

# **A Critical Analysis of THz Applications: The Intersection of Science and Technology**

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We will consider the matching of technical approaches to applications in the THz spectral region. Particular attention will be paid to the physics of the interaction of the radiation and matter, how this physics leads to selection of technology, and, indeed, if the application is feasible. In many cases quantitative or semi-quantitative analyses are possible. Emphasis will be placed on using these analyses to identify especially attractive paths to applications that can be competitive for wide spread adoption. Specific results will be presented for both point and remote chemical sensors that are based on high resolution and brightness electronic sources. Sensitivity, specificity, and background clutter and interference will be considered quantitatively. Paths to low cost and compact THz electronic sensors will be described. Technical descriptions of the hardware implementations, analysis of the interactions of this hardware with the molecular signatures, and analysis methods will be presented.

**DTRA  
May 29, 2012  
Ft. Belvoir, VA**

# Content

## Physics: A Guide to Applications and Appropriate Technology

### Examples

- Point gas sensors

- Remote gas sensors

- Imaging

  - special alignment and illumination requirements

  - coherent effects (speckle)

- A few comments on bio

### Implementation and Comparisons

- R & D base for the THz vs IR, MS/GC, etc.

- 6.1 Research

### Paths Forward

- Near term based of well defined strengths (specificity, small sample, . .)

- What is possible with mature THz science and technology (broadening applicability)

# The THz: A Useful Combination

**Applications often based on combination of attributes:**

**Penetration**

**Angular Resolution**

**Spectroscopic Capability**

**At what frequency within the THz (0.1 – 10 THz) do we execute this compromise?**

**Attributes typically are steep powers of frequency**

**How do we choose an appropriate technology?**

**Figures of merit – especially power/dynamic range vs. brightness; orders of magnitude**

**Analysis needed to supplement qualitative concepts to choose useful paths forward.**

# **“Whispered Excitement about the THz”**

**Graham Jordan**

**Opening Plenary Presentation**

**SPIE Symposium: Optics/Photonics in Security and Defense**

**Bruges, Belgium, 26 September, 2005**

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**Goal today:**

**To sort through some of the hype and clutter so that we can better see the path forward in the THz (SMM, MM, FIR, NMM, . . .)**

**Themes:**

**There is a diversity of applications with similar technical requirements**

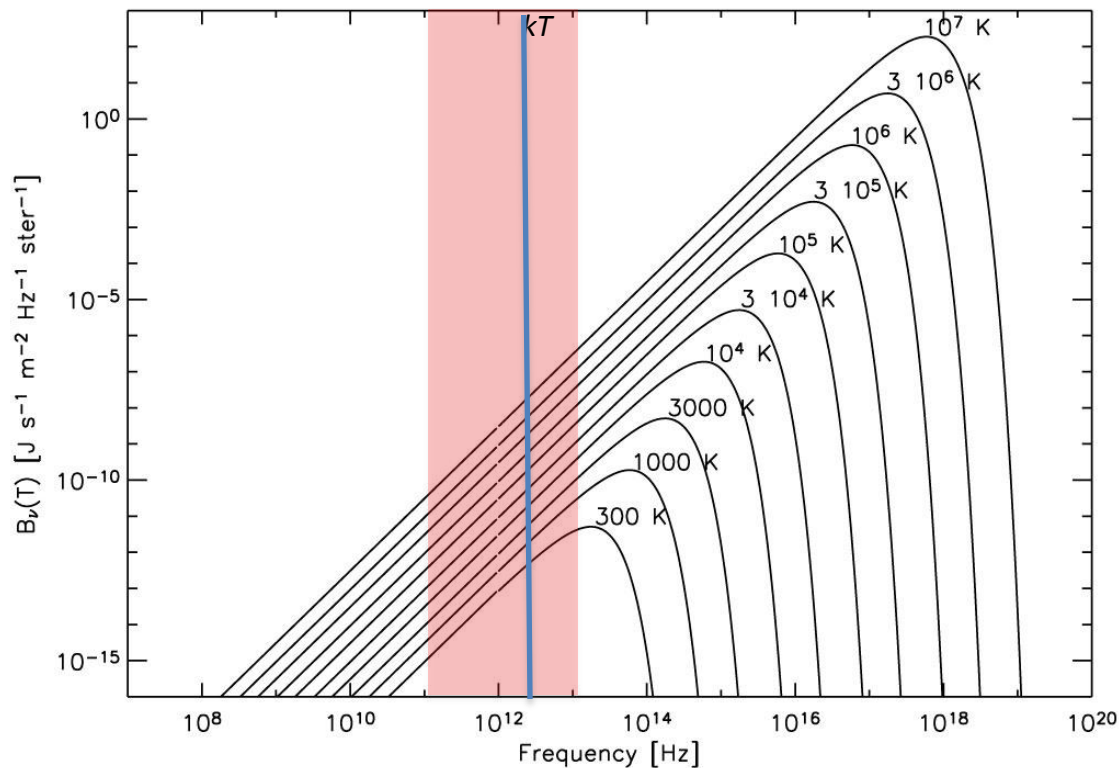
**Electronic technical approaches are very competitive**

**Leveraging the mass market is fundamental to success**

# The Physics:

## A Guide to Applications and Appropriate Technology

# Radiation and Interactions: Orders of Magnitude



The THz has defined itself broadly and spans  $kT$

**Linewidths: Fundamental to both specificity and sensitivity**

Doppler broadening is proportional to frequency: 0.1 – 10 MHz in THz : x 100 – x 1000 in IR

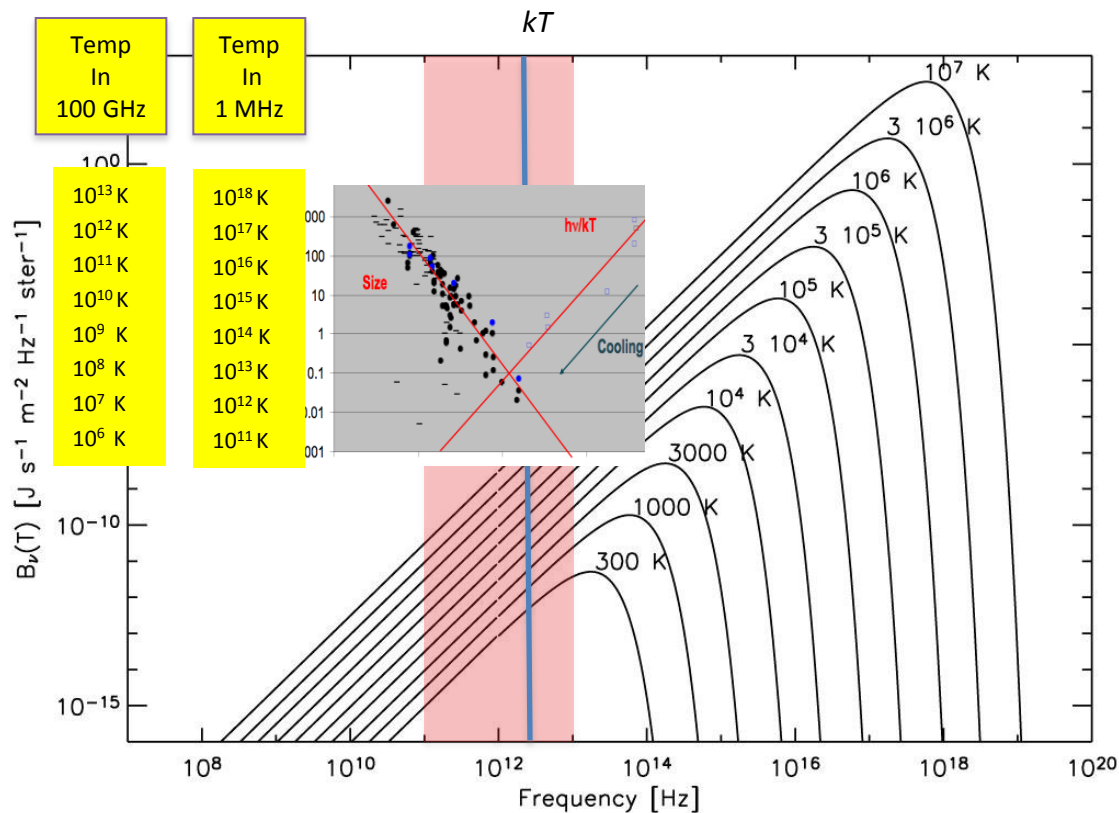
Atmospheric pressure broadening: 10 GHz at all frequencies

Sensors often purposefully pressure broadened to compensate for low spectrometer resolution

Solids: 100's GHz – to continua (typically at high THz to IR frequencies),

but crystals and ordered solids can be much narrower, especially at very low temperatures

