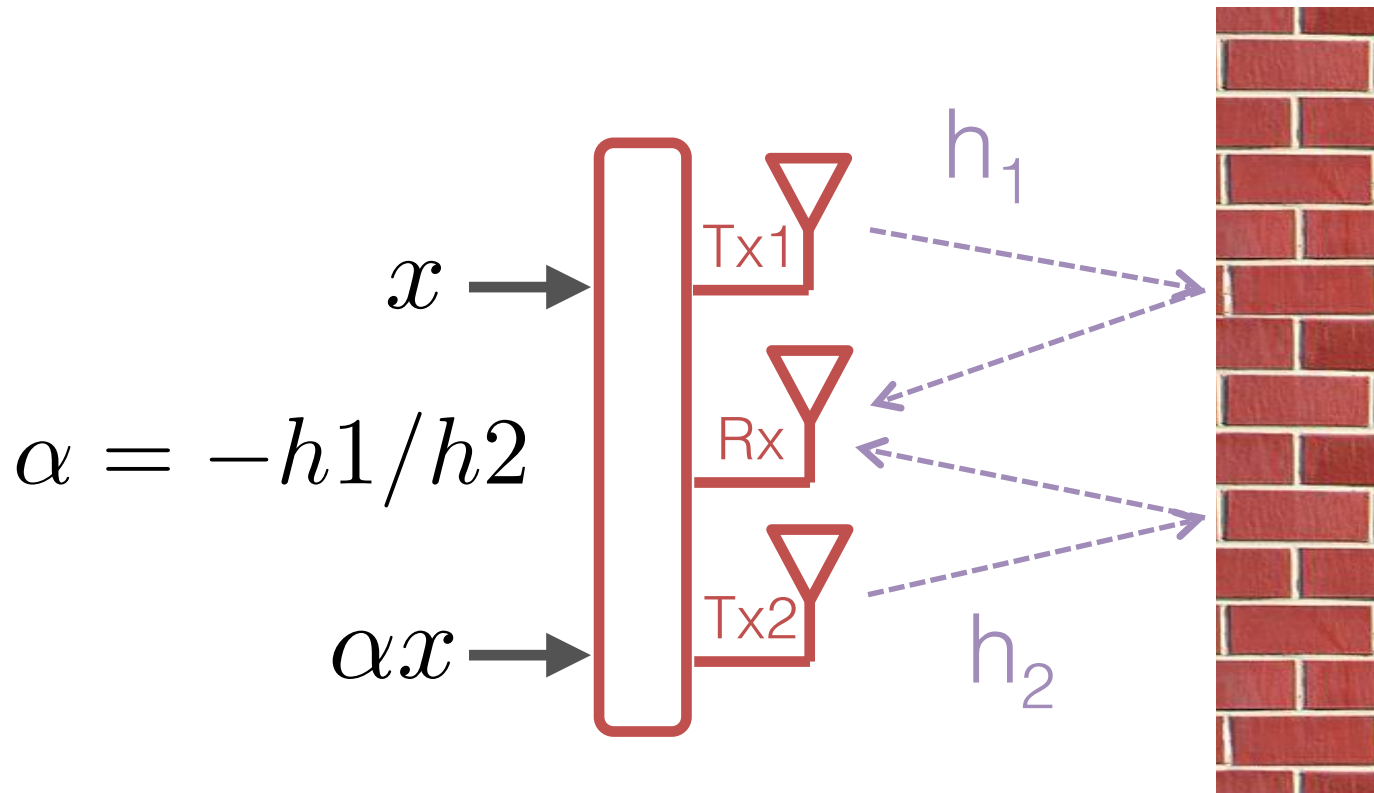
# Eliminating the Wall's Reflection

Two transmit antennas and one receive antenna



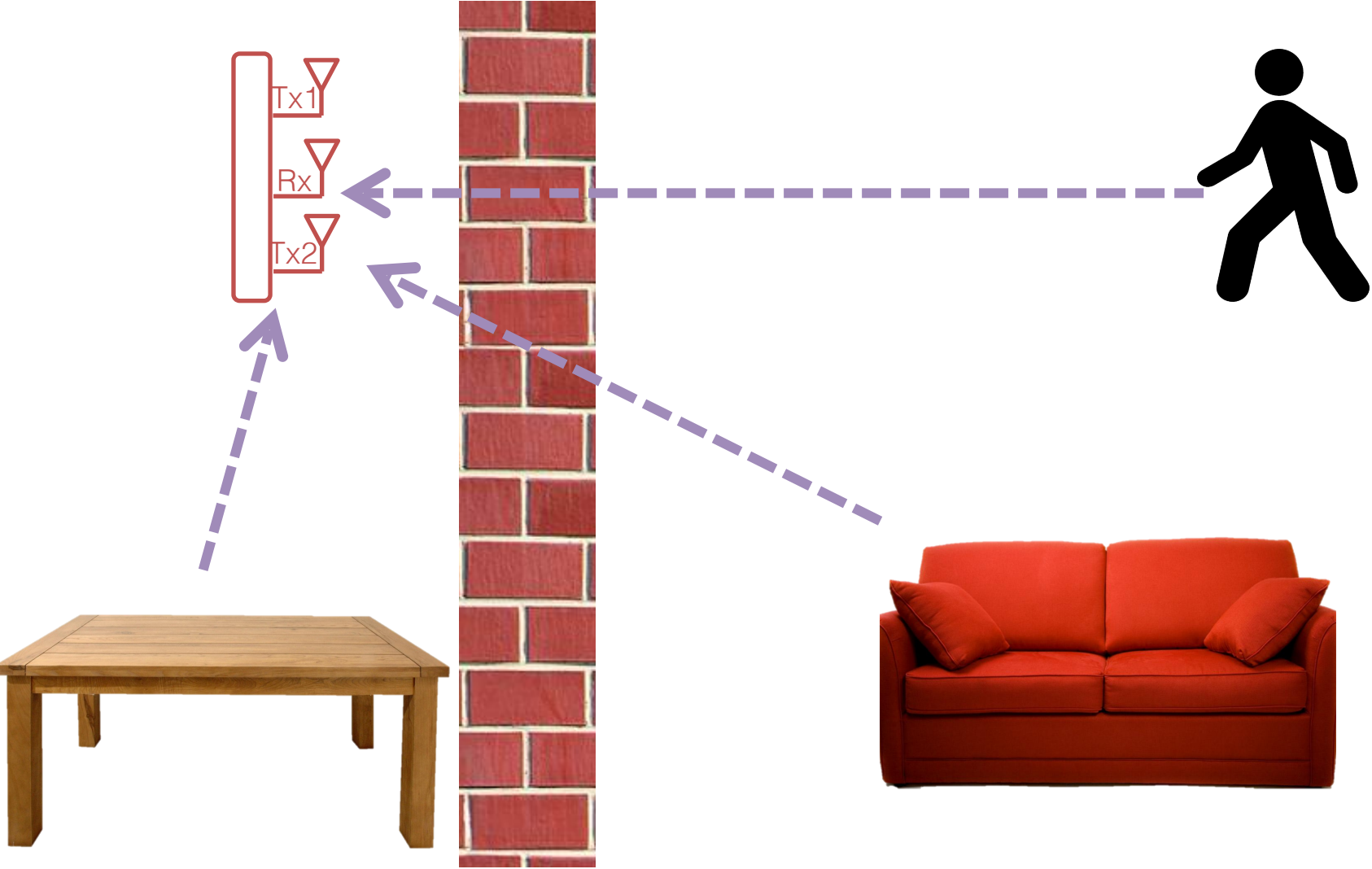
# Eliminating the Wall's Reflection

Received signal:  ~~$y = h_1x + h_2\alpha x$~~ <sup>0</sup>





# Eliminating All Static Reflections



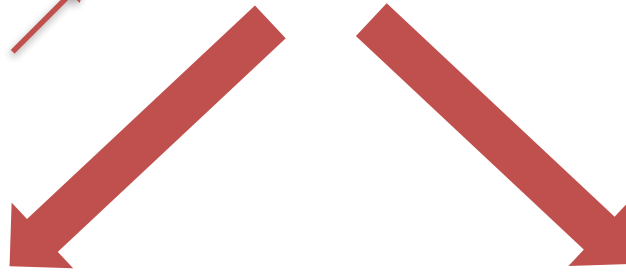
# Eliminating All Static Reflections

$$y = h_1 x + h_2 \alpha x$$

Reflections linearly combine over the wireless medium

$$y = \left( \sum_i h_{1i} \right) x + \left( \sum_i h_{2i} \right) \alpha x$$

reflector  $i$



Static objects (wall, furniture, etc.) have constant channels

People move, therefore their channels change

~~$$y_i = h_{1i} x + h_{2i} (-h_{1i} / h_{2i}) x$$~~  $0$

$$y_i = h_{1i}' x + h_{2i}' (-h_{1i} / h_{2i}) x$$

Not Zero

# Eliminating All Static Reflections

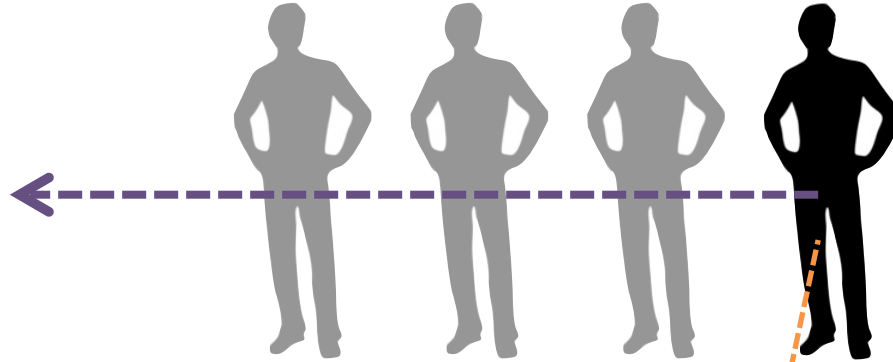
- Noise leads to errors in estimating the channel
  - Limits ability to cancel static reflections and sense motion behind the wall
  - Channel estimates  $\hat{h} \neq h$
- Refine channel estimates through an iterative nulling algorithm

How to extend to wideband WiFi channels?

How Can We Track Using Reflections?

# Tracking Motion

Direction of motion



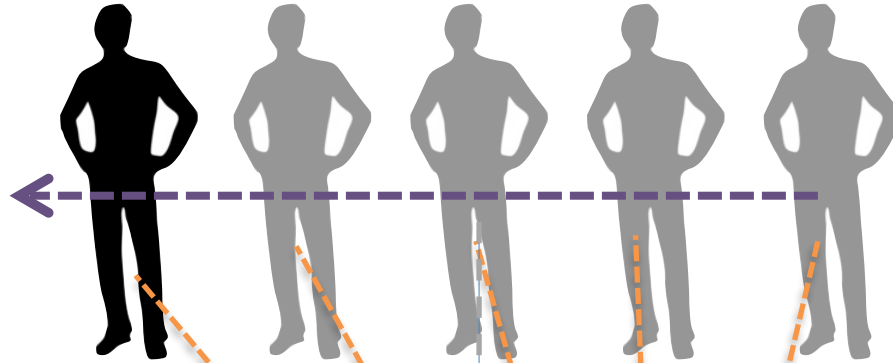
At any point in time, we have a single measurement

Device has one receive antenna



# Tracking Motion

Direction of motion



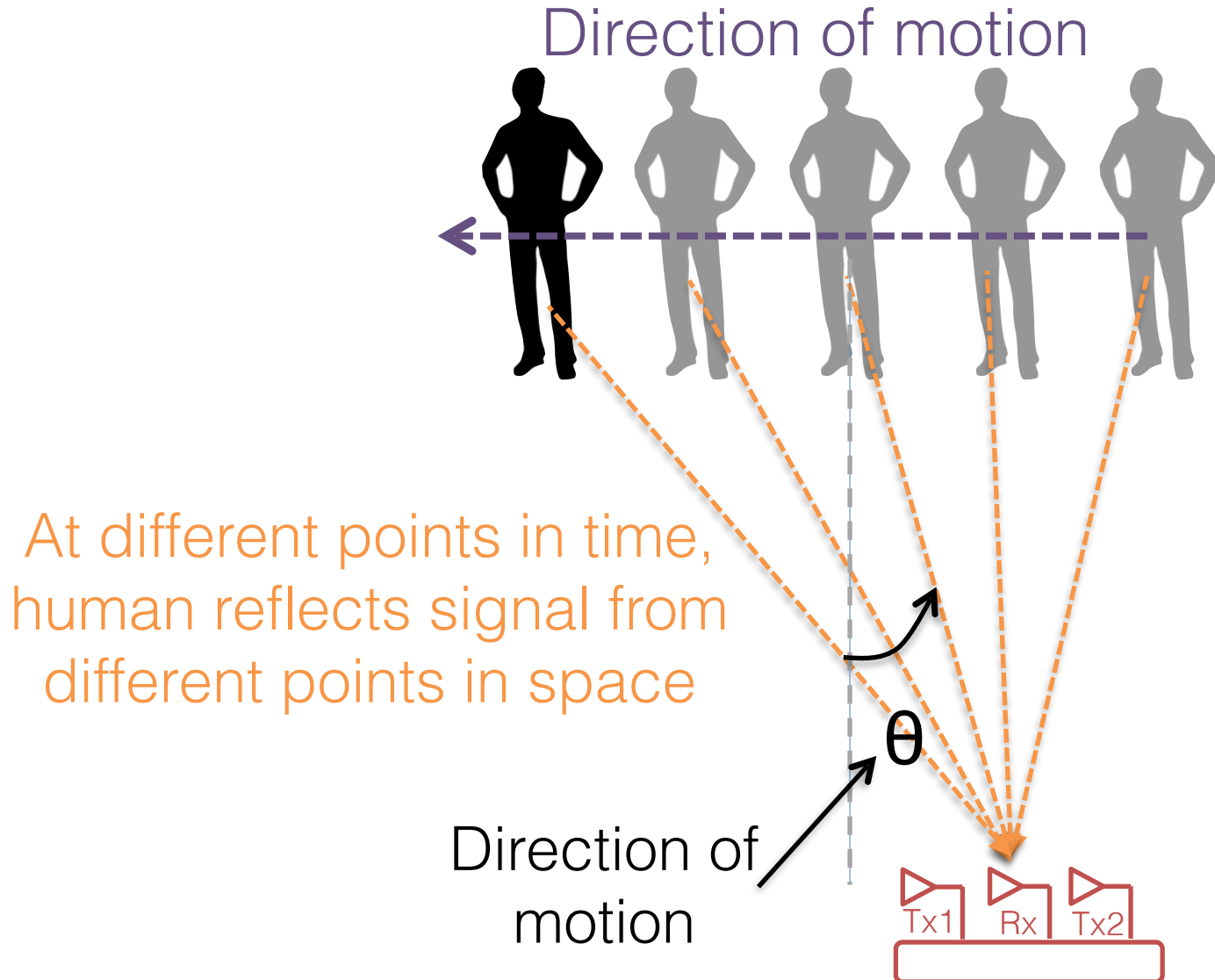
At different points in time, human reflects signal from different points in space

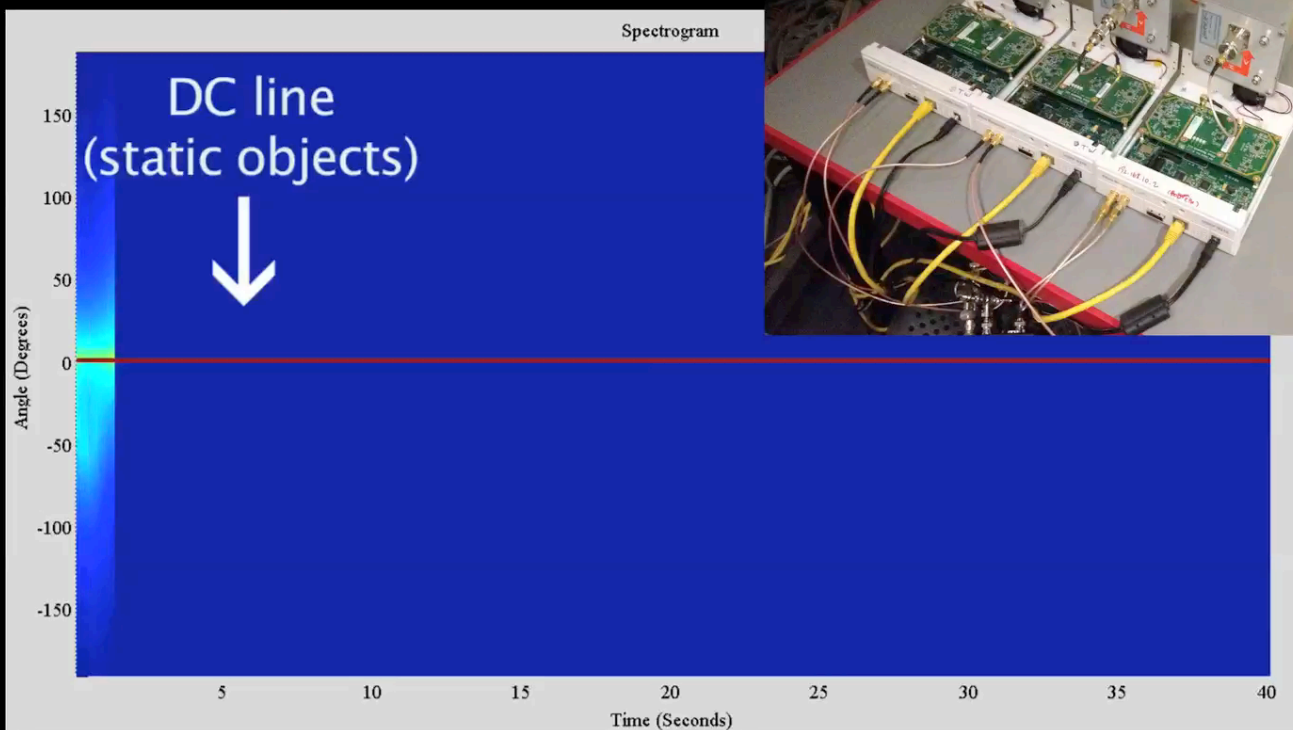
Direction of motion

$\theta$



# Human Motion Emulates an Antenna Array

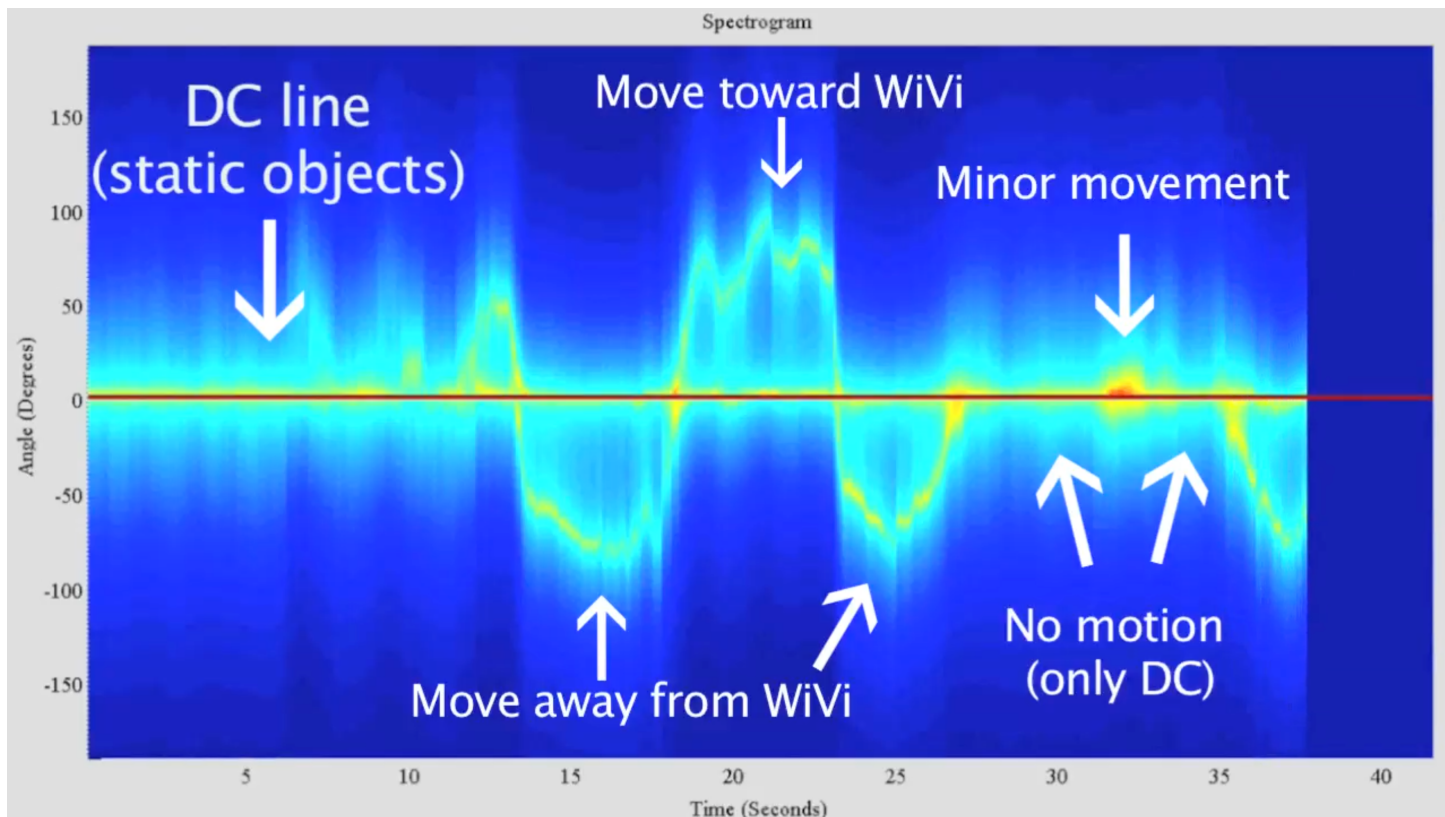






# Tracking Multiple Humans

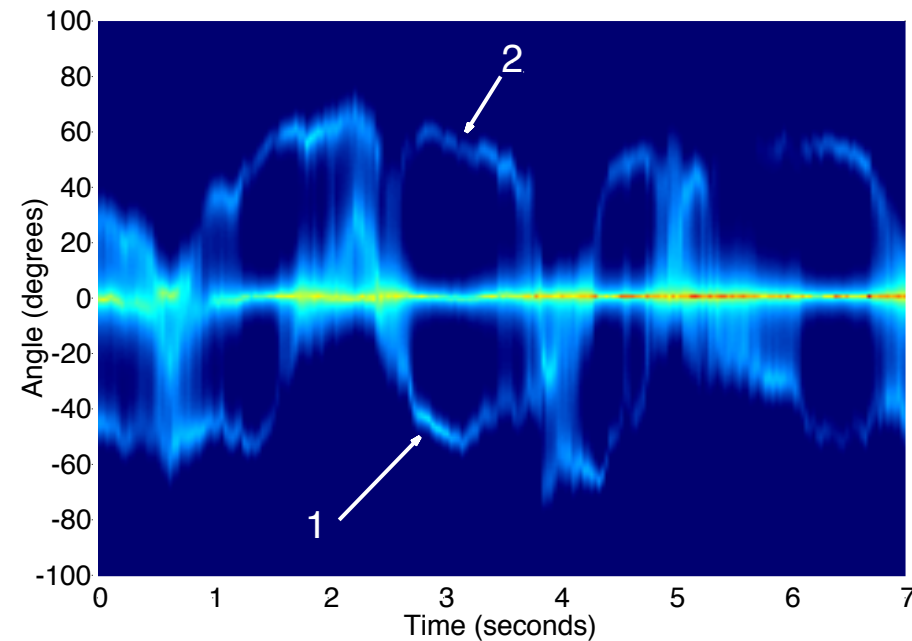
One moving person is indicated by a single curvy line



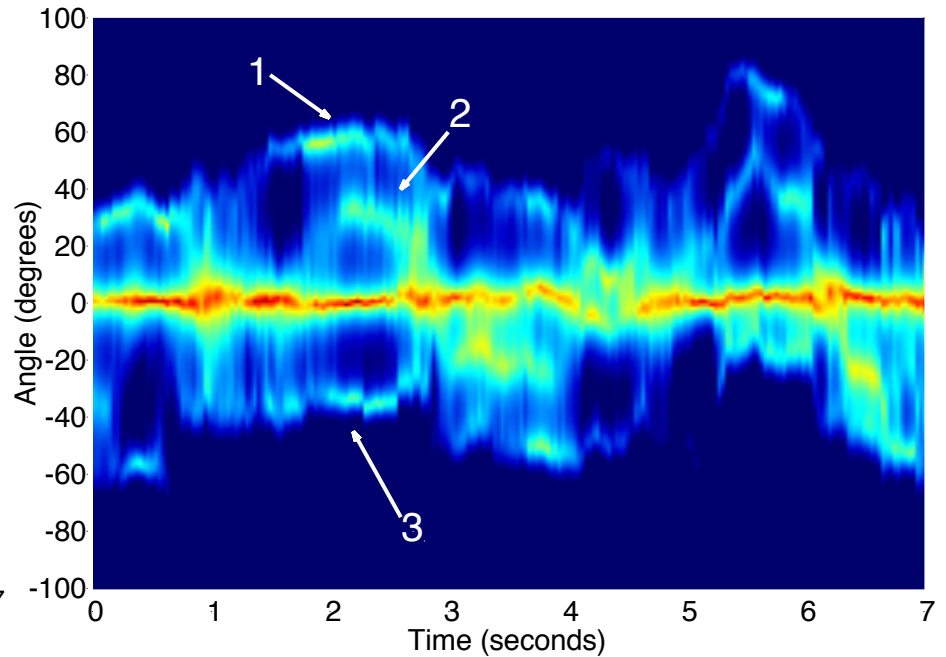
# Tracking Multiple Humans

Number of distinct curves at the same time corresponds to the number of humans

## Two Humans

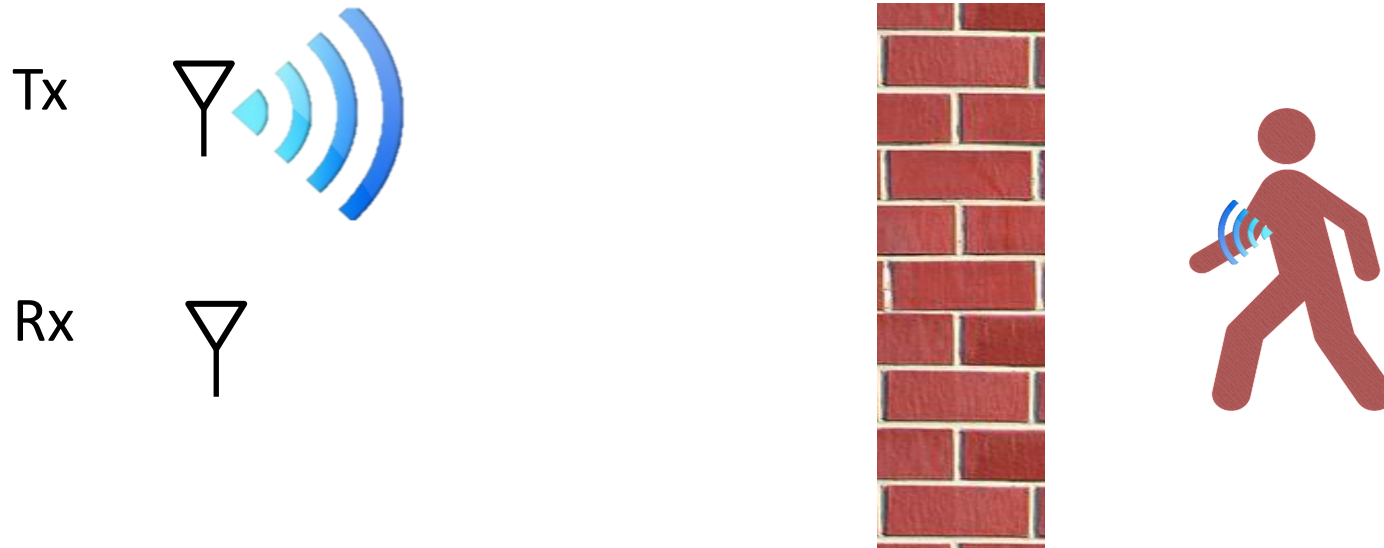


## Three Humans



# WiTrack

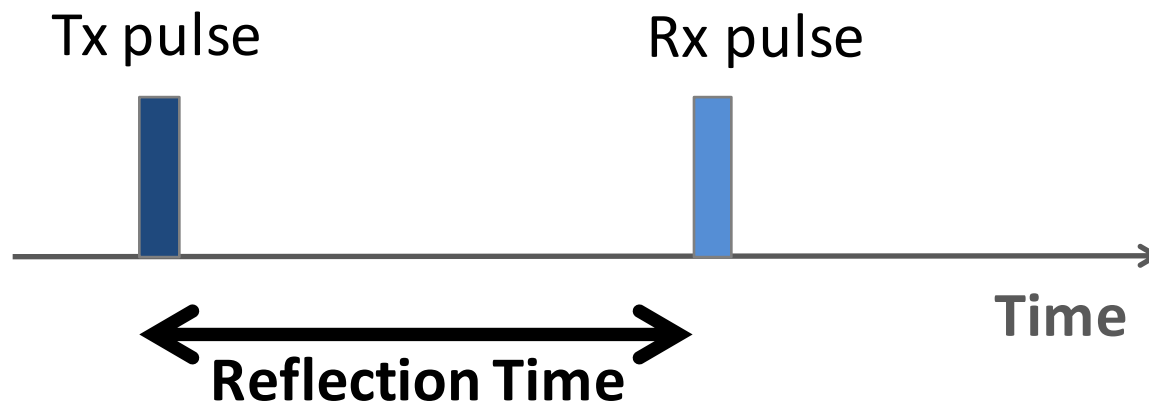
# Measuring Distances



Distance = Reflection time x speed of light

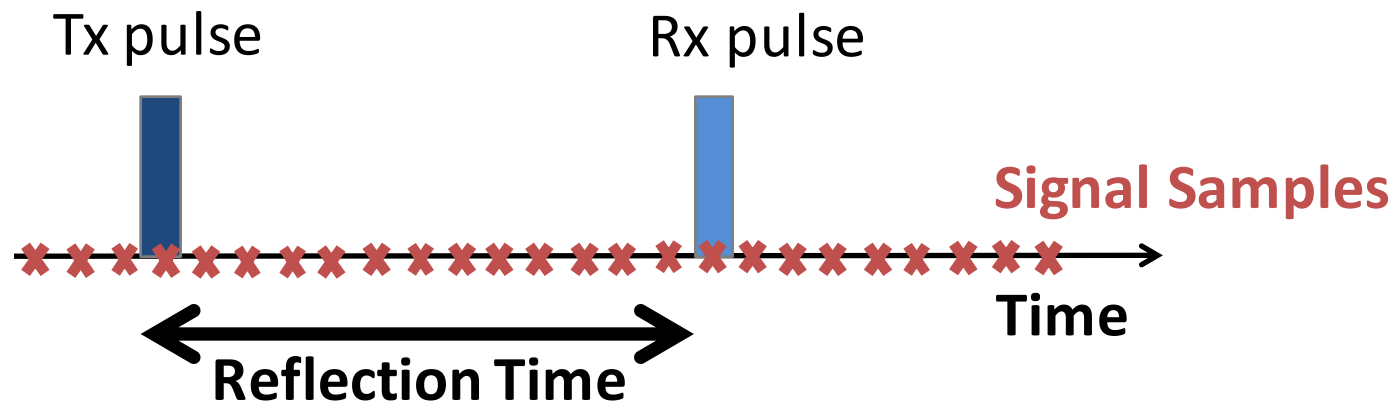
# Measuring Reflection Time

- Option 1: Transmit short pulse and listen for the echo.



# Measuring Reflection Time

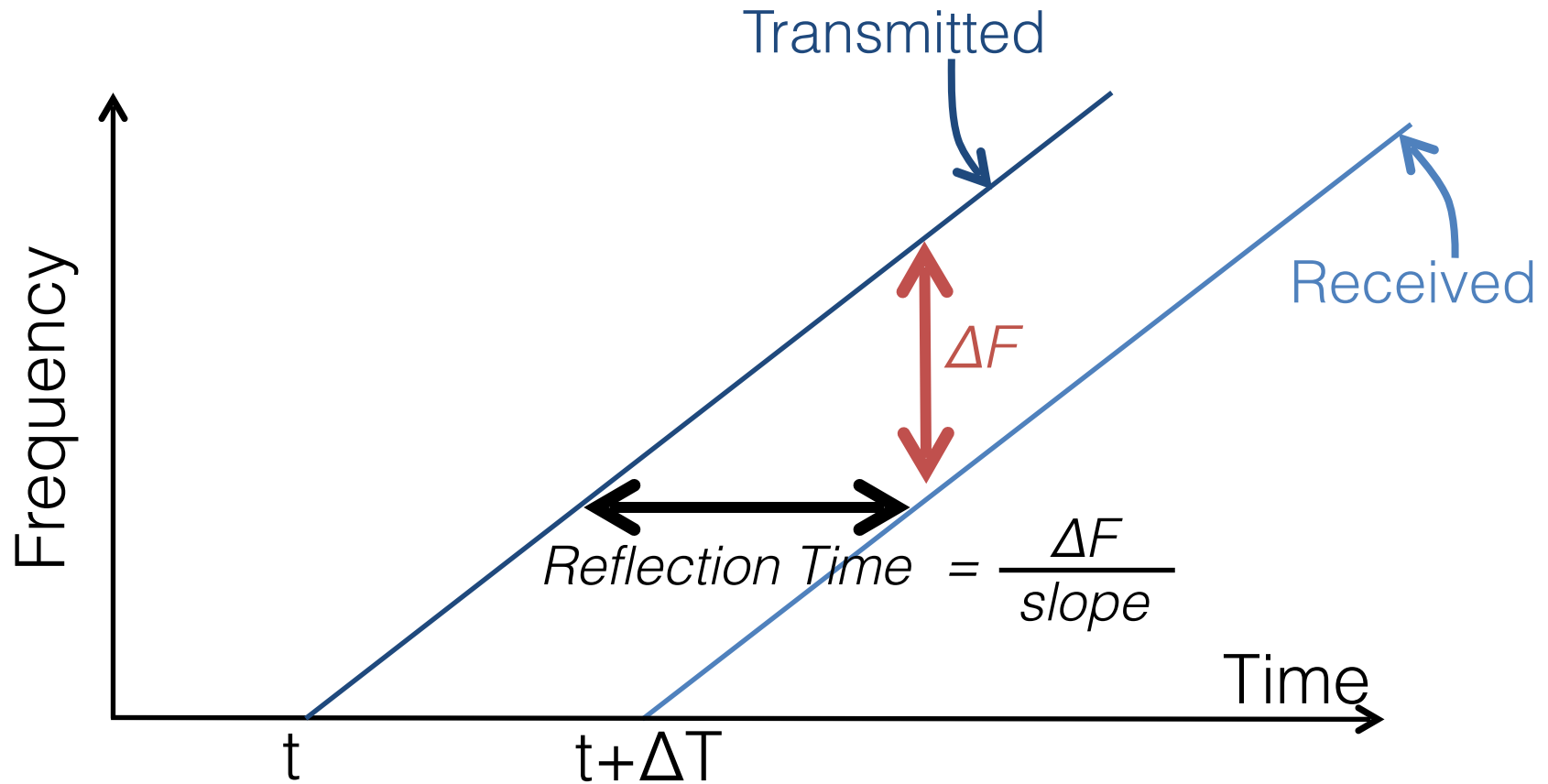
- Option 1: Transmit short pulse and listen for the echo.