# Radiation and Interactions: Orders of Magnitude



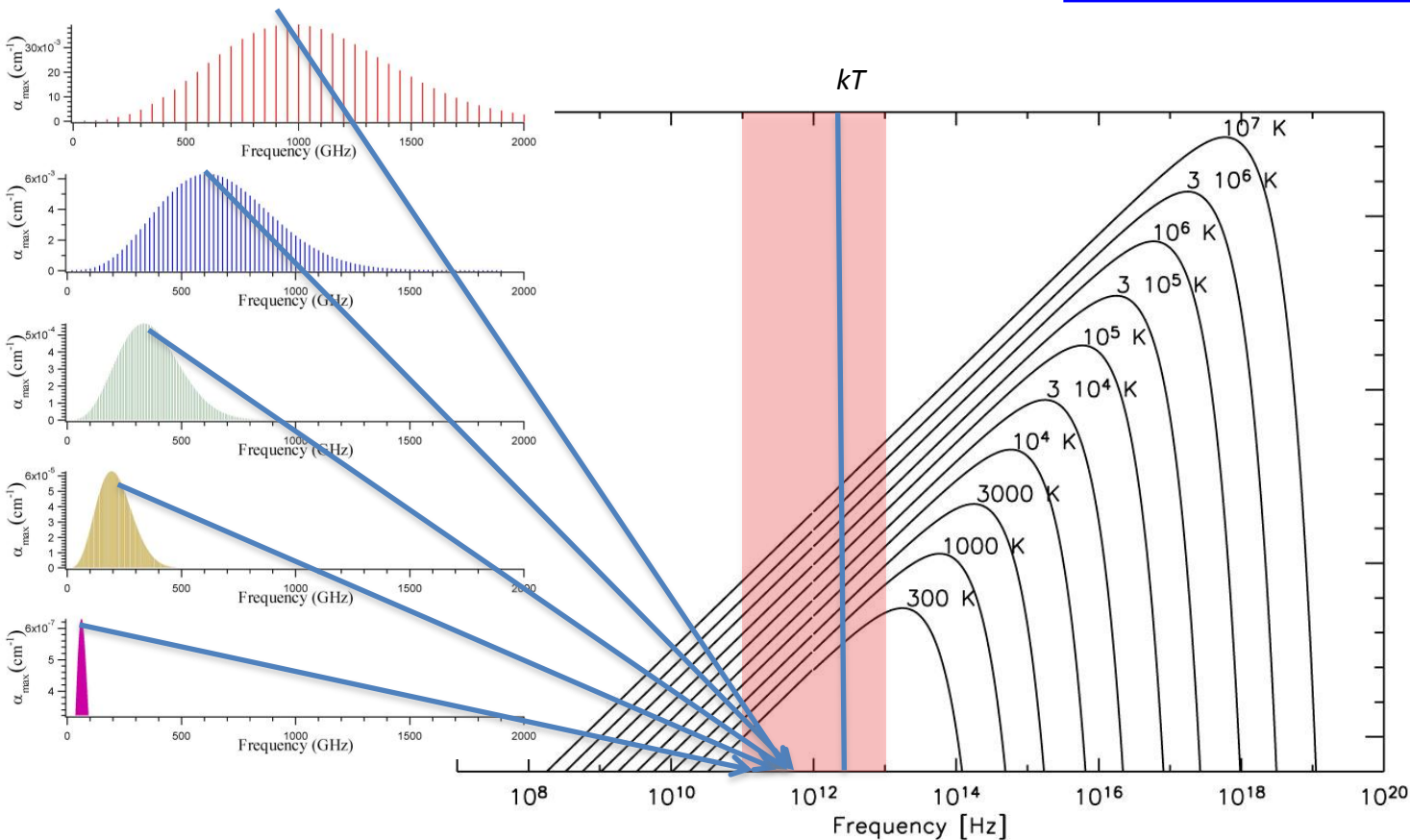
**Jumping the 'gap in the electromagnetic spectrum' is not the same as closing it.**

**Bandwidth matters**

**1 mW in 1 MHz is equivalent to 10<sup>14</sup> K**

**Must use appropriate figures of merit: total power (W) (dynamic range?) vs. brightness (W/Hz)**

# Radiation and Interactions: Orders of Magnitude



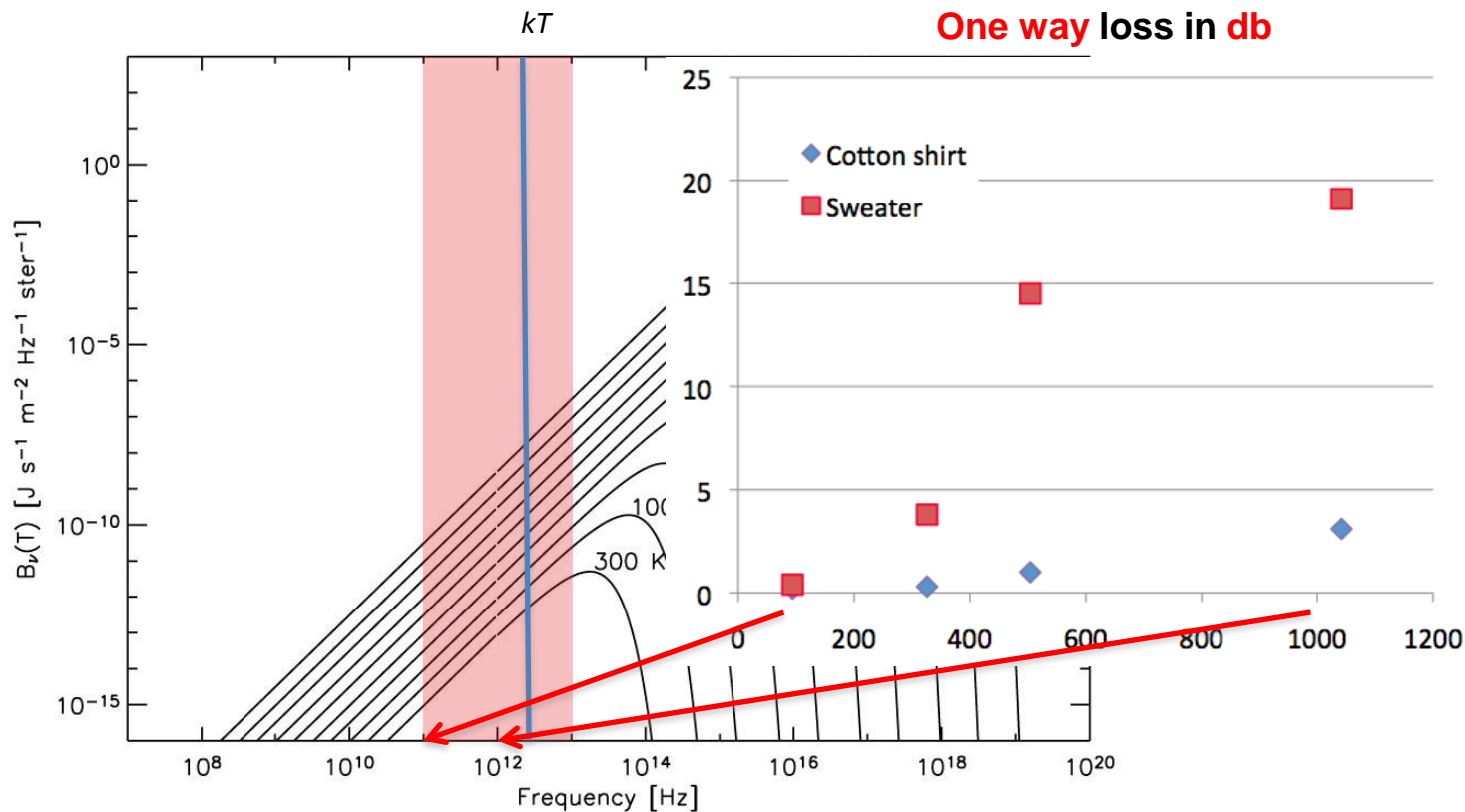
**Peak interaction strength is molecule dependent**

Sensors typically demonstrated on atypical, small, very favorable molecules ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{NH}_3$ ,  $\text{CO}$ , . . .)

**Maximum strength occurs more typically at order of 300 GHz**



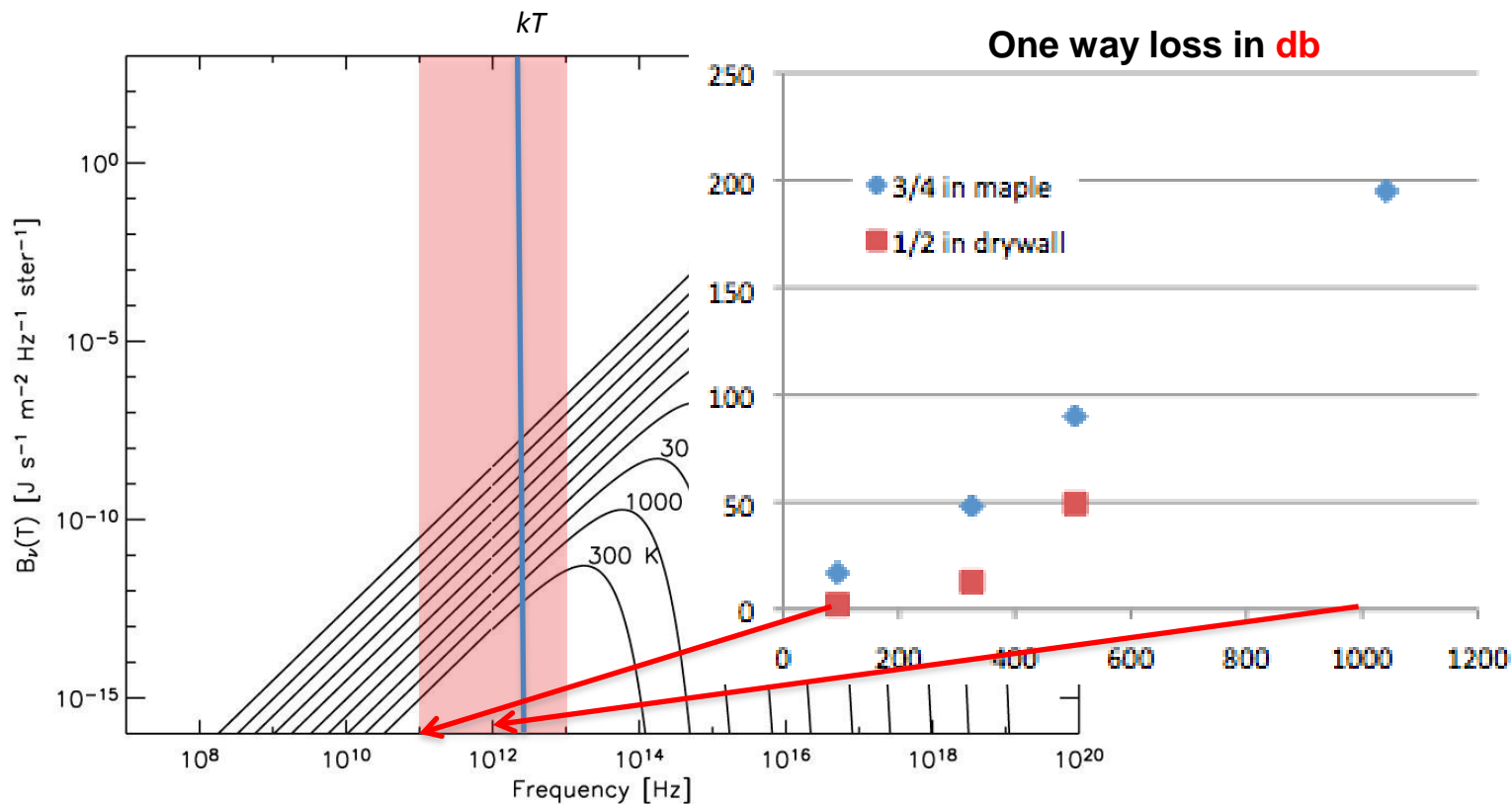
# Radiation and Interactions: Orders of Magnitude