Need to sample at very high rate : UWB

Multi-GHz samplers are expensive and generate high noise: not suitable for this application

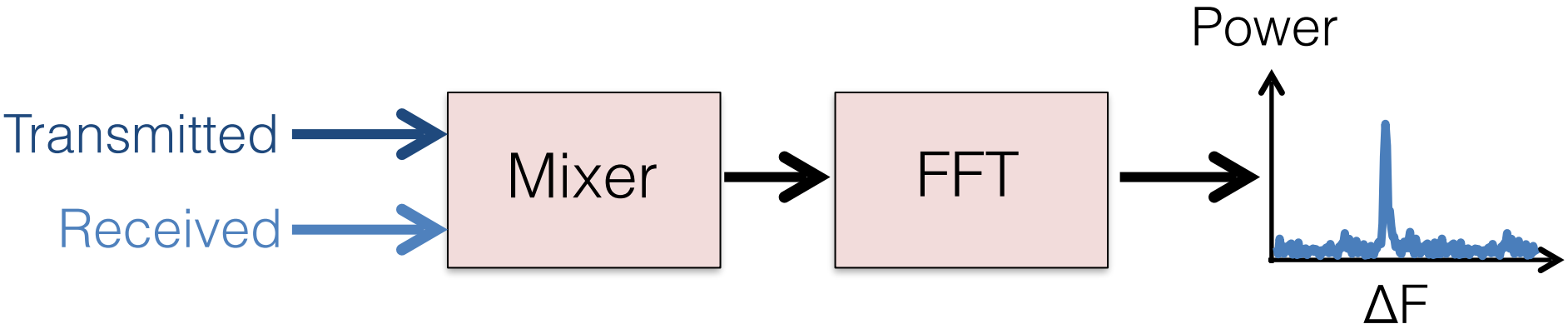
# FMCW: Measure time by measuring frequency



How do we measure  $\Delta F$ ?

# Measuring $\Delta F$

- Subtracting frequencies is easy (e.g., removing carrier in WiFi)
- Done using a mixer (low-power; cheap)



Signal whose frequency is  $\Delta F$

$\Delta F \rightarrow$  Reflection Time  $\rightarrow$  Distance



# FMCW

- FMCW Transmitted Signal

$$x(t) = e^{j2\pi\left(\frac{k}{2}(t^2 + f_0 t)\right)}$$

slope

Frequency is linear in time;  
hence phase is quadratic

- FMCW Received Signal:

$$y(t) = \sum_i A_i e^{j2\pi\left(\frac{k}{2}((t-\tau_i)^2 + f_0(t-\tau_i))\right)}$$

reflector  $i$

delay  $\tau_i$

Reflections linearly  
combine over the  
wireless medium

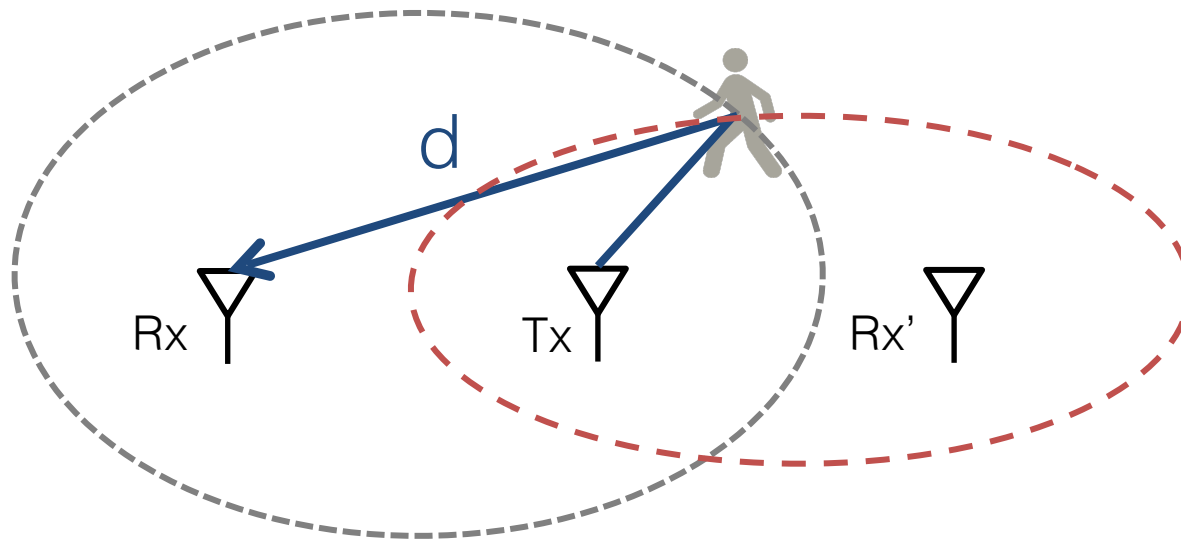
Conversion:

$$y_b(t) = \sum_i A_i e^{j2\pi(k\tau_i t + f_0 \tau_i)}$$

frequency  $k \tau_i$

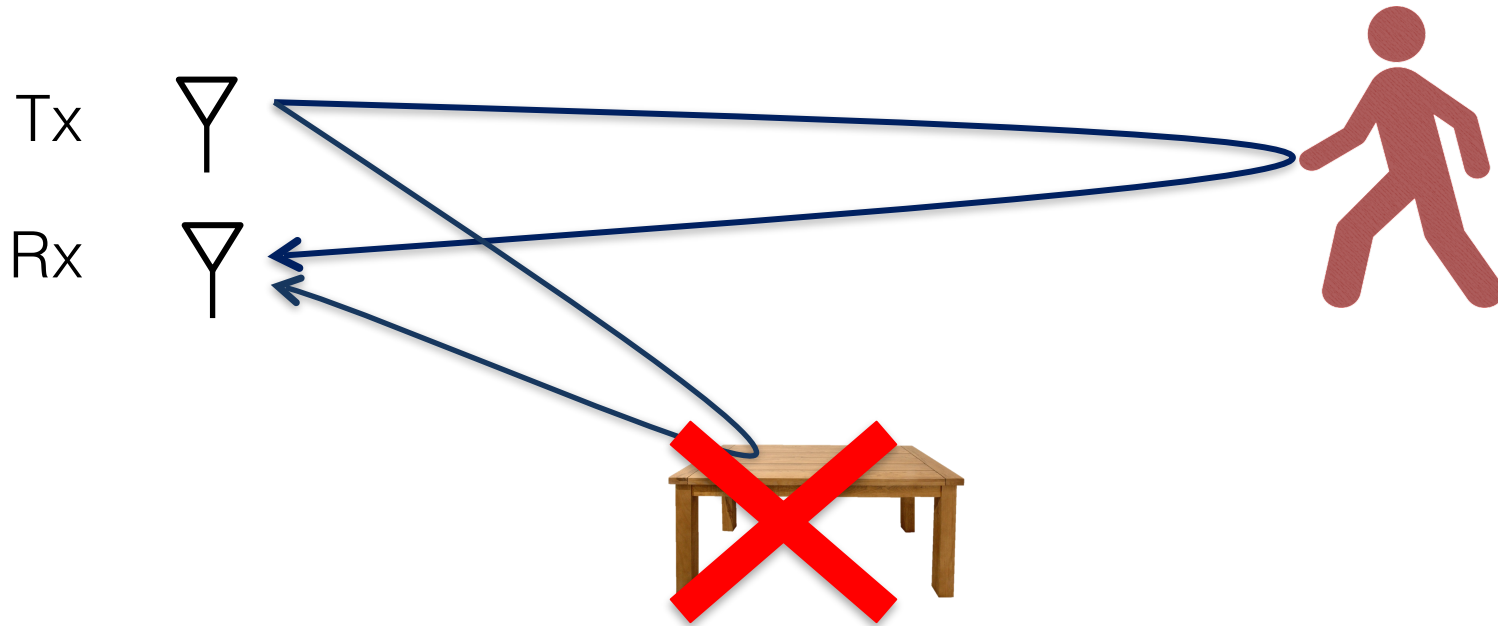
# Mapping Distance to Location

Person can be anywhere on an ellipse whose foci are (Tx,Rx)



By adding another antenna and intersecting the ellipses, we can localize the person

# Dealing with multi-path when there is one moving user

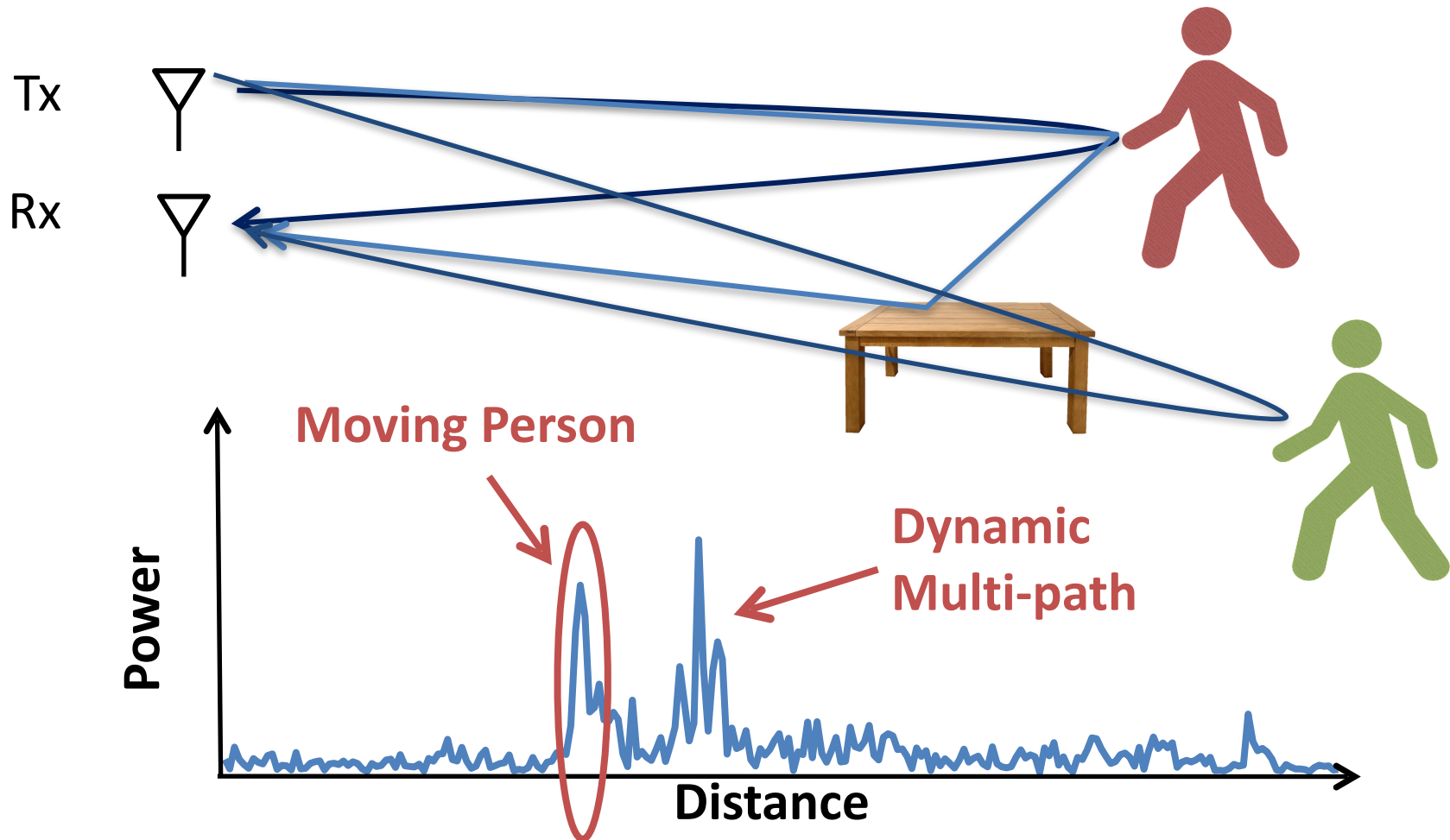


Direct furniture reflection:

eliminated by subtracting consecutive measurements

Needs User to Move

Fails for multiple people in the environment, and we need a more comprehensive solution



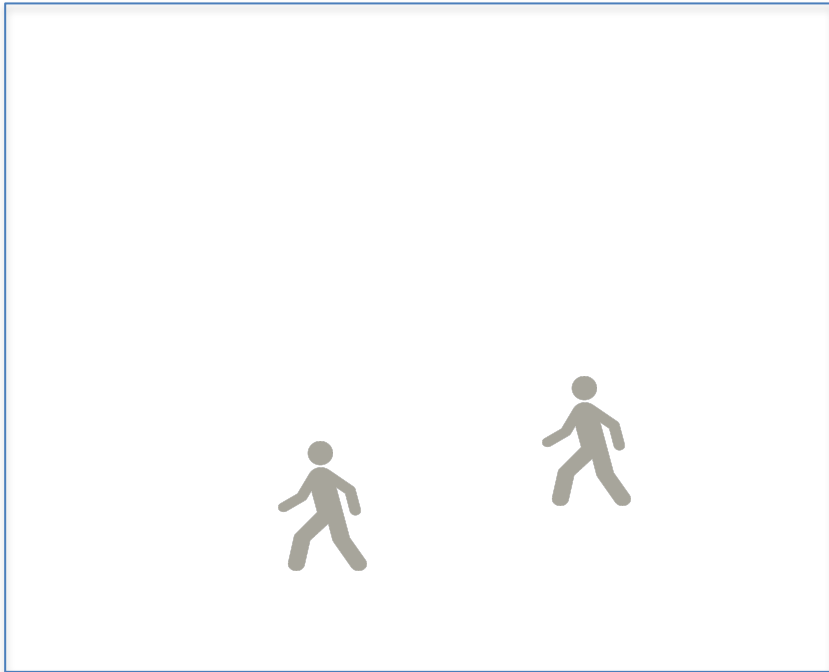
How can we deal with multi-path reflections when there are multiple persons in the environment?

Idea: Person is consistent across different vantage points while multi-path is different from different vantage points

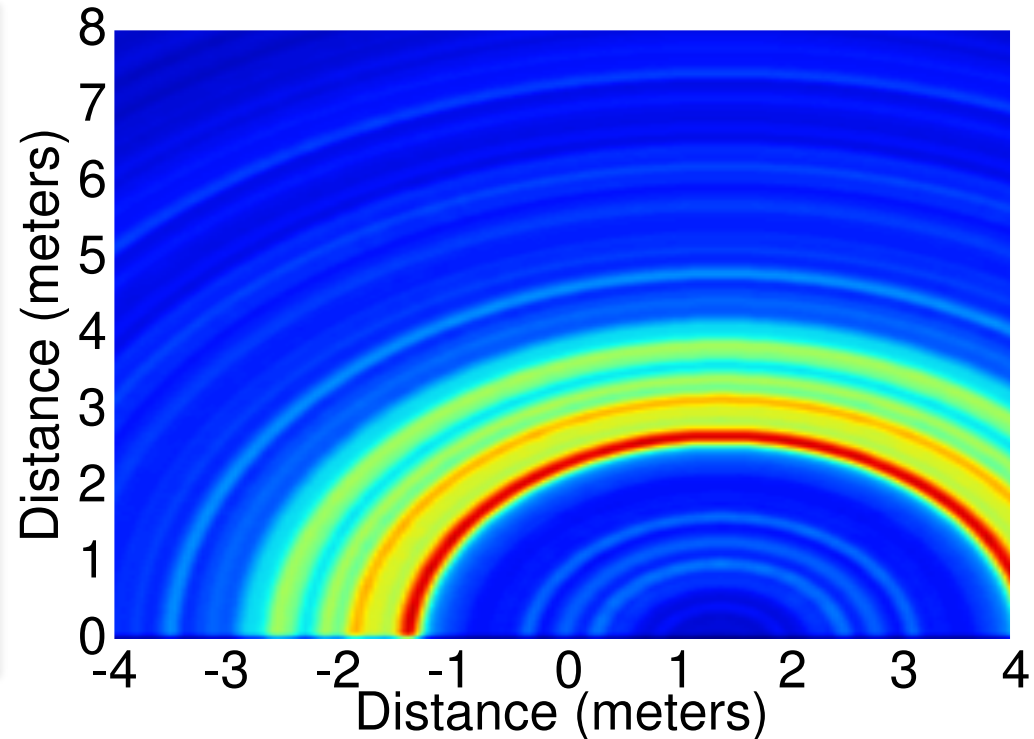
# Combining across Multiple Vantage Points

Experiment: Two users walking

Setup



Single Vantage Point

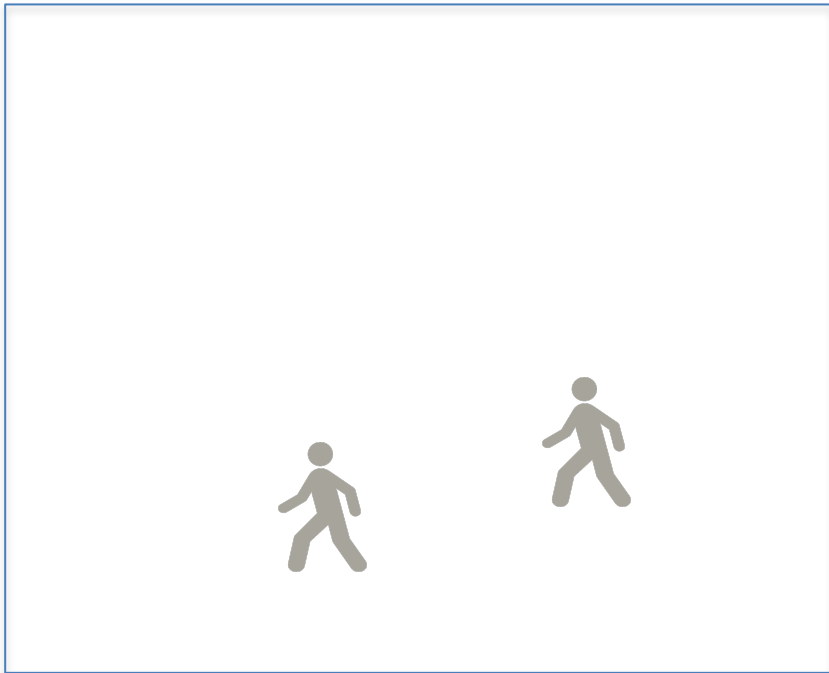


Mathematically: each round-trip distance can be mapped to an ellipse whose foci are the transmitter and the receiver

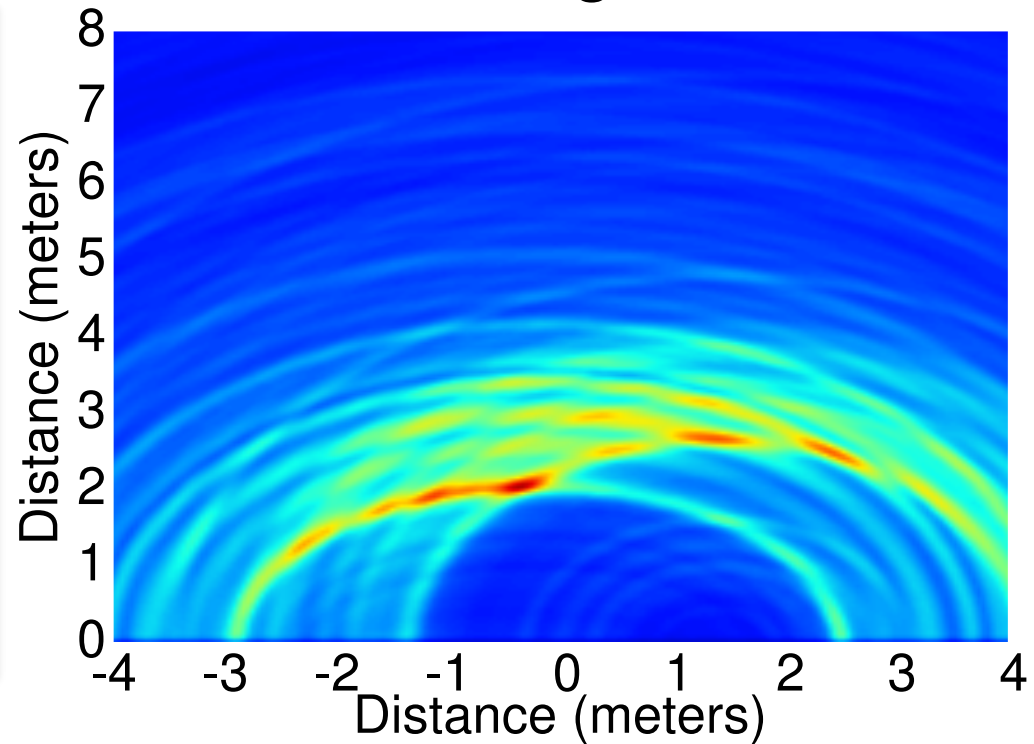
# Combining across Multiple Vantage Points

Experiment: Two users walking

Setup



Two Vantage Points

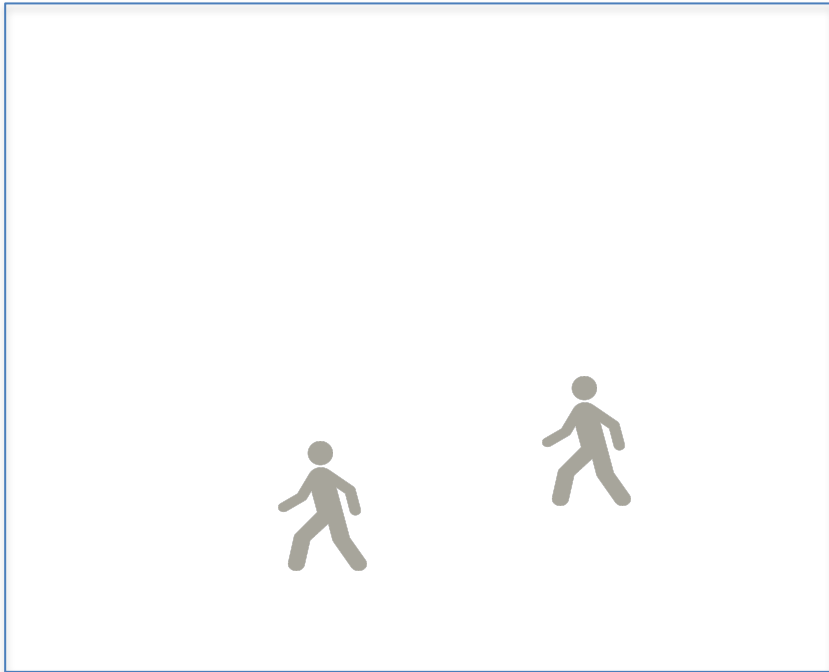




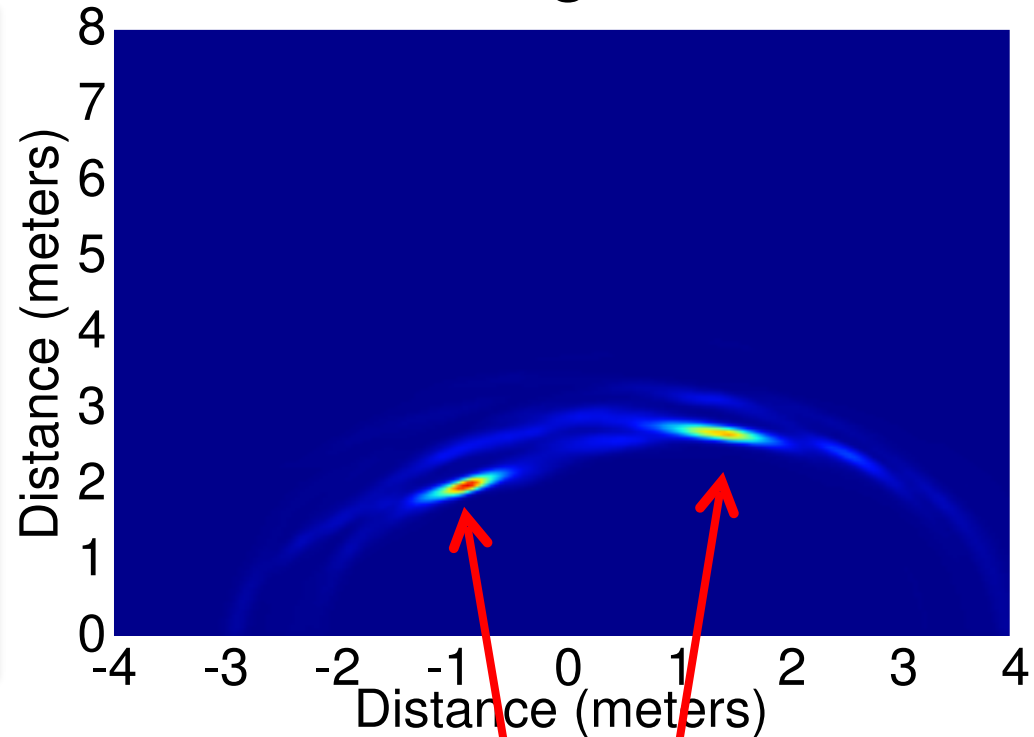
# Combining across Multiple Vantage Points

Experiment: Two users walking

Setup



16 Vantage Points

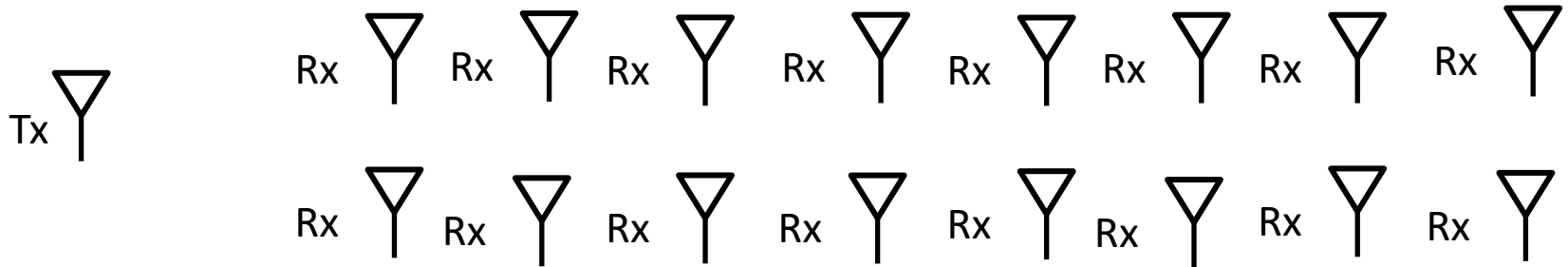


Localize the two users

How can we obtain 16 vantage points?

# Achieving 16 vantage points

- Naïve solution: 1 Transmitter and 16 Receivers



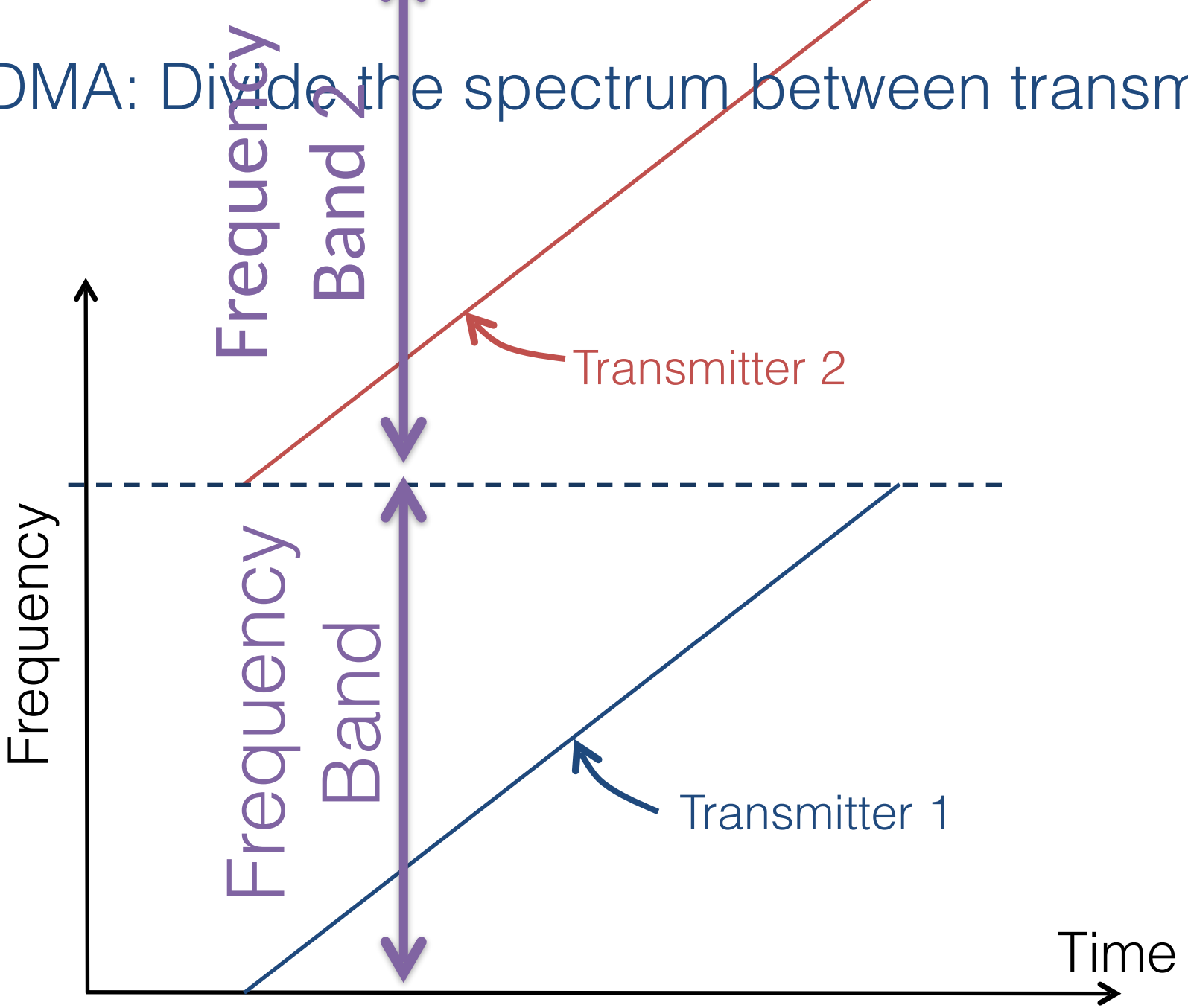
- Ideally: 4 Transmitters and 4 Receivers



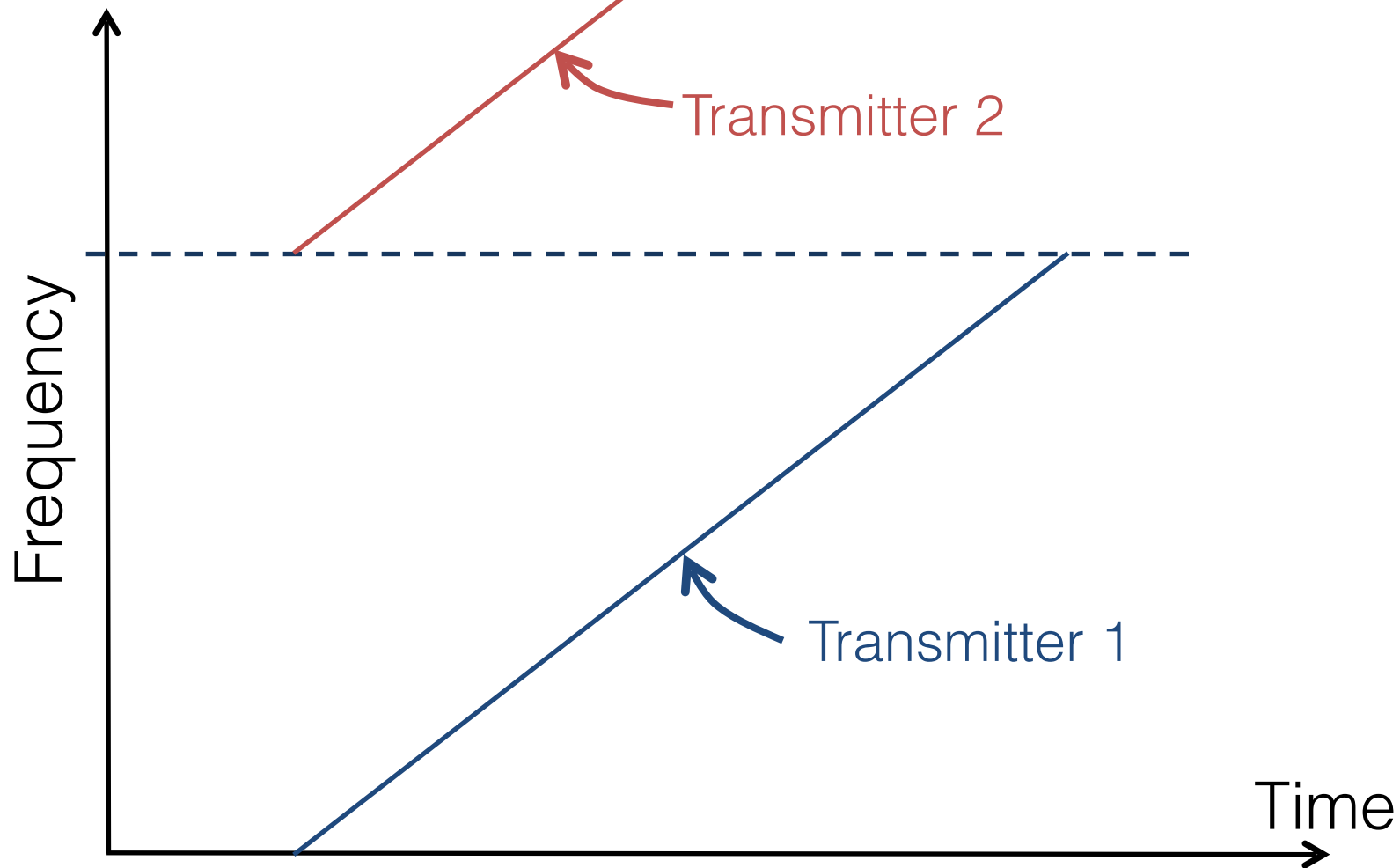
Problem: Different transmitters interfere with each other!