Penetration is an extremely steep function of frequency

Can we see through clothes? Yes – in the low THz

# Radiation and Interactions: Orders of Magnitude



Penetration is an extremely steep function of frequency

Can we see through walls? No – unless we live in straw or foam houses

# System Design - I

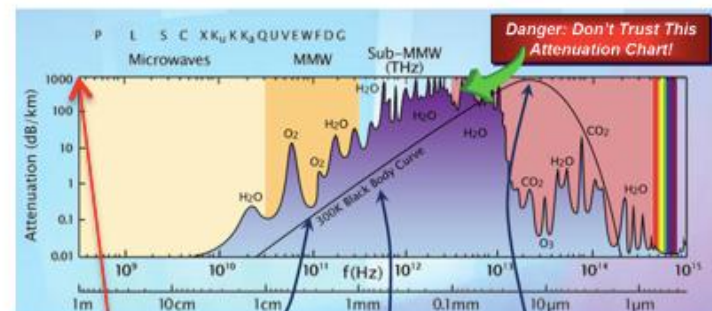
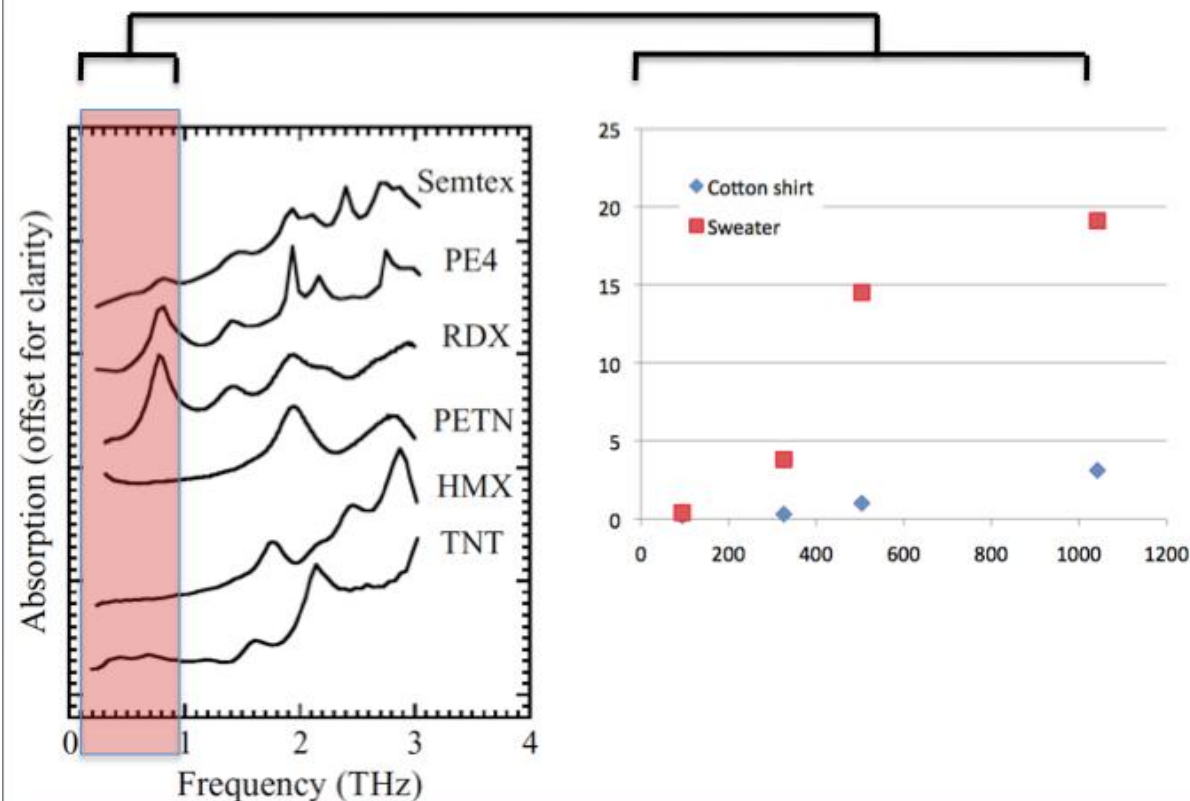
IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON TERAHERTZ SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, VOL. 1, NO. 1, SEPTEMBER 2011

## Explosives Detection by Terahertz Spectroscopy—A Bridge Too Far?

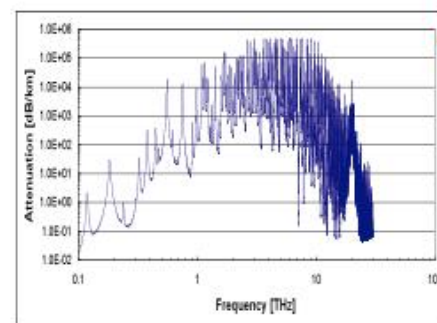
Michael C. Kemp, *Member, IEEE*

### Considerations

- Transmission at frequencies of spectra?
- Uniqueness of observable spectra?
- Reflection spectra vs transmission?
- Atmospheric transmission (even at 0.1 – 1 m standoff)?



**1000 db/km vs 100 000 db/km**



# A Few Comments on Bio

**I am not an expert and it deserves a fair hearing from those that are**

**There is clear a lot of nonsense, but that doesn't mean that everything is nonsense**

**Sometimes even something that is wrong, leads to good things**

**Gravity wave detection – Spectroscopy of skin cancer**

1. Bio is very important
2. There have been many reports of THz bio sensors
3. To the best of my knowledge, no two laboratories have reported confirming THz results (except for the fact that water has a different contrast in bio systems), except perhaps at frequencies that are really IR.
4. If I were an ambitious PM, I would host a bio workshop with the theme of reproducible THz bio spectra. You may recall that a number of years ago a number of well know THz laboratories published THz spectra of explosives that were all different. It wasn't until Mike Kemp published his results that everyone converged on the right answer and even got the same results using THz-TDS and traditional FTFIR spectroscopy.
5. To put a positive twist on this, one might invite contributions on sample preparation and its impact on observed signatures.



# System Design - II

## THz Medical Imaging: *in vivo* Hydration Sensing

Zachary D. Taylor *Member, IEEE*, Rahul S. Singh *Member, IEEE*, David B. Bennett *Member, IEEE*, Priyamvada Tewari, Colin P. Kealey, Neha Bajwa, Martin O. Culjat *Member, IEEE*, Alexander Stojadinovic, Jean-Pierre Hubschman, Elliott R. Brown *Fellow, IEEE*, and Warren S. Grundfest, *Fellow, IEEE*

**IEEE Transactions on Terahertz Science and Technology**  
**Special Inaugural Issue: Vol. 1, No. 1, Sept. 2011, pp. 201-219.**

# Examples

(How the physics drives system choices)

**Point Gas Sensors**

Remote Gas Sensors

THz Imaging

# Background and Status

**Basic Submillimeter Spectroscopy Established: ARO, NSF, NASA, etc**

Basic Spectroscopy, Chemical Physics, Quantum Electronics, Astrophysics, Atmospheric Science

**Sensor Parameters and Character laid out: *Analytical Chemistry* Nov 1998**

**Solid State Implementation: DARPA/MTO THz program (2000 – 2004)**

**Proof of Principle Seedlings (DARPA/STO) (2003 – 2006)**

**Mission Adaptable Chemical Sensor (MACS) (2006 – 2008)**

(With Battelle, Smart Transitions, and Enthalpy)

**Breath Analysis (DARPA) (2009 –2010)**

(With Battelle)