Let us look at standard mechanisms that are used to deal with interference

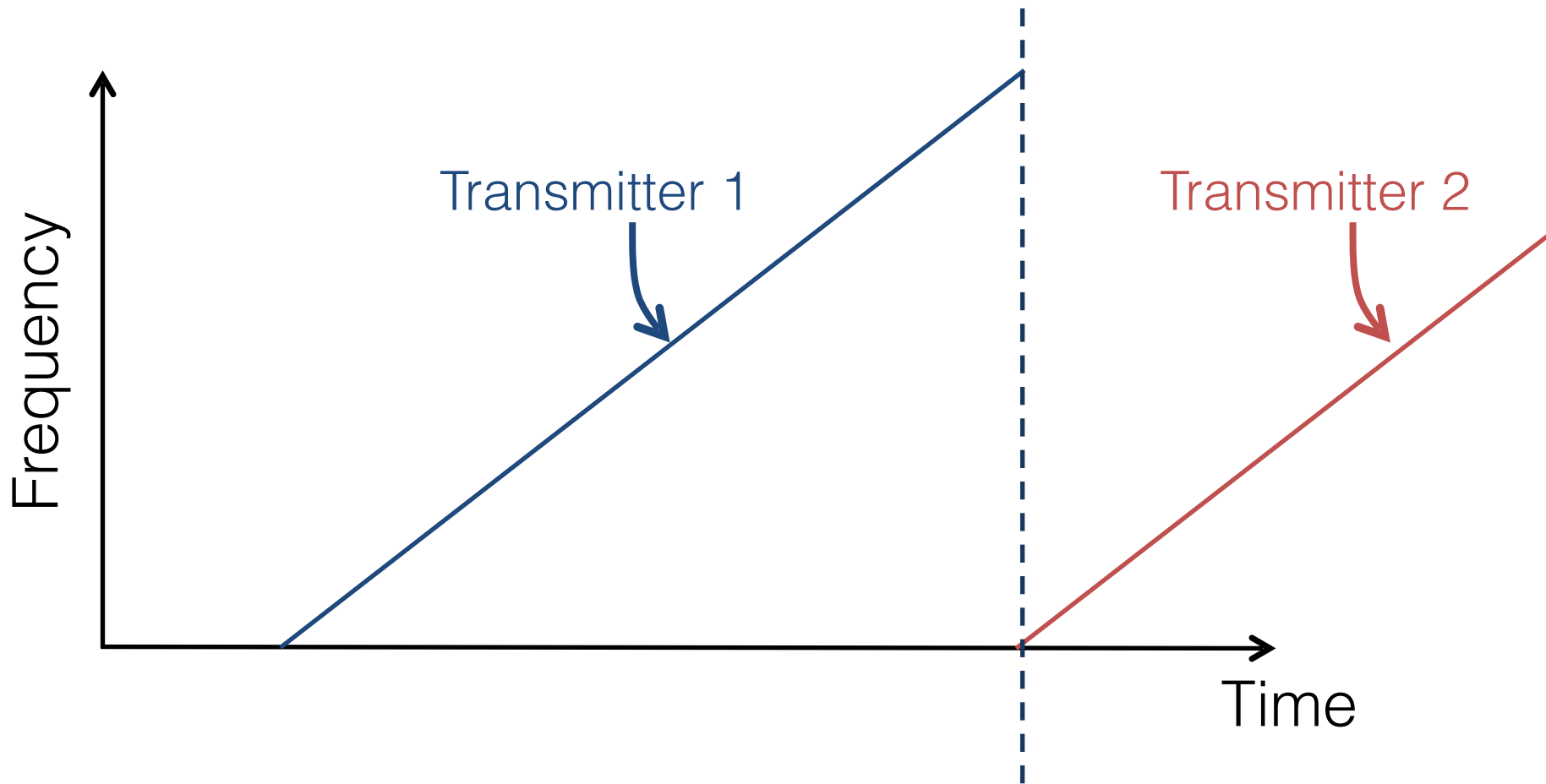
FDMA: Divide the spectrum between transmitters



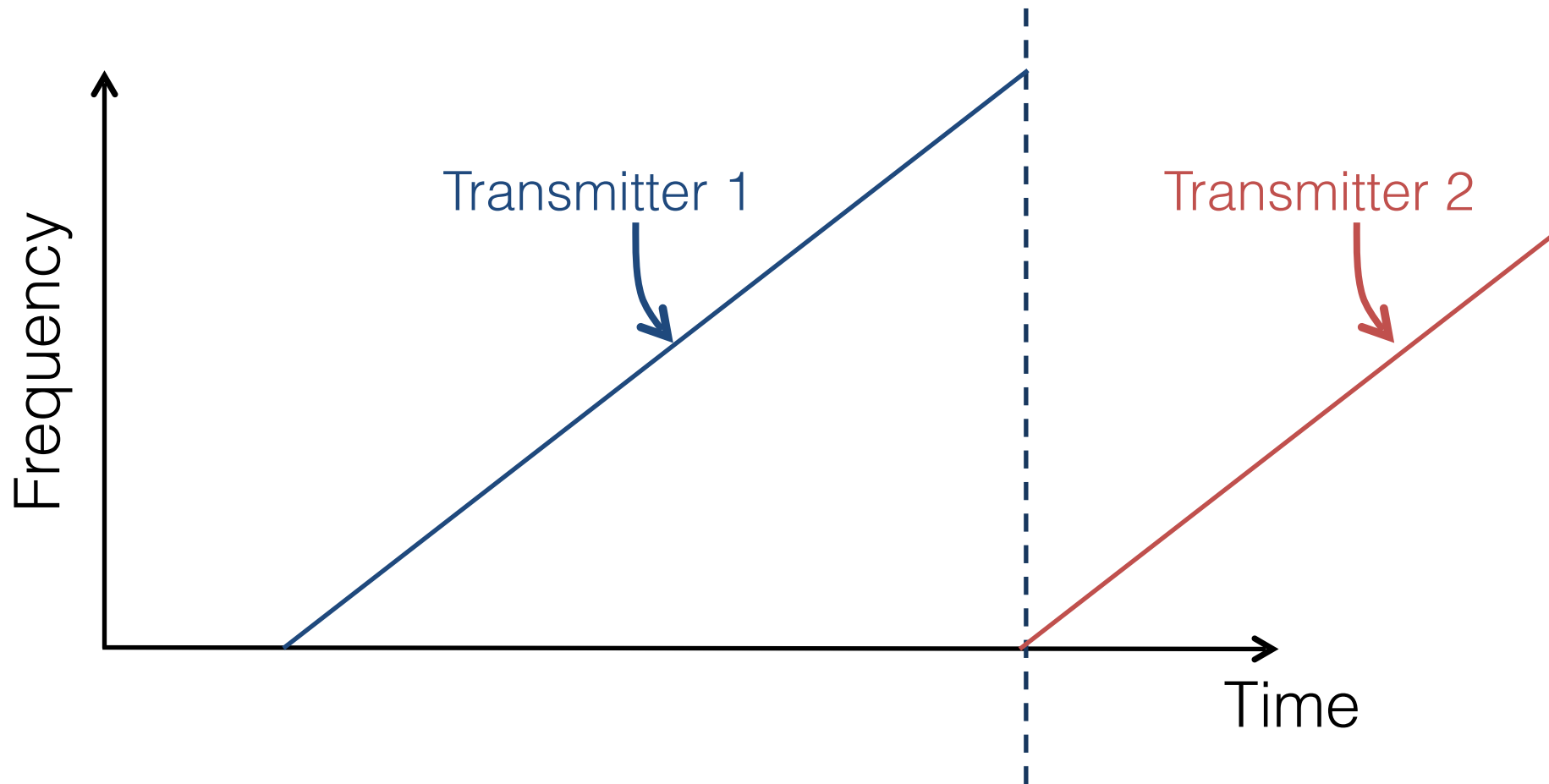
Would require N times the bandwidth!



# TDMA: Transmitters take turns transmitting

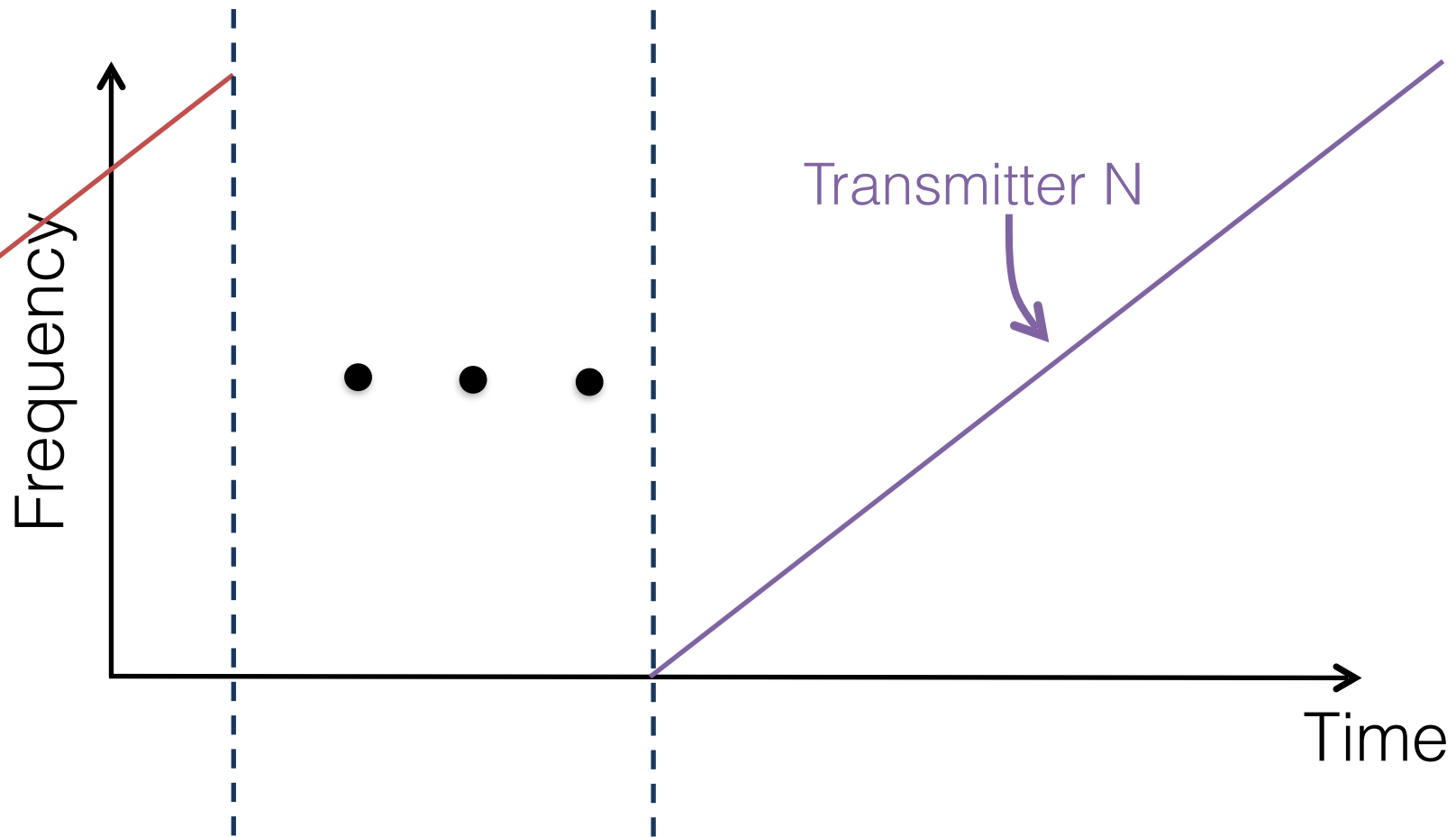


Would require N more time to localize

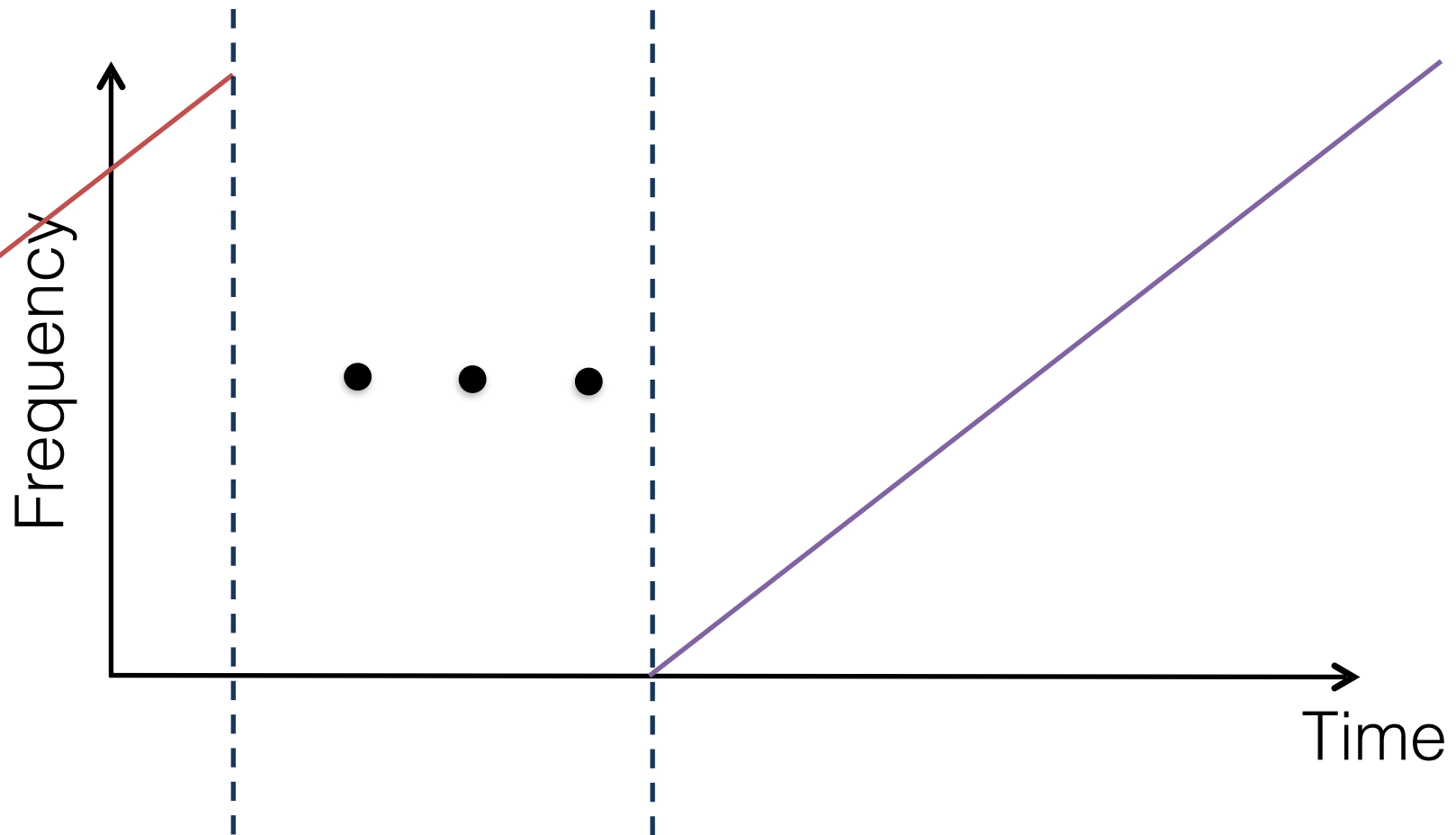




Ideally: Transmit in the same time and in the same frequency band without interfering