**Large Molecule Limit Study (ARO) (2009 –**

**CMOS and miniaturization (SRC, Texas Instruments, IBM) (2009 –**

# The Current System (Phase I MACS)

**Designed to meet DARPA's redone Phase I go/nogo in 12/18 months**

**Number of gases reduced to >30 (PFA <  $10^{-4}$  required,  $\ll 10^{-10}$  demonstrated)**

**Only demonstrate 1 gas with sorbent system (< 100 ppt required, <2 ppt demonstrated)**

**R & D deferred (larger molecules/higher pressures)**

**1 cu ft packaging moved from Phase II to Phase I**

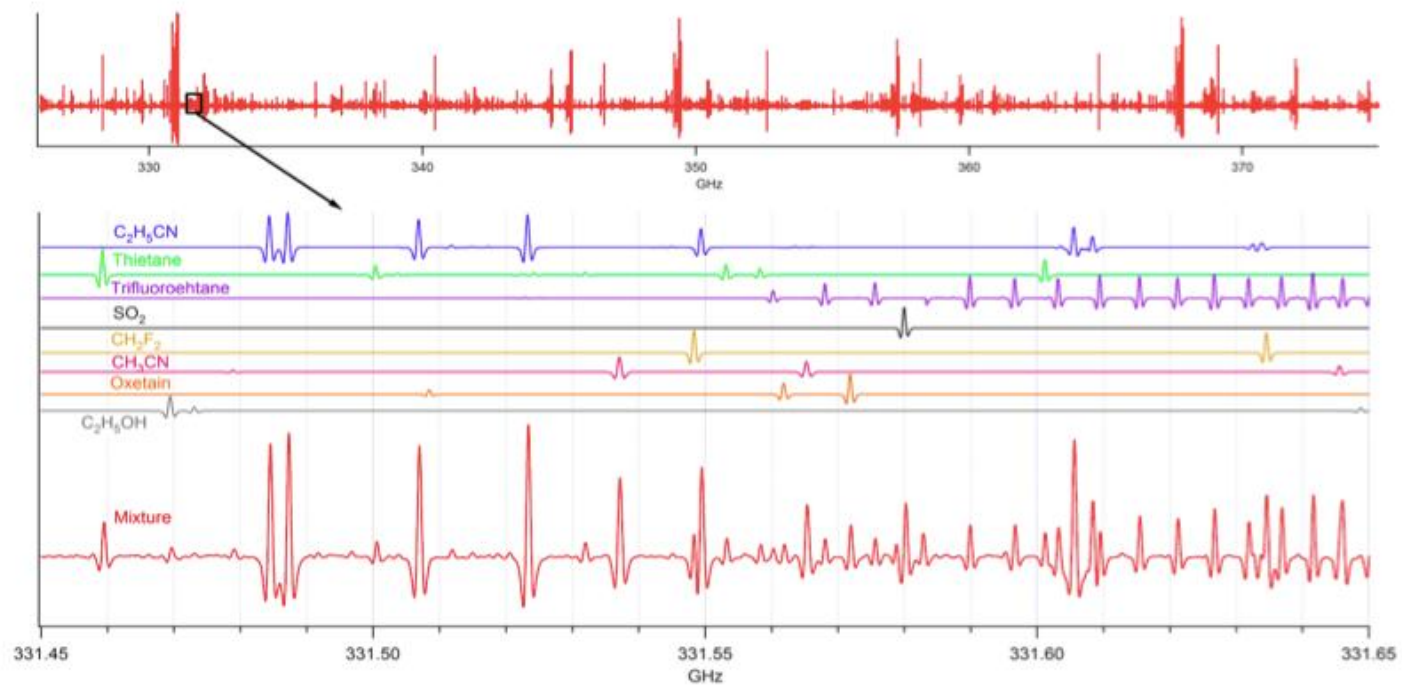


**=> Much of the research to generalize and demonstrate the technique was not done**



# Initial DARPA Clutter/Uniqueness Challenge:

Correctly identify components of mixture of 20 gases blindly selected from set of 30



**Clutter sensitivity limit ~ 1 ppt in polluted atmosphere**  
 Line width < 1 MHz ( $>10^5$ ) resolution elements  
 $CO_2$  has no spectra,  $H_2O$  sparse ( $\sim 1$  line/ $10^5$  resolution elements)  
 Electronic sources allow line subtraction at < 0.01 MHz resolution

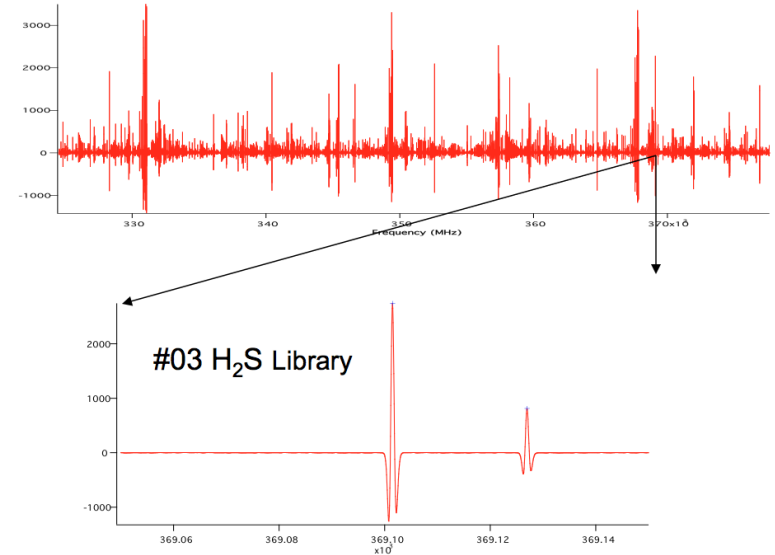
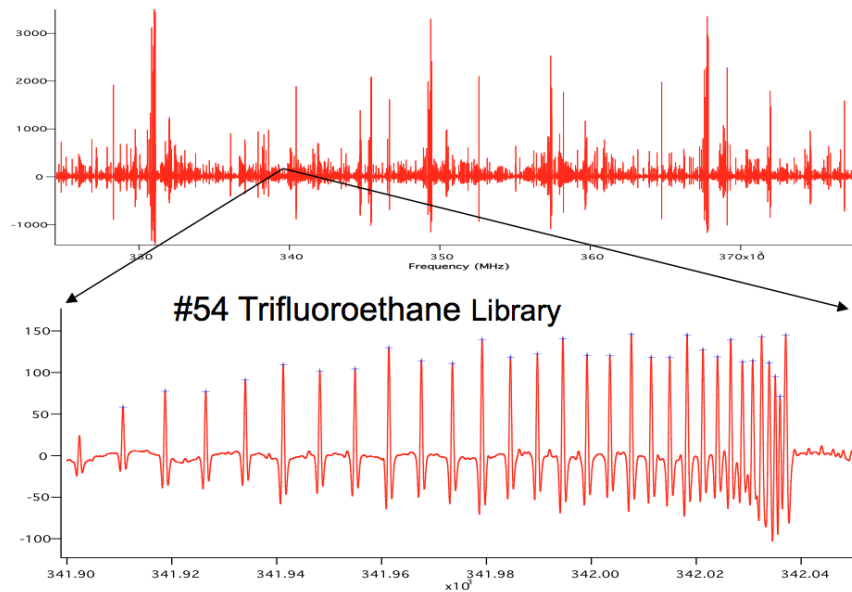
**Impact of atmospheric clutter on Doppler-limited gas sensors in the submillimeter/terahertz**

Ivan R. Medvedev,<sup>1</sup> Christopher F. Neese,<sup>2</sup> Grant M. Plummer,<sup>3</sup> and Frank C. De Lucia<sup>2\*</sup>

APPLIED OPTICS / Vol. 50, No. 18 / 20 June 2011

# Spectral Density

## Impact of Molecular Size/Weight



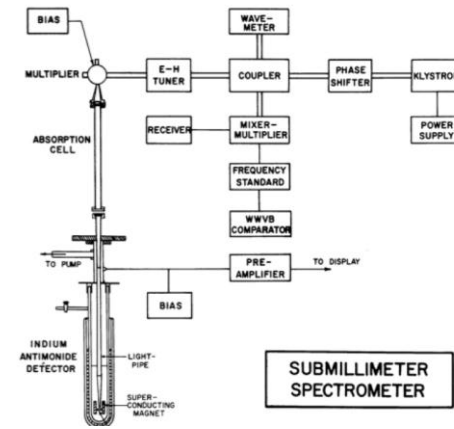
**The rapid rise of spectral density with molecular size is fundamental and underlies the limits to generality for spectroscopic sensors**

# Frequency Multiplication Technology

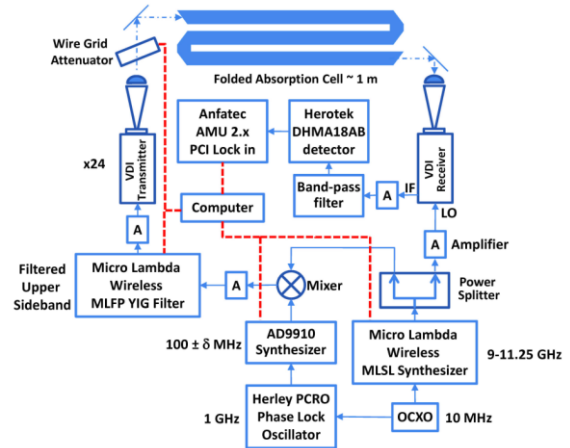
[The technology choice matters]

High Spectral purity  
 Frequency calibration and agility  
 High spectral brightness [W/Hz]

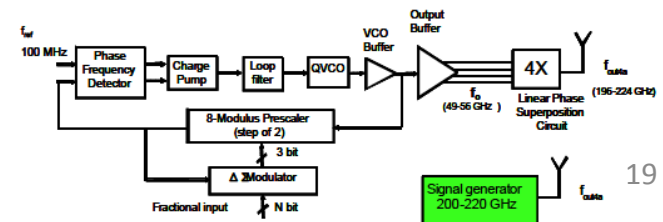
1970: Tubes and cryogenics



Now: Solid state waveguide block and COT integration

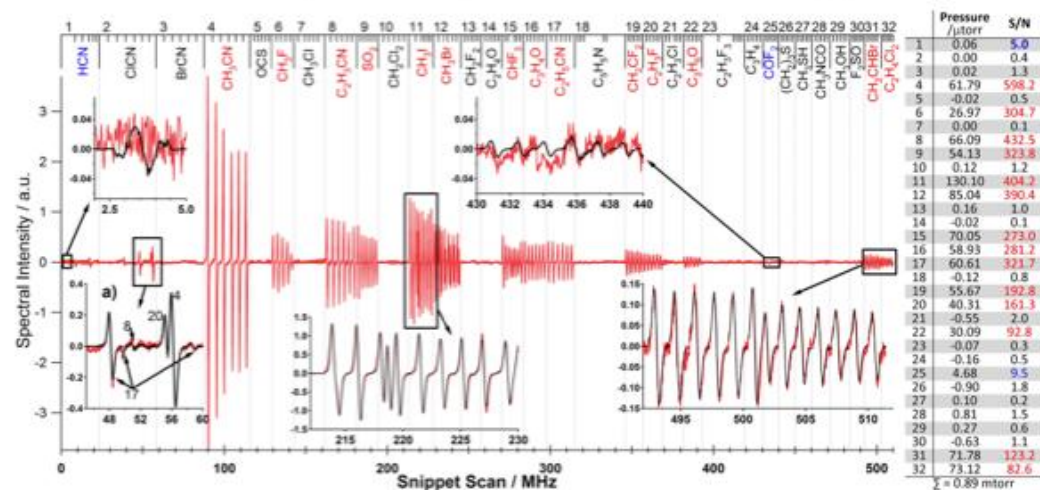


Future: Chip level integration

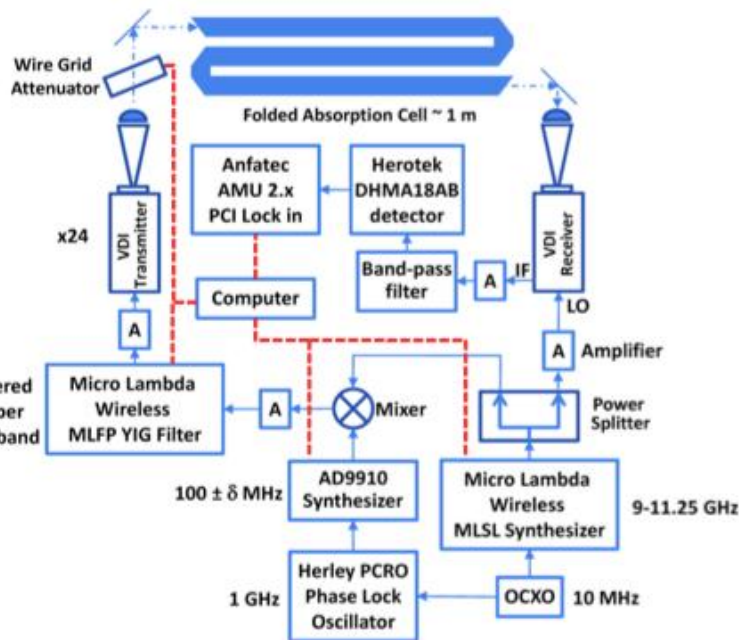
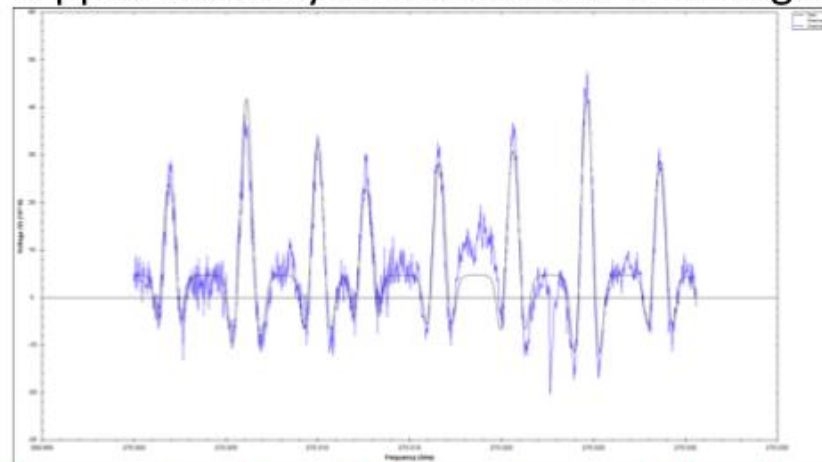


# A Packaged Sensor Overview

Absolute' specificity on mixture of 32 gases



2 ppt sensitivity demonstrated on one gas



Enabled by:

- (1) High brightness temperature of electronic sources ( $\sim 10^{14}$  K)
- (2) Frequency accuracy and agility of electronic synthesized sources

Townes noise is a many orders of magnitude effect in spectrometers that is not present in radar, etc.

# System Numbers

For a receiver noise temperature  $T_N = 3000$  K and  $b = B = 10^6$  Hz,  $P_N = 5 \times 10^{-14}$  W.  $P_c = 10^{-3}$  W

$$\frac{P_c}{P_N} \sim 10^{10}$$

If we have a carrier power of  $P_c = 1$  mW, we must also consider the noise associated with the adding of the blackbody noise *voltage* with the carrier.

For this case

$$P'_n \approx \sqrt{kT\Delta\nu P_c} = \sqrt{(5 \times 10^{-14})(10^{-3})} \approx 10^{-8} \text{ W}$$

Five  
Orders of  
Magnitude



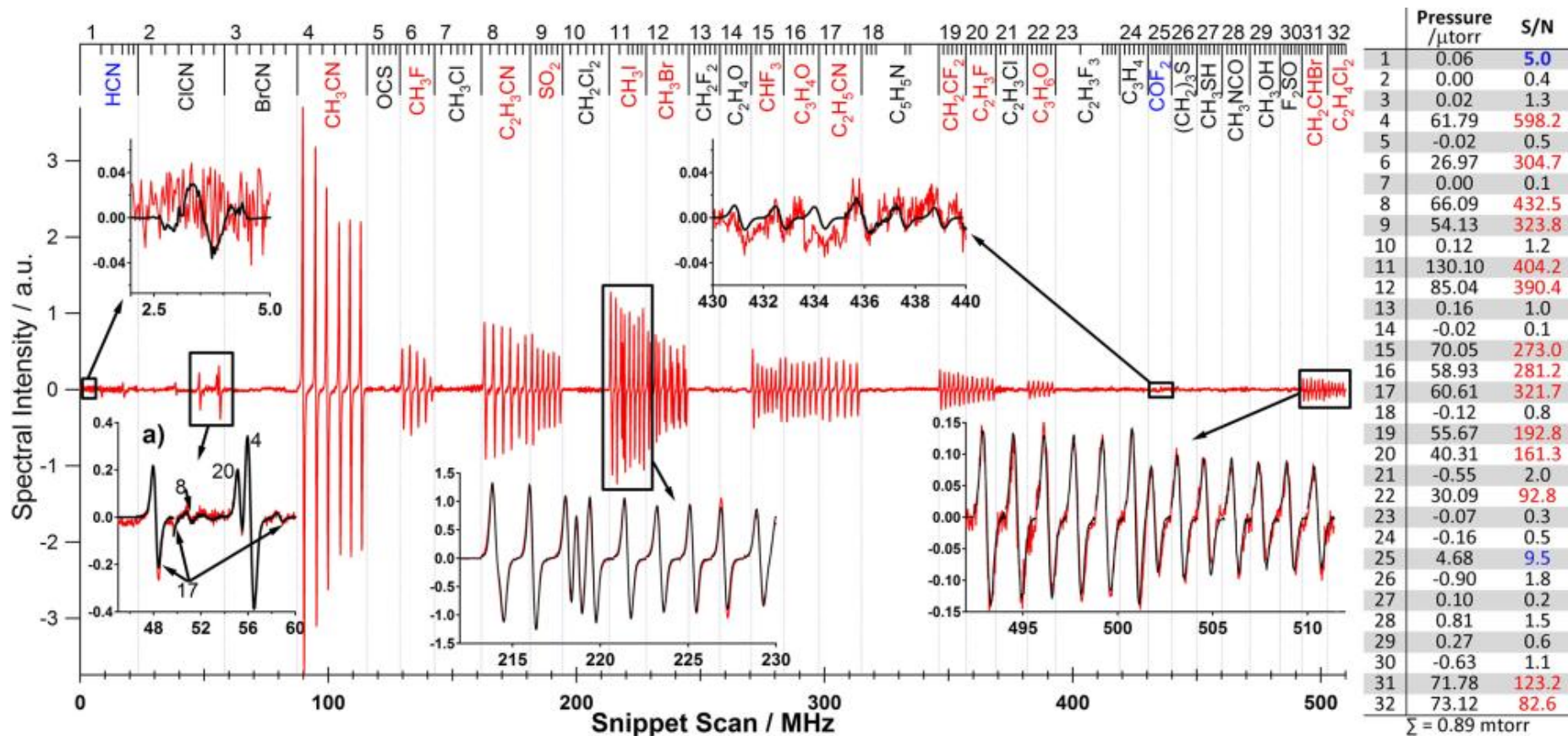
This is about five orders of magnitude above the receiver noise.