Ideally: Transmit in the same time and in the same frequency band without interfering

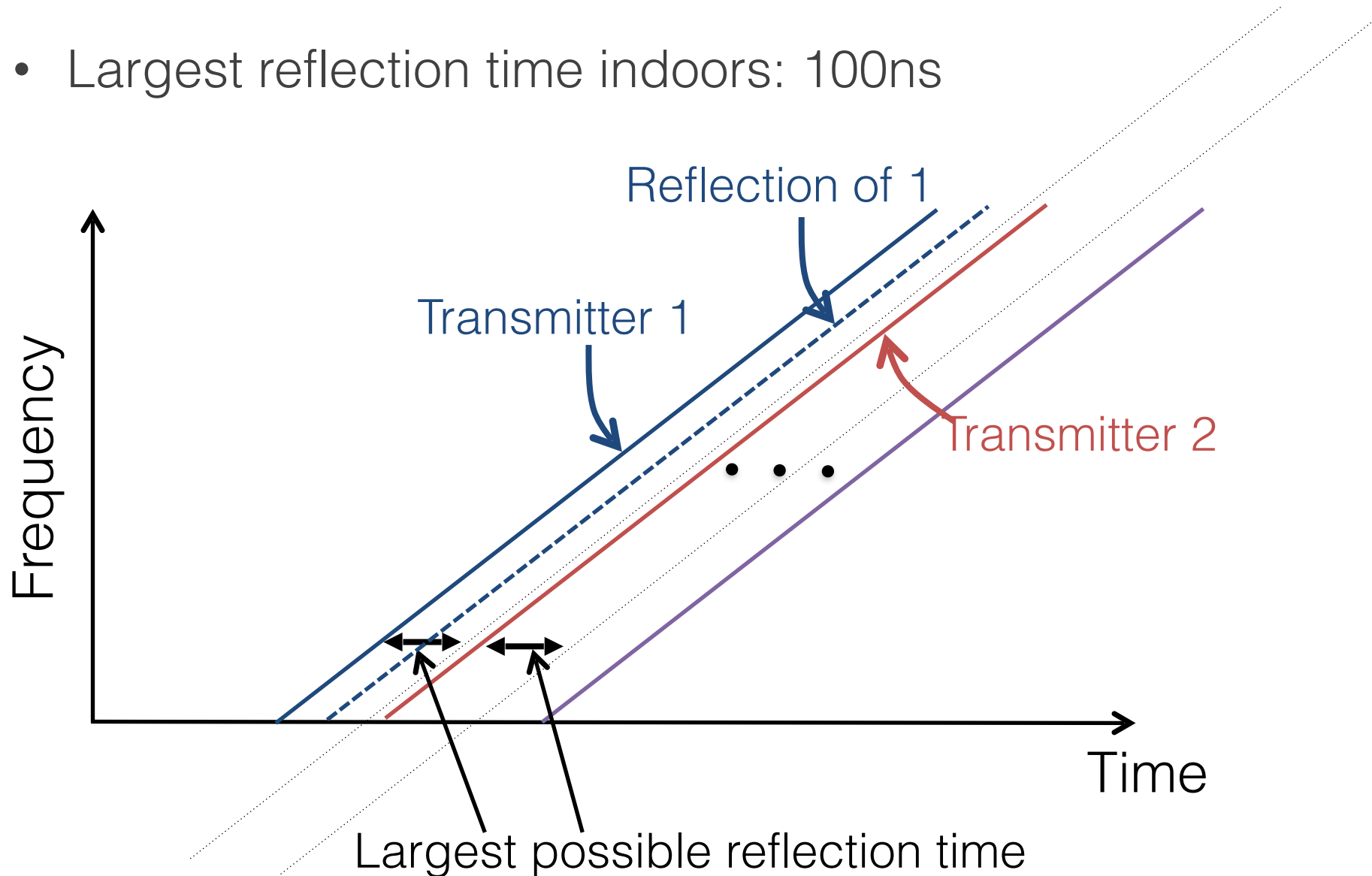


## Multi-shift FMCW:

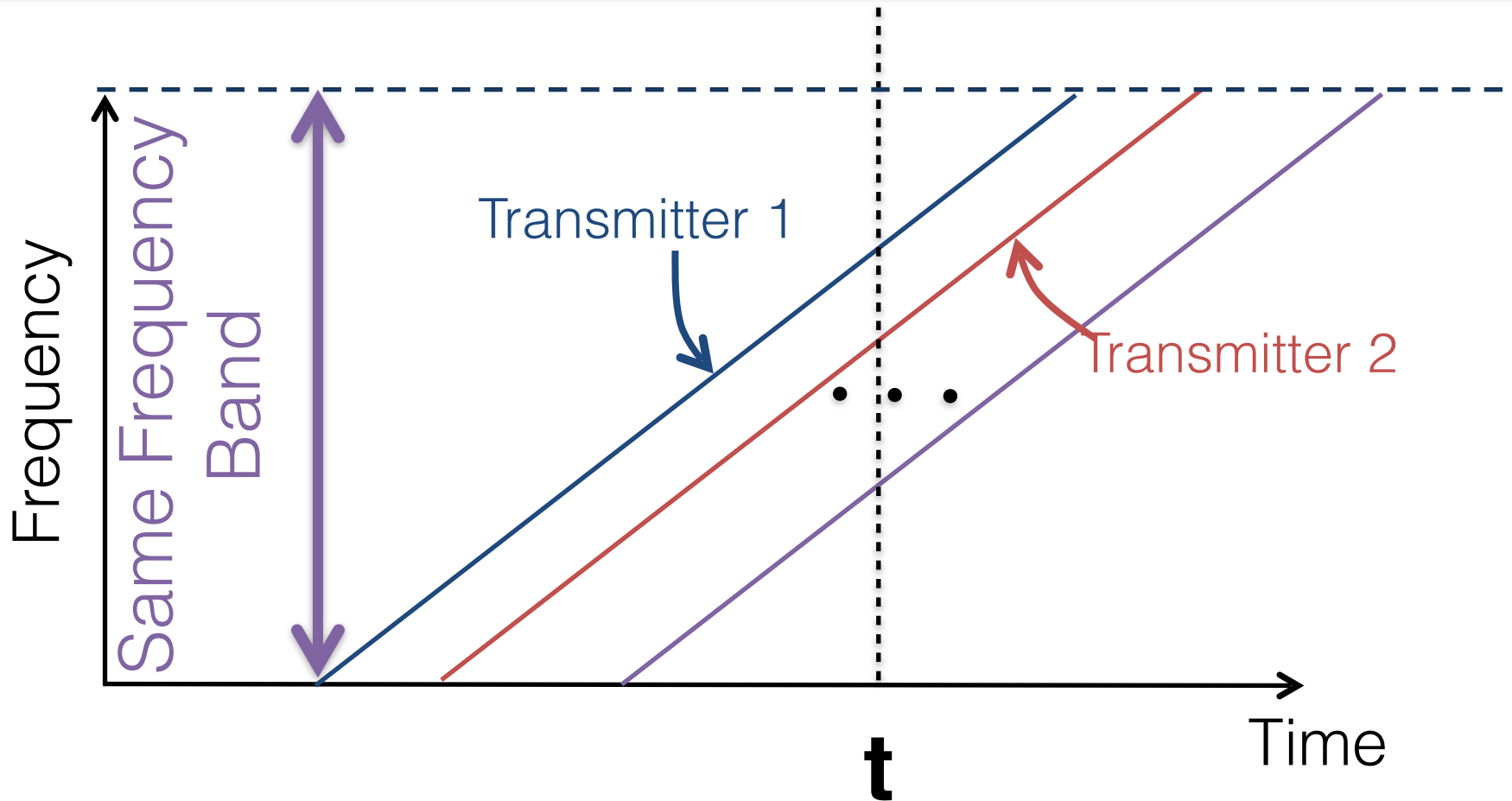
a new mechanism to divide resources between transmitters so that they don't suffer from interference

# Objective: Transmit and Get Reflection

- Largest reflection time indoors: 100ns



Multi-shift FMCW enables multiple transmissions at the **same time** and in the **same frequency band** without interference



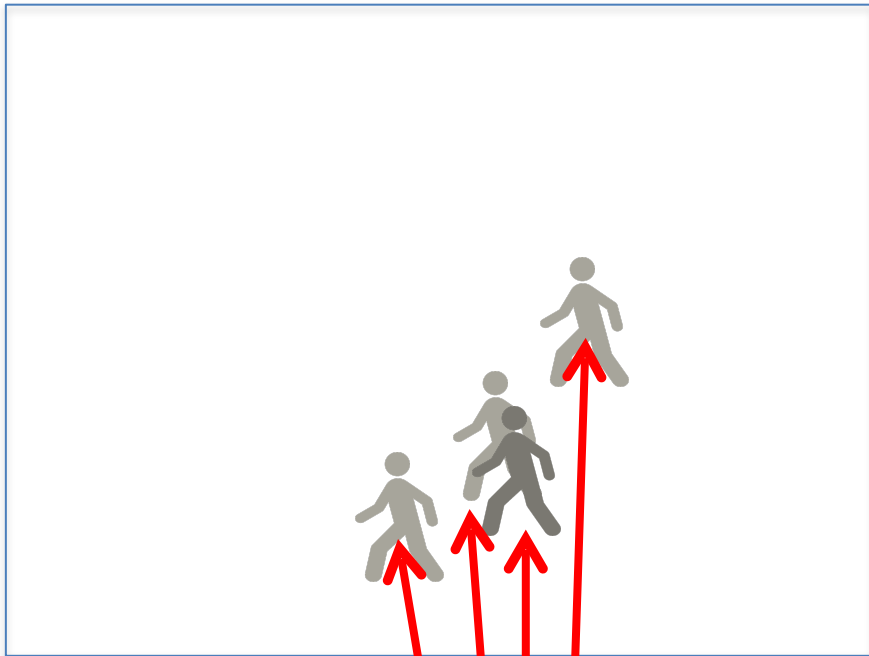
# Multi-Person Localization

- Multi-shift FMCW enables a large number of vantage points for accurate localization of multiple subjects

# Multi-User Localization

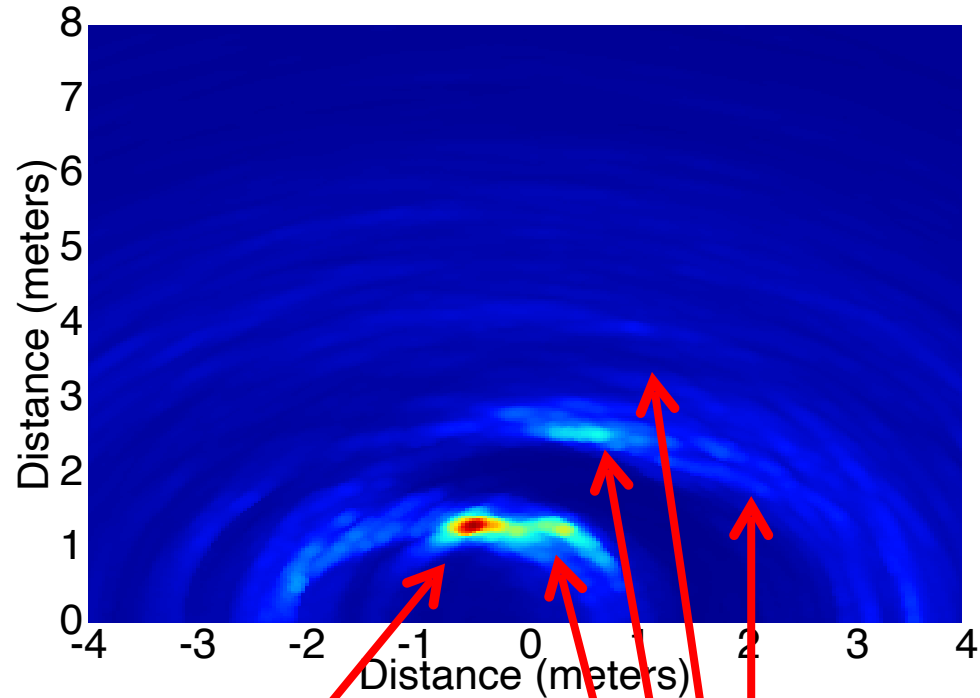
Experiment: Four persons walking

Setup



four persons

All Vantage Points

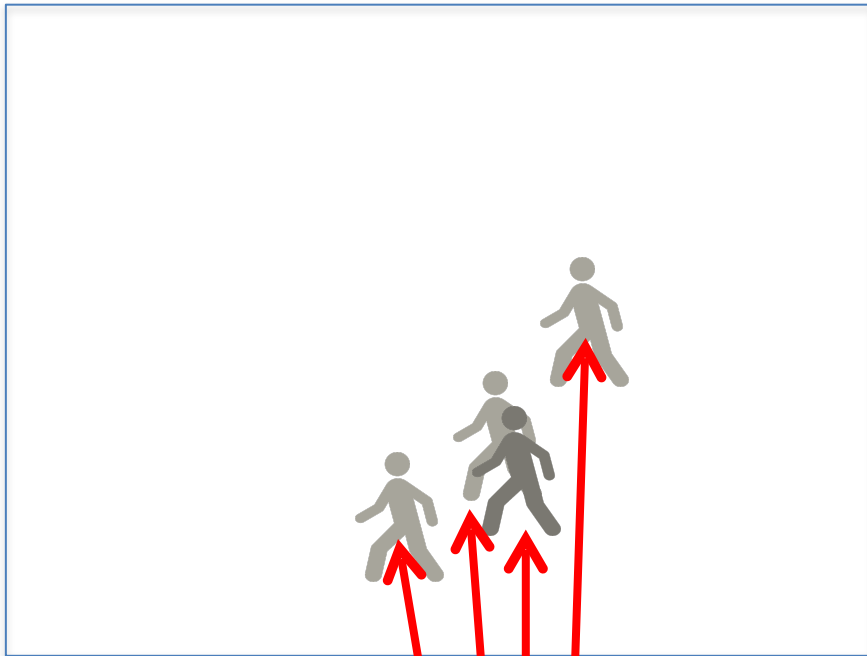


first person

other people or  
noise?

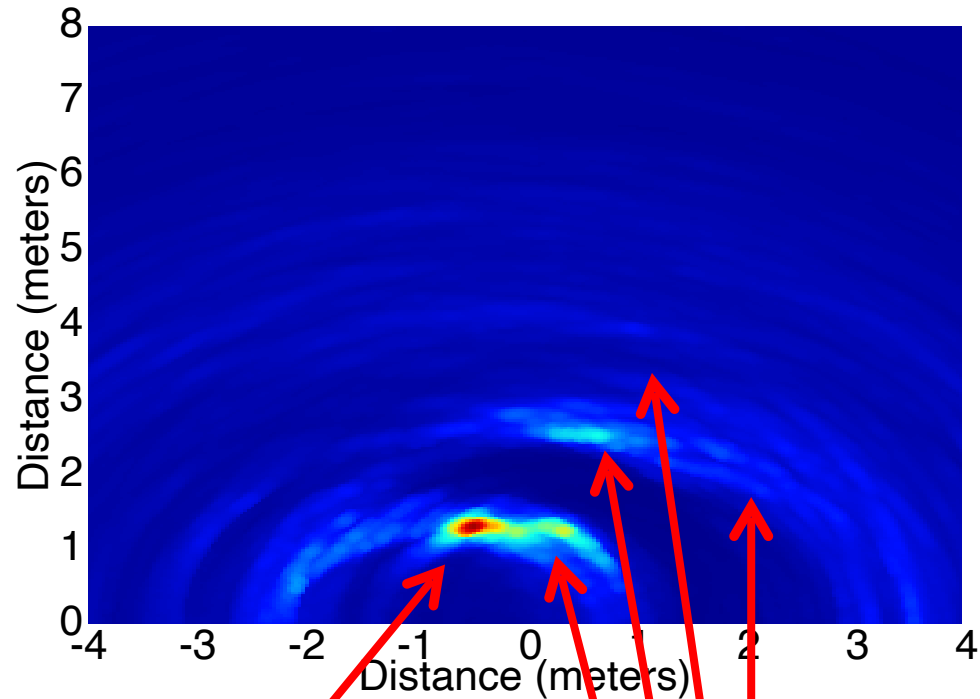
# Near-Far Problem: Nearby persons have more power than distance reflectors and can mask them

## Setup



four persons

## All Vantage Points



first person

other people or  
noise?