For 1 μsec integration the system S/N is then

$$S/N = \frac{P_c}{P'_N} \sim \frac{10^{-3} \text{ W}}{10^{-8} \text{ W}} \sim 10^5$$

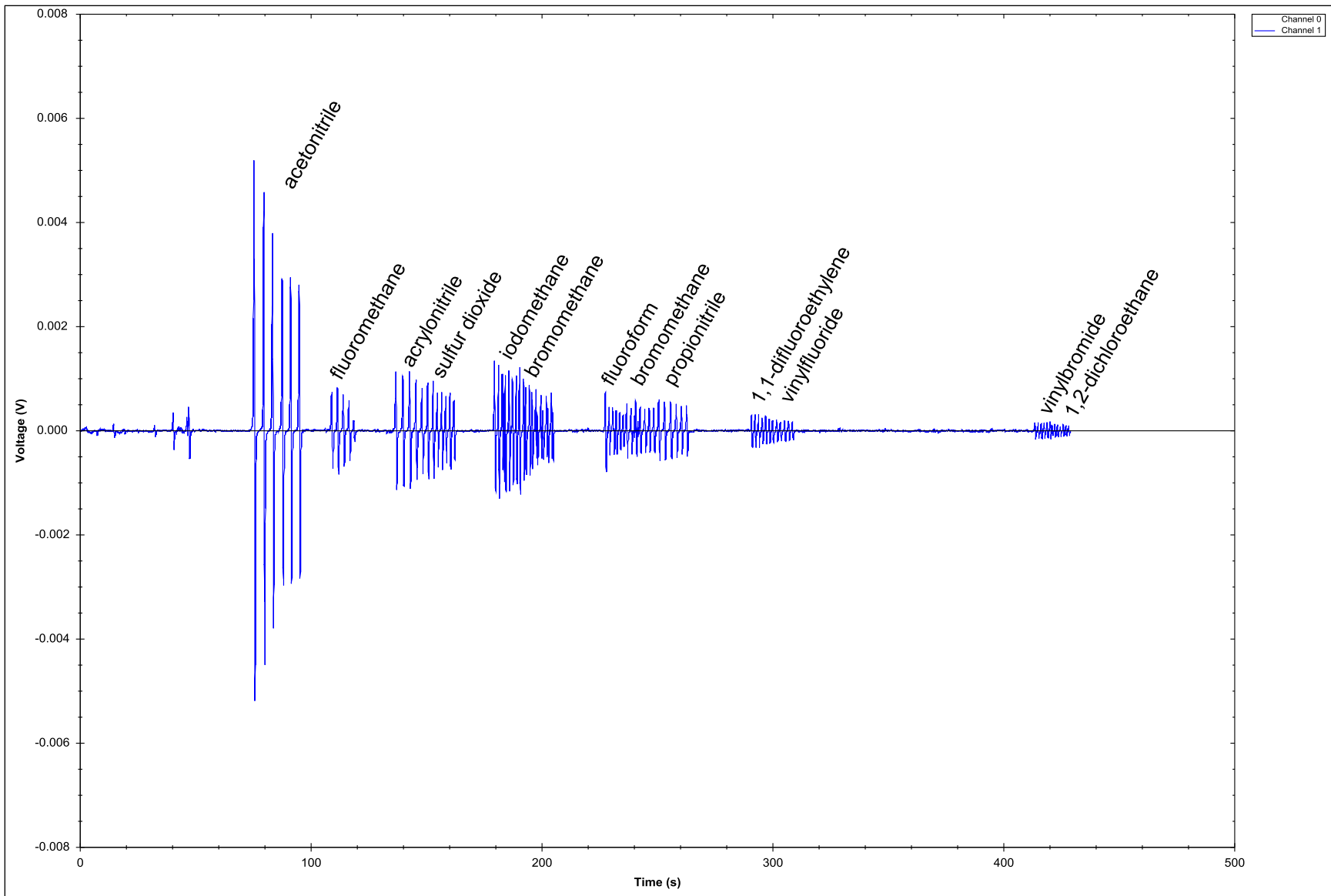
This is the impact of the so called '**Townes Noise**'.

Impact is only large when we are looking to detect a small change in a large  $P_c$



System scans six (selectable) snippets for each of 32 (selectable) chemicals  
 Compares the resultant spectra with an intensity calibrated library  
 Does LSQ to determine concentrations

**Additional material: Testing procedure and additional detail are given in the report of the MACS Evaluation Team (MET) and the OSU report to that team.**



# System Design Space

**How much space do you have? White Cells or equivalent?**

**How much power do you have? Saturation limit**

**How do you avoid spending photons on white space?**

many molecules/crowded spectra vs sparse spectra

**How adaptable is the system architectures to varying requirements?**

**How scalable is the approach?**

**Market technology?**



# Broad Coverage of TIC Gases

USACHPPM Toxic Industrial Chemicals [27] Info Card - Updated last: hauschildvd PAGE 1 of 2 11/1/01

HCI

Chemical	Rate of Onset	Persists in Environment	Toxicity Thresholds (ppm/hour) <i>impairment</i> / <i>fatality</i>	BDO/ Mask Effective	Odor	Related hazards/ Source/ Use	Field Detection		Symptoms (from inhalation and dermal contact)	Decontamination and Treatment
							Sensidyne tube (#)	205Aseries Miran Sapphire		
→ Allyl alcohol (colorless liquid)	Immediate	Days-weeks, +	7.7 / 22	?	Mustard-like	Rapidly absorbed through skin highly flammable with caustic fumes; used as contact pesticide, plastic/perfume manufacture	Not available (liquid)	Not available (liquid)	<b>General Mild Health Effects:</b> - Nausea, dizziness; headaches; chills; coughing, choking, throat irritation	<b>Decontamination:</b> - Flush (15 min) eyes & skin with water; - Soap optional after initial water rinse
→ Acrolein (colorless-yellow liq)	Immediate	Minutes to hour	0.1 / 1.4	Poor	1 ppm -sharp, acid, sweet	Toxic and corrosive fumes; Herbicide	#93 (BUT high detection)	Not standard	<b>Specific and More Severe Effects:</b>	<b>Treatment &amp; Diagnostic procedures/ options:</b>
→ Acrylonitrile (clear/pale yellow liq)	Immediate	Minutes to HOURS	35 / 75	Poor	17 ppm - unpleasant, sweet (peach)	Flammable gas; used in Plastics, coatings, adhesives industries; dyes; pharmaceuticals;	#191	Standard	<b>Eyes:</b> - Irritation; tearing/watering; pain; intolerance to light (e.g. from Hydrogen Sulfide)	<b>Eye injuries:</b> - Saline wash - Antibiotic ointments
→ Ammonia (colorless gas)	Immediate	Minutes	110 / 1100	Poor	17 ppm - sharp, suffocating, dry urine	Explosives manufacture; pesticides; detergents industry	#3M	Standard	<b>Skin (particularly if liquid contact):</b> - Irritation; burning; blisters (eg with Hydrogen Fluoride); vesiculation (nitric & sulfuric acid); dermatitis; and frostbite (e.g. Acrylonitrile)	<b>Skin burns/blisters/irritation</b> - topical corticosteroids and/or antihistamines - Inject MgSO4 at affected site (Hydrogen fluoride)
→ Arsine (colorless gas)	Immediate to 24 hours	Minutes to hours	0.2 / 0.5	Good	0.5 ppm - garlic-like	Reacts with H2O (don't use H2O in fire); Used in electronics ind	#19L	Not standard	<b>Respiratory Tract/Lungs:</b> - Breathing difficulty, respiratory distress; laryngeal spasm (e.g., from hydrogen chloride or hydrogen bromide); <b>pulmonary edema</b>	<b>Breathing/respiratory distress:</b> - Oxygen & ventilation - Prophylactic antibiotics - Xrays - Pulse ox/blood gas
→ Chlorine (greenish-yellow gas)	Immediate to hours	Minutes to hours	3 / 22	Good	3.5 ppm - pungent (bleach), suffocating	Irritating corr fumes; heavier than air; Cleaner/disinfectant in many industries; water treatment; WWI war gas;	#80	Not standard	<b>Chest/Heart:</b> - chest pain; tachardia (rapid heartbeat)	<b>NOTE: avoid mouth to mouth to protect against cross contamination</b>
→ Diborane (colorless gas)	Immediate	Minutes to hours	>1 / 15	Good	2.5 ppm - sickly sweet	Very flammable; Intermediate chemical manufacturing;	#22	Not standard	<b>Systemic; Blood</b> - Cyanotic (blue skin from lack Oxy to blood) (e.g. from SO2, SO3, NO2, ethylene oxide); - Convulsions/seizures - Hemolytic anemia; kidney damage (Arsine)	<b>Bronchospasm/Pulm Edema</b> - Inhale corticosteroids - Beta2 agonist - Endotracheal intubation
→ Ethylene oxide (colorless gas/liq)	Immediate	Minutes to hours	45 / 200	Poor	425 ppm - sweet, ether-like	Very flammable; Rocket propellant; fumigant; sterilization in health care industry;	#163L	Standard	<b>Additional Chemical Specific Symptoms:</b> <b>pink/froth sputum:</b> Ammonia <b>mucoid frothy sputum:</b> SO2, SO3, NO2 <b>peculiar taste:</b> Ethylene oxide <b>asphyxia:</b> Acrylonitrile <b>metal taste &amp; or garlic breath:</b> Hydrogen Selenide	
→ Formaldehyde (clear- white gas/liq)	Immediate	Hours	10 / 25	Poor	1 ppm -pungt suffocating	Flammable, Disinfection/ germicide; fungicide; textile; health care (tissue fixing)	#91D (Dosi)	Standard		
→ Hydrogen bromide (pale yellow liq)	Immediate	Minutes to hours	3 / 30	Good	2 ppm -sharp stinging	Chemical manufacturing industry; very corrosive	#15L	Not standard		
→ Hydrogen chloride (hydrochloric acid) (pale yellow-colorless liq)	Immediate	Minutes to hours	22 / 104	Good	0.77 ppm - pungent, irritating	Corrosive liquid; Ore, other metal refining/ cleaning; food/pickling; petroleum;	#80	Not standard		
→ Hydrogen Cyanide (colorless-white-pale blue gas; liquid <75F)	Immediate	Minutes	7.0 / 15-50	Good	1-5 ppm - bitter/sweet almond-like	Weak acid except in water or mucous membranes – then corrosive/irritating; used as War gas, pesticide, Herbicide; other industries	#12L	Not Standard		<b>Hemolysis (e.g. Arsine):</b> - IV, transfusion
→ Hydrogen fluoride (colorless gas/fuming liq)	Immediate & Delayed	Minutes to hours	24 / 44	Good	0.4 ppm - strong irritating	Corrosive liq; Aluminum and other metal industries; insecticide manufacturing-	#17	Not standard		<b>Seizures:</b> - Diazepam
→ Hydrogen selenide (colorless gas)	Immediate	Minutes - Hour	0.2 / 1.5+	Poor	0.3 ppm - decayed horseradish	Highly flammable/explosive; can cause burns/frostbite; decomposes rapidly to form elemental selenium Metals & semiconductor prep;	Not available	Not standard		
→ Hydrogen sulfide (colorless gas)	Immediate & Delayed	MINUTE S to hours	30 / 100	Good	0.1 ppm -rotten egg	Disinfectant lubricant/oils; interm for HC manufacture; deadens sense of smell	#44	Not standard		→ See page 2 -----→

# Simultaneous Recovery with 'Absolute Specificity' in Mixture

USACHPPM Toxic Industrial Chemicals [27] Info Card - Updated last: hauschildvd PAGE 2 of 2 11/1/01

Chemical	Rate of Onset	Persists in Environment	Toxicity Thresholds (ppm/hour impairment/fatality)	BDO/ Mask Effective	Odor	Source/ Use/other hazard	Field Detection		Symptoms (from inhalation and dermal contact)	Decontamination and Treatment
							Sensidyne tube (#)	205Aseries Miran SapphiRE		
→ Methyl hydrazine	Immediate & Delayed (LUNGS)	Hours - days	1.0 / 3.0	Poor?	1 - 10 ppm-ammonia like	Irritating vapors; Flammable-Once ignited continues to burn; Used as solvent, rocket fuel;	#185	Not standard	<b>General Mild Health Effects:</b> - Nausea, dizziness; headaches; chills; coughing, choking, throat irritation  <b>Specific and More Severe Effects:</b> Eyes: - Irritation; tearing/watering; pain; intolerance to light ( e.g. from Hydrogen Sulfide)  Skin (particularly if liquid contact): - Irritation; burning; blisters (eg with Hydrogen Fluoride); vesiculation (nitric & sulfuric acid); dermatitis; and frostbite (e.g. Acrylonitrile)  Respiratory Tract/Lungs: - Breathing difficulty, respiratory distress; laryngeal spasm (e.g., from hydrogen chloride or hydrogen bromide); <b>pulmonary edema</b>  Chest/Heart: - chest pain; tachardia (rapid heartbeat)  Systemic; Blood - Cyanotic (blue skin from lack Oxy to blood) (e.g. from SO <sub>2</sub> , SO <sub>3</sub> , NO <sub>2</sub> , ethylene oxide); Convulsions/seizures - Hemolytic anemia; kidney damage (Arsine) (sulfuric acid, hydrazine)  <b>Additional Chemical Specific Symptoms:</b> pink/froth sputum: Ammonia mucoid frothy sputum: SO <sub>2</sub> , SO <sub>3</sub> , NO <sub>2</sub> peculiar taste: Ethylene oxide asphyxia: Acrylonitrile metal taste & or garlic breath: Hydrogen Selenide Miosis, sweating, ↓ AChE Parathion Coffee-ground vomit - sulfuric acid	<b>Decontamination:</b> - Flush (15 min) eyes & skin with water; - Soap optional after initial water rinse  <b>Treatment &amp; Diagnostic procedures/ options:</b>  Eye injuries: - Saline wash - Antibiotic ointments  Skin burns/blisters/irritation - topical corticosteroids and/or antihistamines - Inject MgSO <sub>4</sub> at affected site (Hydrogen fluoride)  Breathing/respiratory distress: - Oxygen & ventilation - Prophylactic antibiotics - Xrays - Pulse ox/blood gas  NOTE: avoid mouth to mouth to protect against cross contamination  Bronchospasm/Pulm Edema - Inhale corticosteroids - Beta2 agonist - Endotracheal intubation  Hemolysis (e.g. Arsine): - IV, transfusion  Seizures: - Diazepam
→ Hydrazine <i>Colorless, oil (fuming) liquid/waxy solid or crystals</i>	Immediate & Delayed (LUNGS)	Hours - days	13 / 35	Poor?	3-4 ppm-Ammonia -like	Flammable- Once ignited continues to burn; irritating vapors; Used as solvent, rocket fuel;	#3D (Dosi)	Standard		
→ Methyl isocyanate <i>(colorless liquid)</i>	Immediate	Minutes to hours	0.5 / 5	Poor	2.1 ppm -sharp pungent	Intermediate in manufacturing; reacts with H <sub>2</sub> O (don't use in fire)	Not available (liquid)	Not standard (liquid)		
→ Methyl mercaptan <i>(colorless gas; liquid &lt;43F)</i>	Immediate	Minutes to hours	5.0 / 23	Poor	0.002 ppm-rotten cabbage (1 ppm odor fatigue)	From decayed organic matter - pulp mills, oil refineries; highly flammable; liquid burns/frostbite	#71	Not standard		
→ Nitrogen dioxide <i>(colorless gas/pale liq)</i>	Delayed (24-72 hrs)	MINUTES to hours	12 / 20	Poor	1 ppm - ?	Intermediate for manuf of nitric acid & sulfuric acid; explosives/rocket propellant	#9D (Dosi)	Not standard		
→ Nitric Acid <i>(colorless, yellow, or red fuming liquid)</i>	Immediate	Hours - days +	4.0 / 22+	Poor	~1 ppm-Choking, sweet - acrid	Used in many industries; Very corrosive to skin/mucous membranes as well as metals & other materials;	#80	Not standard		
→ Parathion <i>(pale yellow to brown liquid)</i>	Immediate but often Delayed (weeks)	Days to weeks	0.2 / 0.8	Good	0.04 ppm	Organophosphate (insecticide); similar symptoms (and thus treatment) as nerve gases; penetrates leather/canvas and plastics/rubber coatings	Not Available (liquid)	Not Available (liquid)		
→ Phosgene <i>(colorless - light yellow gas)</i>	Immediate & Delayed (LUNGS)	Minutes - HOURS	0.3 / 0.8-5	Good	0.5ppm-musty hay	Dye, pesticide, and other industries; history as war gas, corrosive/irritating	#16	Standard		
→ Phosphine <i>(colorless gas)</i>	Immediate & Delayed (LUNGS)	Minutes - hours	0.3 / 1.1-30	Good?	0.9 ppm-rotten fish, garlic	Insecticide; used in manufacture of flame retardants and incendiaries;	#7LA	Not Standard		
→ Sulfuric Acid <i>(clear colorless- brown oily liquid)</i>	Immediate	Hours, days	2.5 / 7.5	Good	Odorless (acid taste)	Toxic fumes when heated Battery/dyes/paper/glue/metal industries; volcanic gas;	Not available (liquid)	Not Available (liquid)		
→ Sulfur dioxide; sulfur trioxide; -form sulfuric acid (colorless gas)	Immediate & Delayed	MINUTES to hours	>3 / 15-100	Good (SO <sub>2</sub> ); Marginal (SO <sub>3</sub> )	1 ppm; pungent; metallic taste	Disinfectant and preserving in breweries and food/canning; textile industry; batteries	# 5L	Standard		
→ Toluene diisocyanate (2,4) <i>(water-white to pale yellow liquid, or crystals)</i>	Immediate	Hours - weeks	0.08 / 0.51	Good	0.4-2 ppm-sharp pungent	Skin irritant Polyurethane (wood coatings, foam), nylon industries;	Not Available (liquid)	Not Available (liquid)		

# MET Suggested 60 Gas List for Phase II

Hydrogen Cyanide  
 Cyanogen Chloride  
 Cyanogen Bromide  
 Methyl Cyanide  
 Carbonyl Sulfide  
 Methyl Fluoride  
 Methyl Chloride  
 Acrylonitrile  
 Sulfur dioxide  
 Dichloromethane  
 Methyl Iodide  
 Methyl Bromide  
 Difluoromethane  
 Ethylene oxide  
 Trifluoromethane  
 Acrolein  
 Propionitrile  
 Pyridine  
 1,1 Difluoroethylene  
 Vinyl Fluoride  
 Vinyl Chloride  
 Oxetane  
 1,1,1 Trifluoroethane  
 Propyne  
 Carbonyl Fluoride  
 Thietane  
 Methanethiol  
 Methyl isocyanate  
 Methanol  
 Thionyl fluoride  
 vinyl bromide

1,2 dichloroethane  
 Hydrogen Chloride  
 Hydrogen Bromide  
 Carbon Monoxide  
 Nitric Oxide  
 Ammonia  
 Hydrogen Sulfide  
 Hydrogen Selenide  
 Nitrogen Dioxide  
 Arsine  
 Phosphorous Trichloride  
 Phosphine  
 Hypochlorous acid  
 Phosphorus Trichloride  
 Formaldehyde  
 Nitric Acid  
 Chloroform  
 Phosgene  
 Nitromethane  
 Methylamine  
 Dimethyl Sulfate  
 Dimethyl Ether  
 GA (Tabun)  
 GB (Sarin)  
 GD (Soman)  
 VX  
 HD (sulfur mustard)  
 L (Lewisite)  
 HN (nitrogen mustard)  
 GF (cyclosarin)