## Successive Silhouette Cancellation:

a new algorithm that localizes multiple persons in the scene by addressing the near-far problem

## Successive Silhouette Cancellation:

a new algorithm that localizes multiple persons in the scene by addressing the near-far problem

*inspired by*

## Successive Interference Cancellation

iteratively decode interfering transmissions by addressing the near-far problem

# Successive Interference Cancellation

Recover 0's and 1's

Decode 0's  
and 1's

Subtract

Reconstruct  
modulation &  
coding

# Successive Silhouette Cancellation

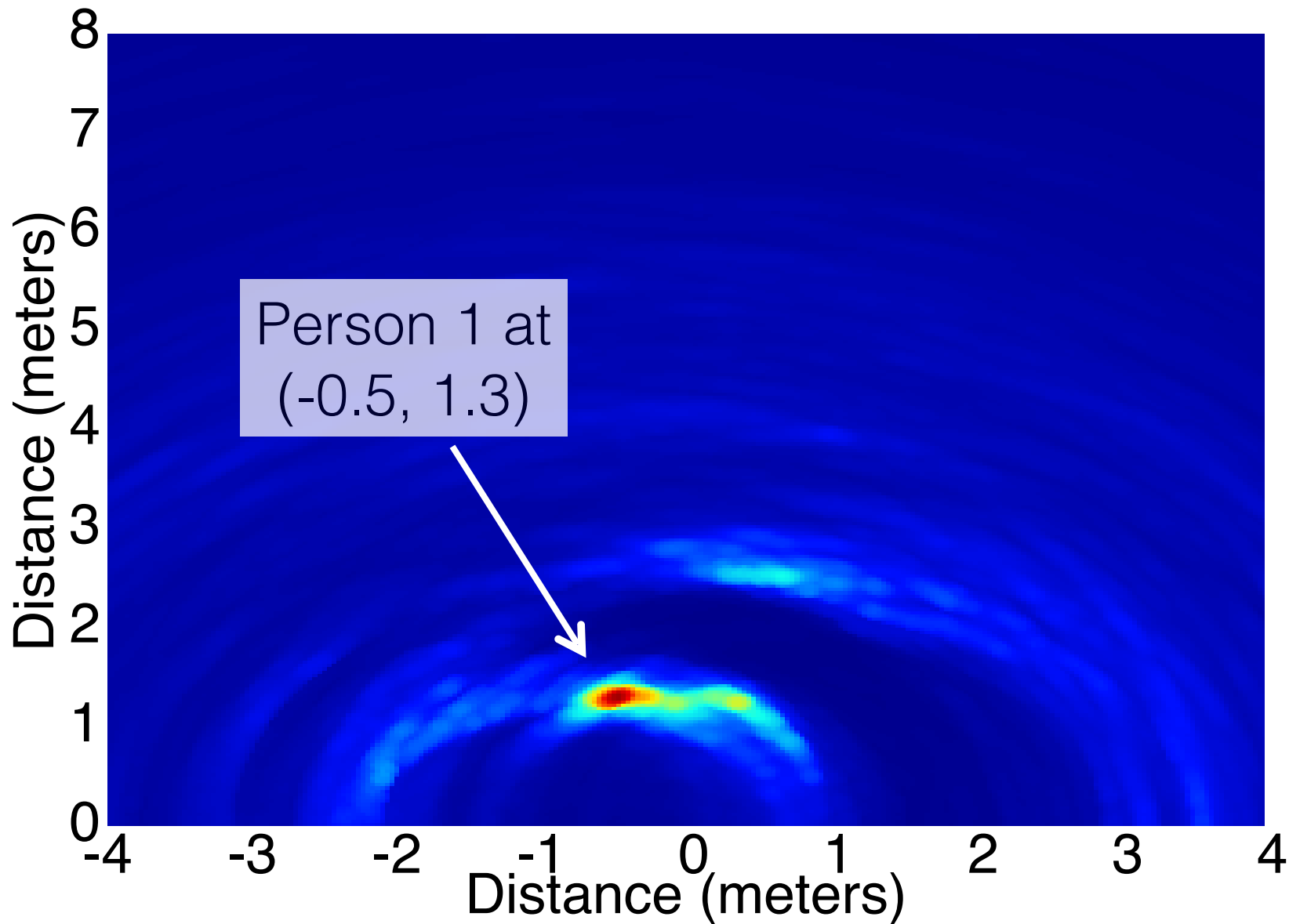
Recover human reflections

Decode human  
location

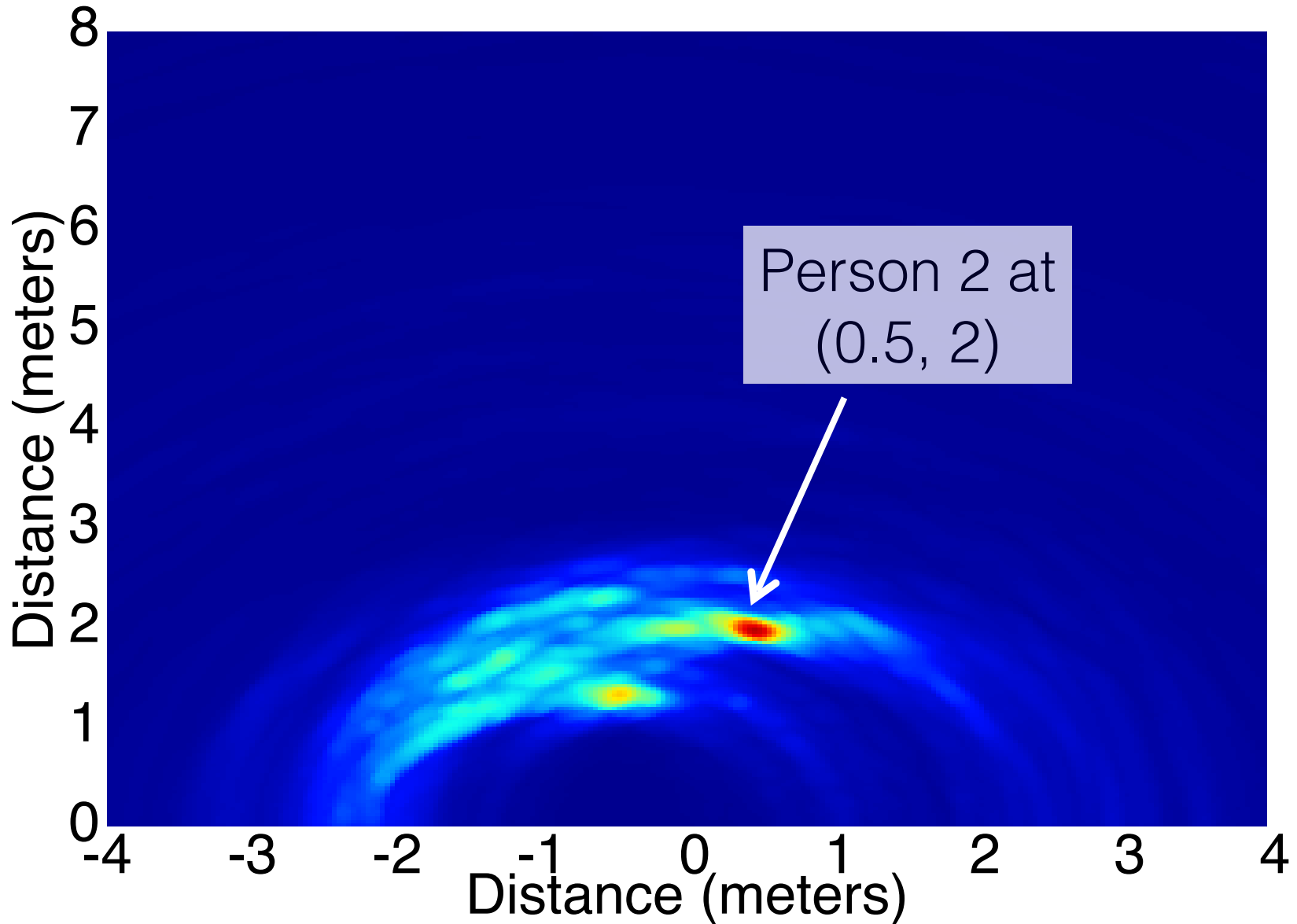
Subtract

Model human and  
reconstruct  
reflection patterns

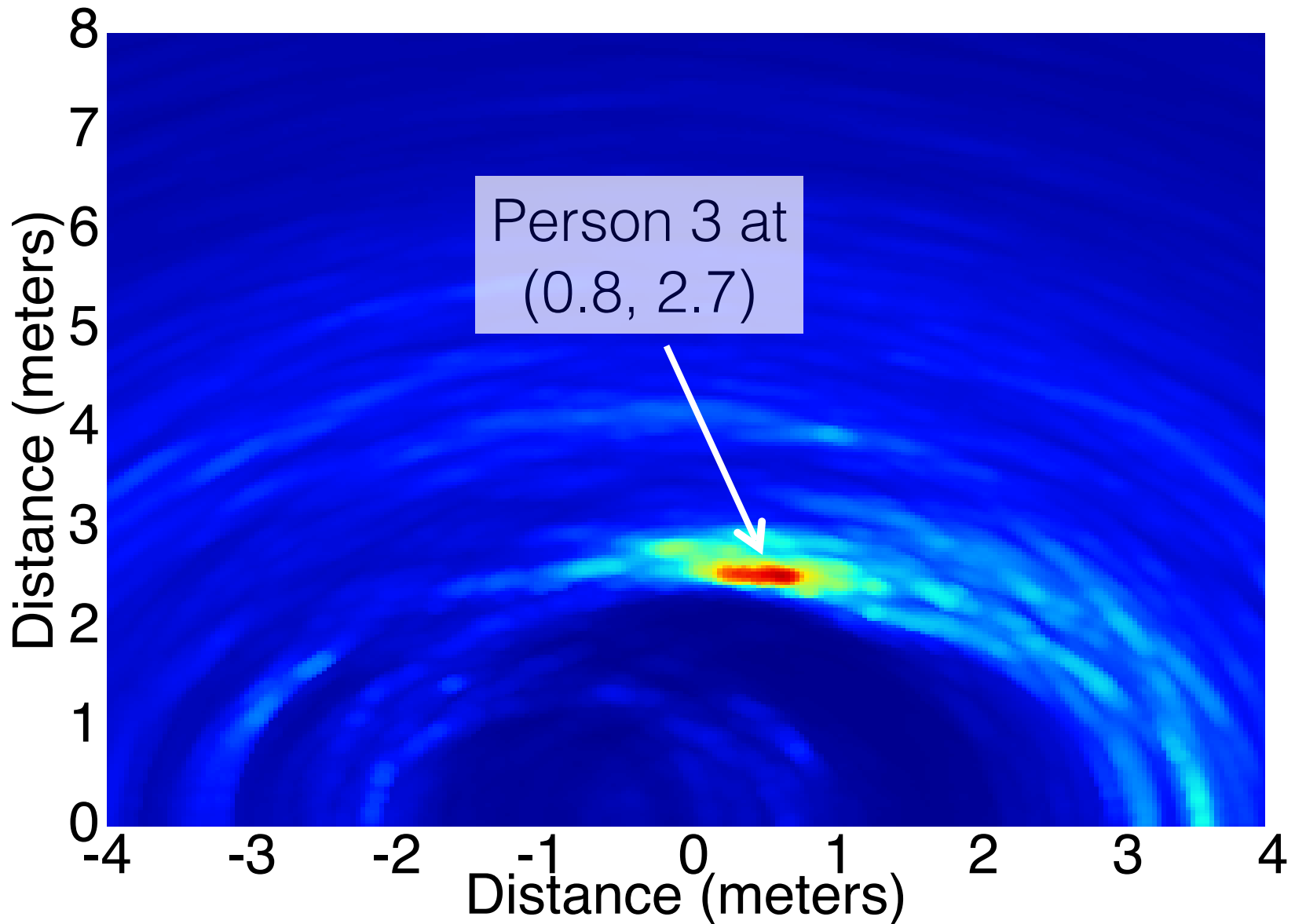
First localize the user with the strongest reflection



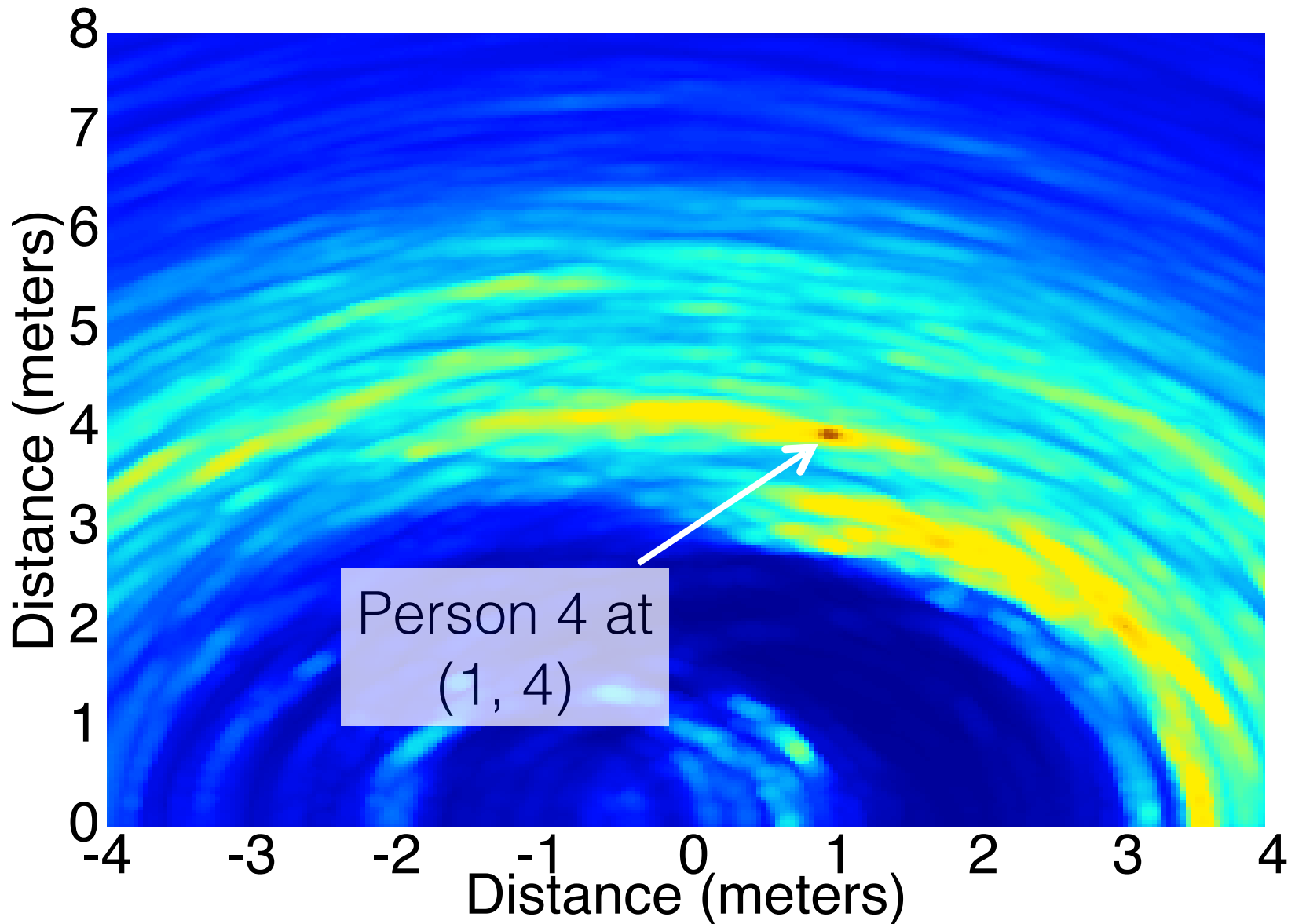
After reconstructing and cancelling the first user's reflections



Iteratively localize the remaining users in the scene



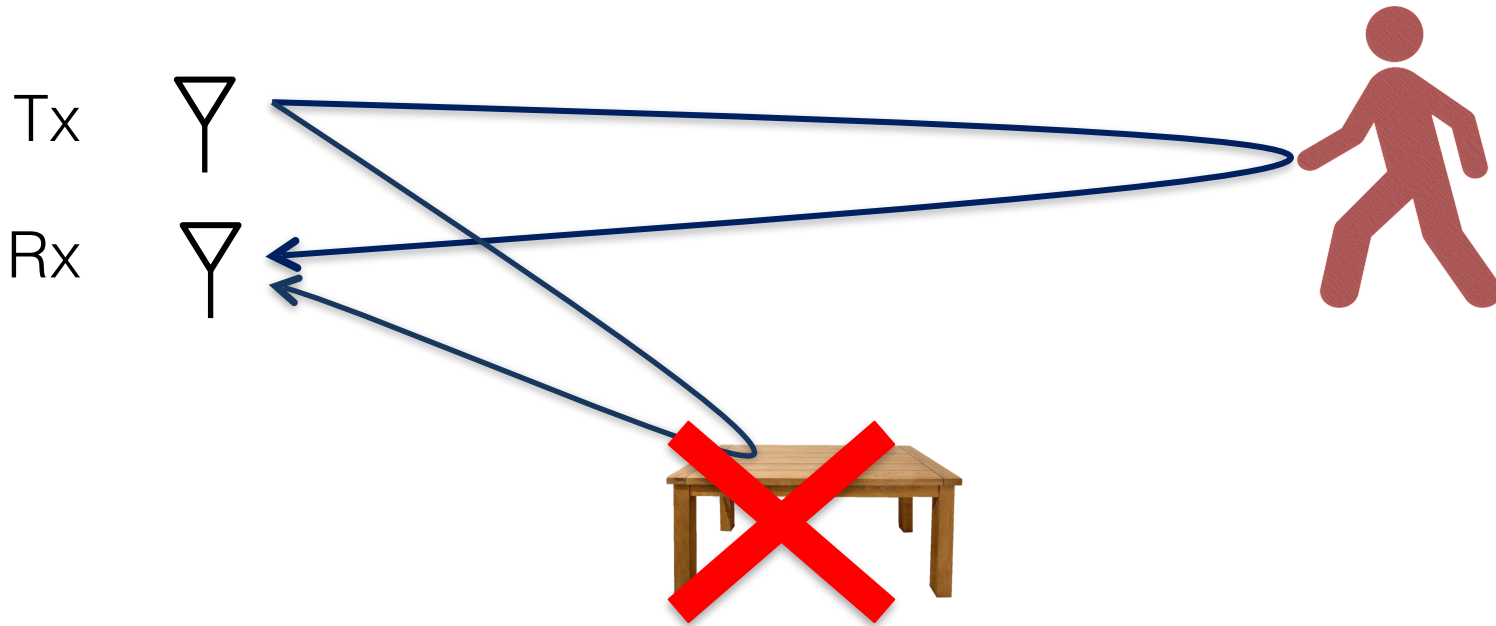
Iteratively localize the remaining users in the scene



How can we localize static users?



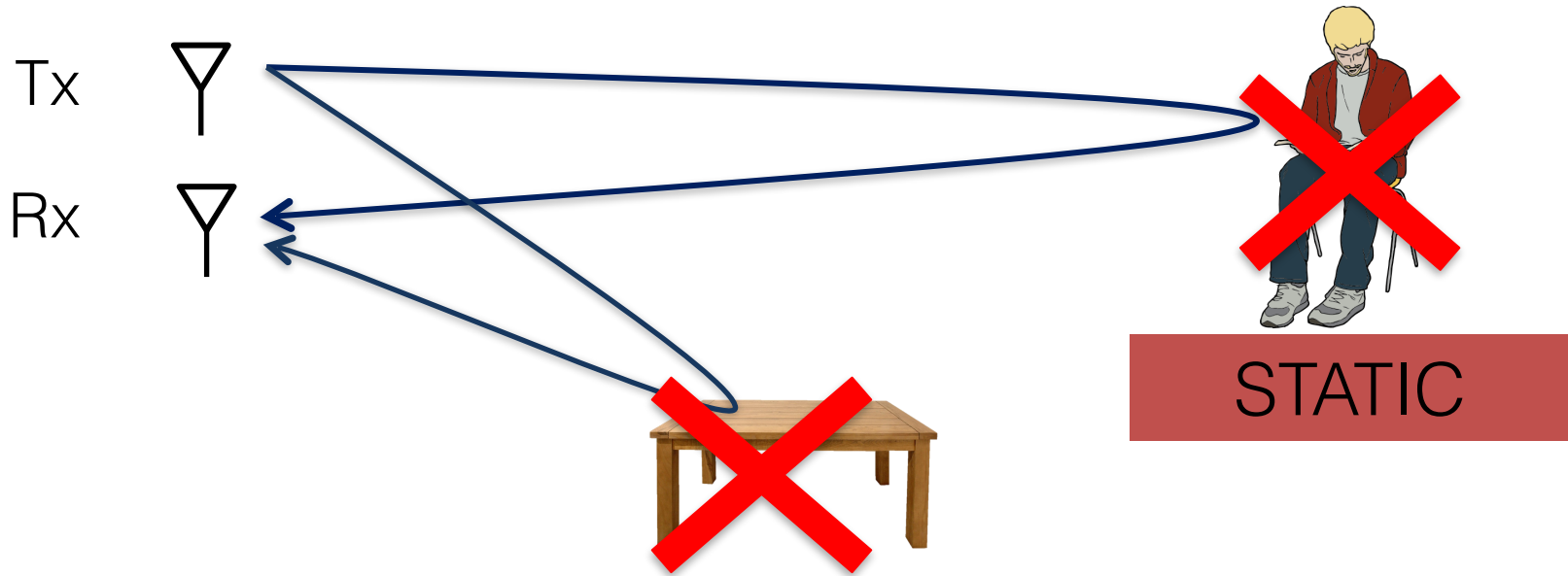
# Dealing with multi-path when there is one moving user



1. Direct furniture reflection:  
eliminated by subtracting  
consecutive measurements

Needs User to Move

# Dealing with multi-path when there is one moving user



1. Direct furniture reflection:  
eliminated by subtracting  
consecutive measurements

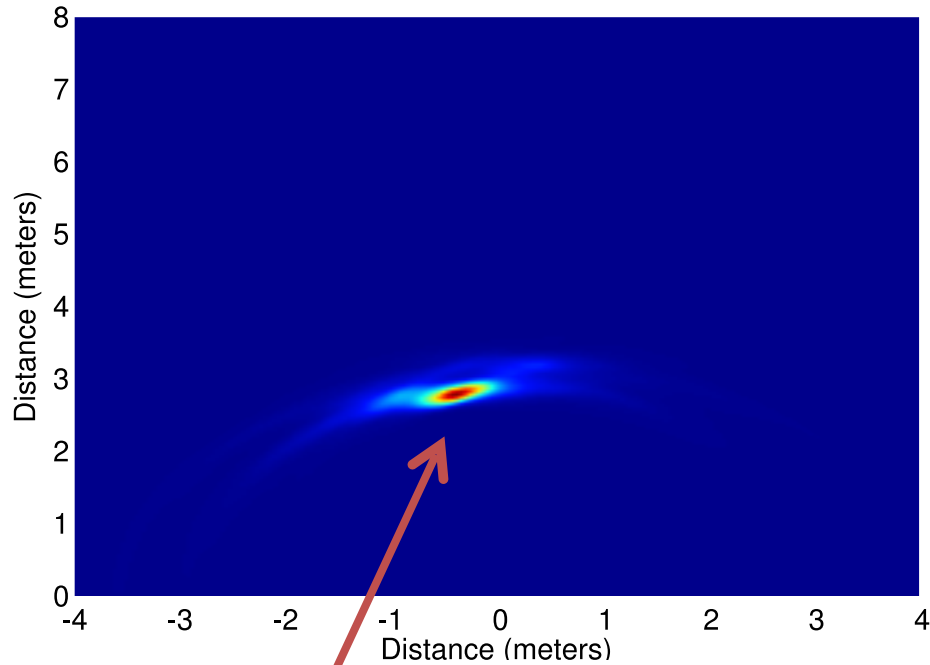
Needs User to Move

# Exploit breathing motion for localize static users

- Breathing and walking happen at different time scales
  - A user that is pacing moves at 1m/s
  - When you breathe, chest moves by few mm/s
- Cannot use the same subtraction window to eliminate multi-path

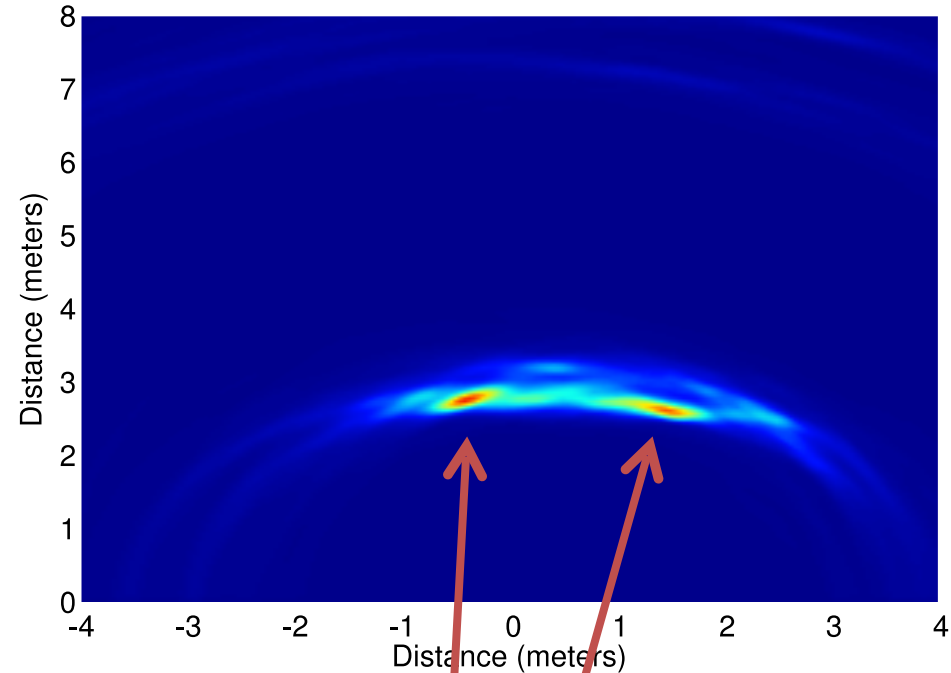
# User Walking at 1m/s

30ms subtraction window



Localize the  
person

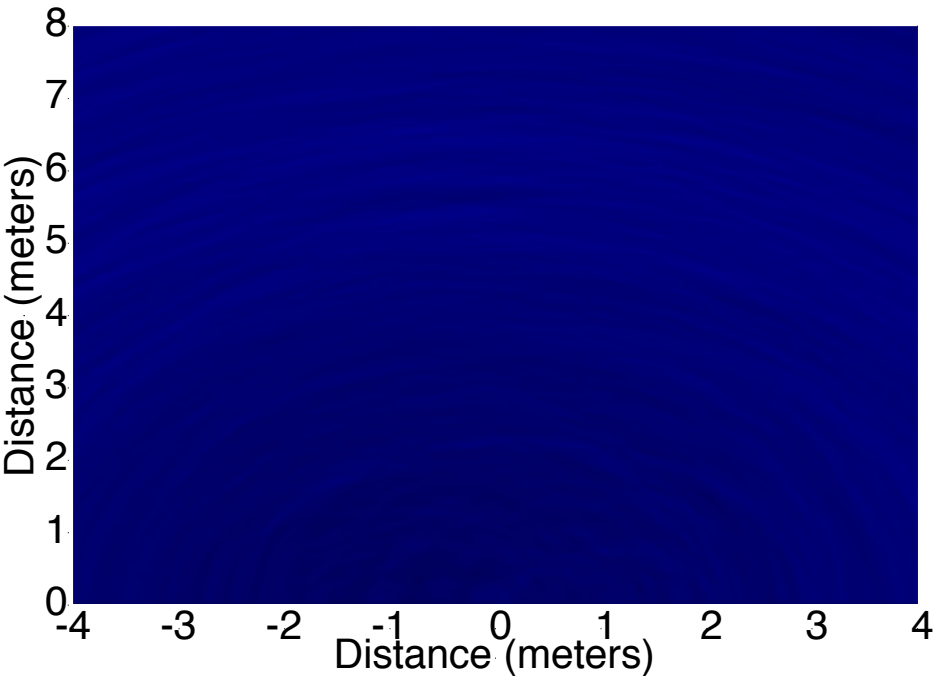
3s subtraction window



Person appears in two  
locations

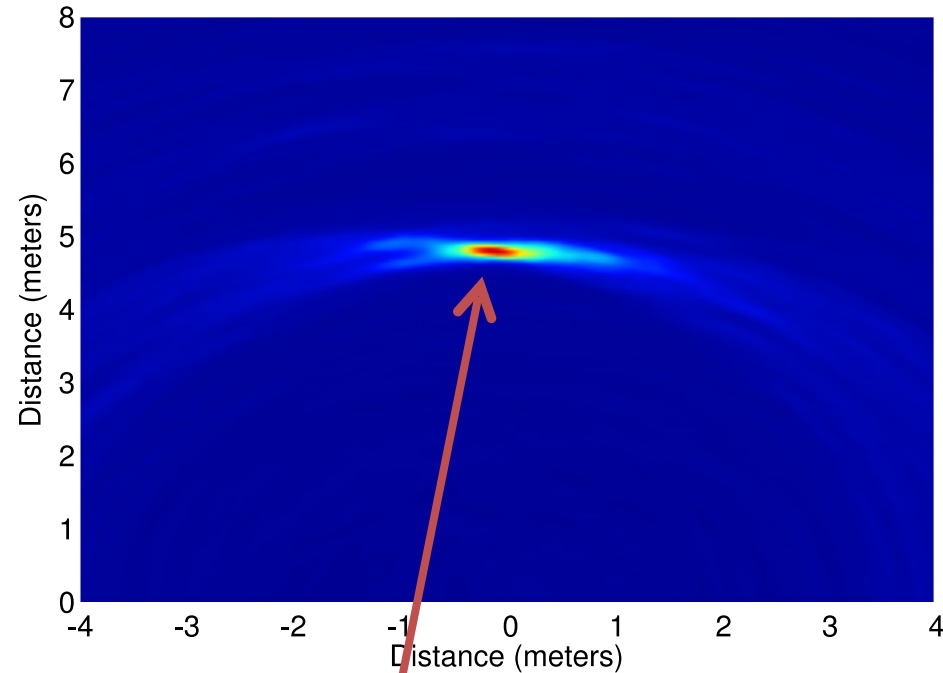
# User Sitting Still (Breathing)

30ms subtraction window



Cannot localize

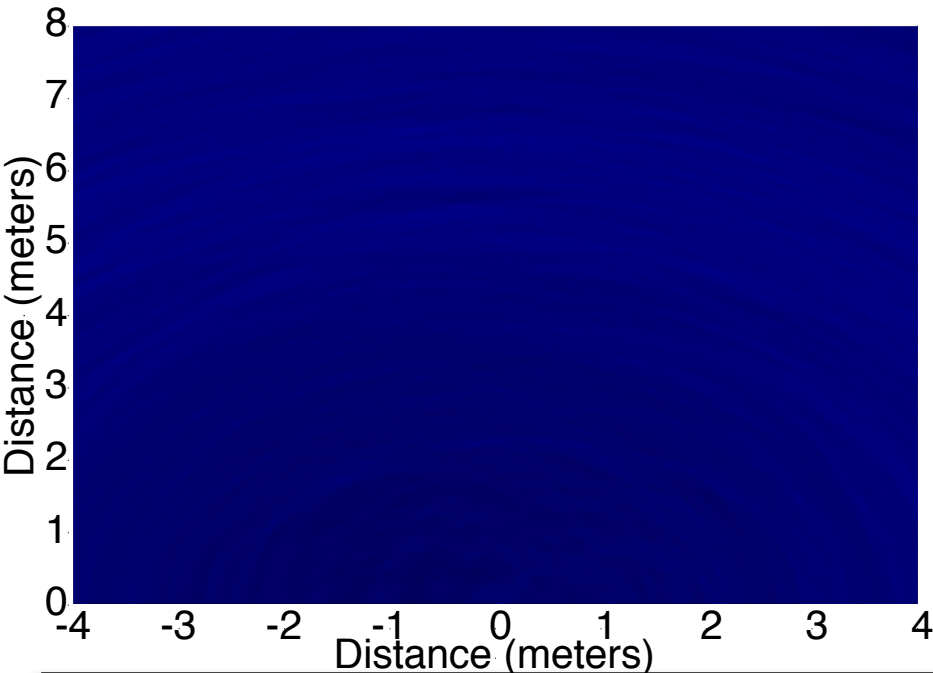
3s subtraction window



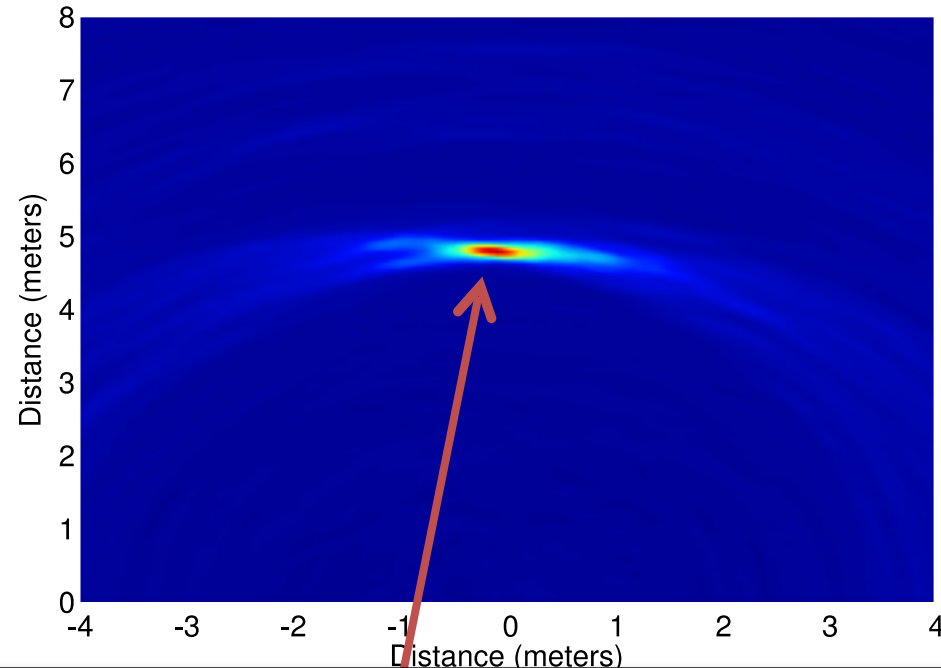
Localize the person

# User Sitting Still (Breathing)

30ms subtraction window



3s subtraction window



Use multi-resolution subtraction window to eliminate multi-path while being able to localize both static and moving users