**MACS Phase I  
molecules in black**

**Suggested Phase II  
additions in red**

Stark and Cavities in  
Phase II to extend  
large molecule frontier

# Requested Comparisons (w/o Sorbents)

	SMM 1.5 m Cell 10 mTorr [2]	THz-TDS 5 m White Cell 7.5 mTorr <sup>2</sup> [3]	DFG in GaSe 600 Torr <sup>3</sup> [4]	Optical Comb/Cavity 100 Torr <sup>1</sup> [5, 6]
Number of gases	32	1	1 - 2	2 - 4
$\Delta v_{\text{system}}$	0.5 MHz	3000 MHz	5000 MHz	1600 MHz
$\Delta v_{\text{instrument}}$	0.001 MHz	3000 MHz	5000 MHz	800 MHz
NH <sub>3</sub>	52 ppb $2.7 \times 10^{-14}$ mole	---	---	18 ppb $9.6 \times 10^{-11}$ mole
CO	280 ppb $1.5 \times 10^{-13}$ mole	---	---	900 ppb $4.8 \times 10^{-9}$ mole
HCN	10 ppb $5.3 \times 10^{-15}$ mole	---	---	---
CH <sub>3</sub> CN	50 ppb $2.7 \times 10^{-14}$ mole	---	---	---
CH <sub>3</sub> Cl	---	$10^9/10^4$ ppb <sup>2</sup> $4 \times 10^{-7}/10^{-12}$ mole	---	---
HBr	---	---	HBr 150 000 ppm $\sim 10^{-4}$ mole	---

## Optical Comb/Cavity:

- Similar ppx sensitivity
- requires  $10^4$  more sample – sorbent difficult
- has  $>10^4$  lower resolution
- orders of magnitude more atmospheric clutter
- much larger and more complex

## THz Photomixer:

- has  $>10^4$  less ppx sensitivity
- requires  $10^8$  more sample – sorbent difficult
- demonstrates  $> 1000$  less resolution
- orders of magnitude more atmospheric clutter
- somewhat larger and more complex (8 cu ft)

## How can this be?

- source brightness (W/Hz)
- Doppler and Pressure broadening resolution
- source agility and frequency calibration
- Noise: the spectrometer problem is different from network analyzer problem (Agilent example)

Just because you have considered a ‘THz’ solution for your application and found it lacking does not mean that there is not a good SMM solution. Among THz technologies published in the ‘best’ journals there are orders of magnitude differences in the figures of merit that need to be selected according to application, especially:

Brightness vs. ‘dynamic range’  
Resolution and frequency accuracy  
Quality of implementation

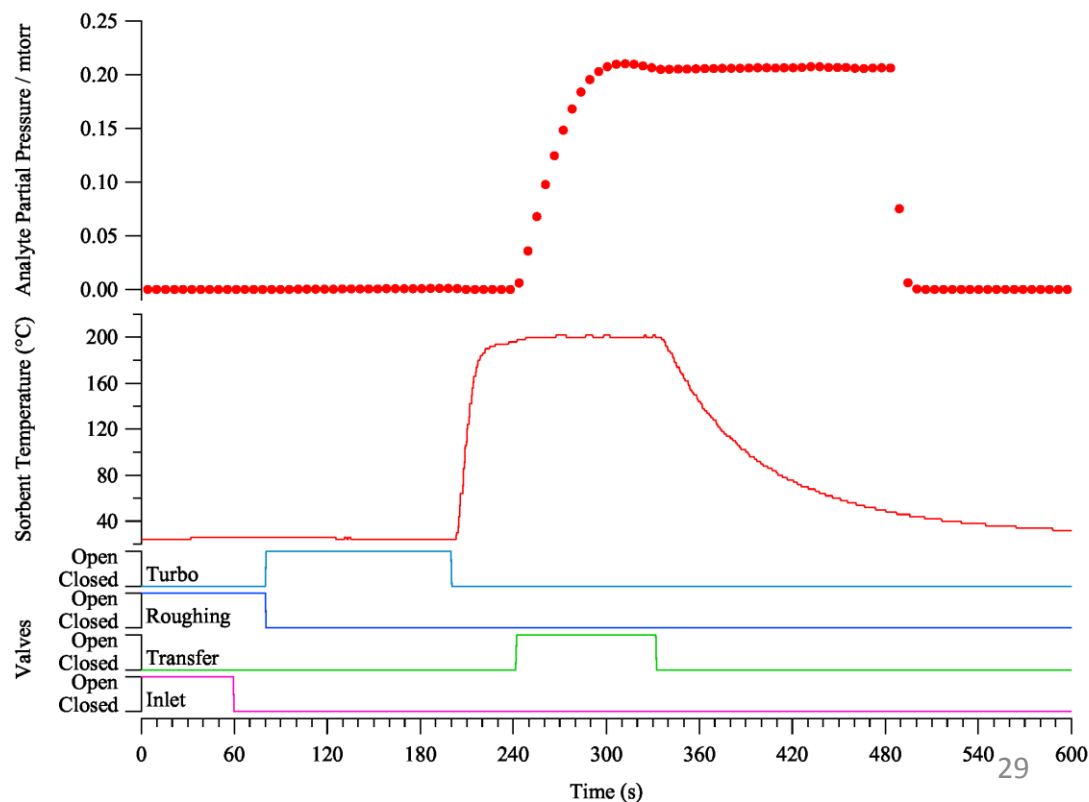
There are also proposed ‘THz’ sensors that do not understand noise in the ‘spectrometer problem’ and propose (erroneously) many orders of magnitude better performance.

# Sample Collection and Concentration

Large gains practical because we need very small ( $\sim 10^{-5}$  STP liters), *static* samples.

MACS uses EPA/HAST like sorbent strategy to **extend beyond the above comparisons.**

DARPA gave us 10 minutes, so we used it. *Much* faster cycle times are possible.



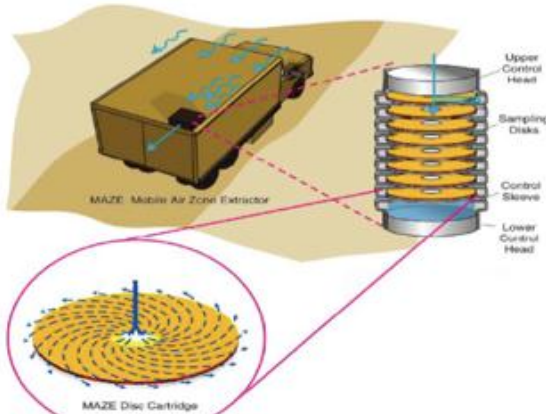


# Foster-Miller, Inc: MAZE Approach



Foster-Miller  
QinetiQ North America

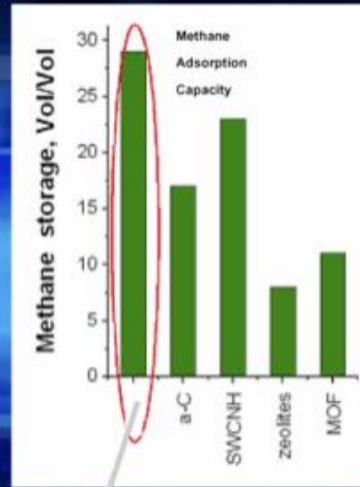
## MAZE Mobile Air Zone Extractor



Distribution Statement A: Approved for public release; distribution unlimited



# BAE Systems: COBRA Approach



COBRA technology's competitive standing

Distribution Statement A: Approved for public release; distribution unlimited



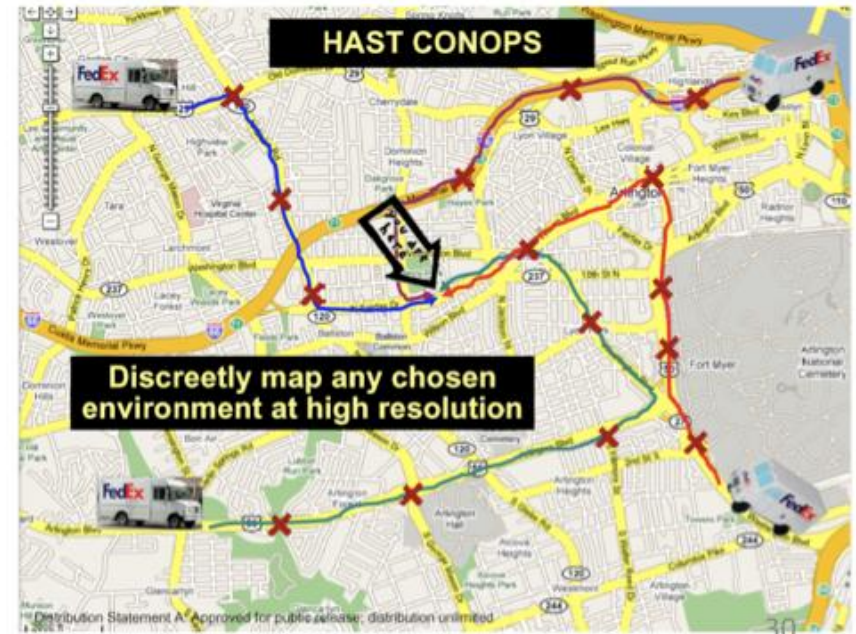
# HAST Deployment



- Versatile Deployment on Mobile Platforms



Distribution Statement A: Approved for public release; distribution unlimited



Distribution Statement A: Approved for public release; distribution unlimited

# Paths Forward

## [Time scales and Risks]

**More molecules**

**colder in beam systems**

how do you count beam dilution?

**stark**

**cavity**

**double resonance**

**Smaller, Cheaper, Lower Power**

Both microwave and vacuum system matter

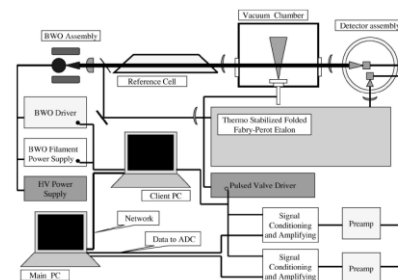
Less important for central systems like HAST

**Interaction of sample collection and spectroscopy**

The 'intricate dance'

**Adaptability (hardware, software, design) for special purposes**

Larger for more sensitivity/speed



JOURNAL OF CHEMICAL PHYSICS

VOLUME 118, NUMBER 8

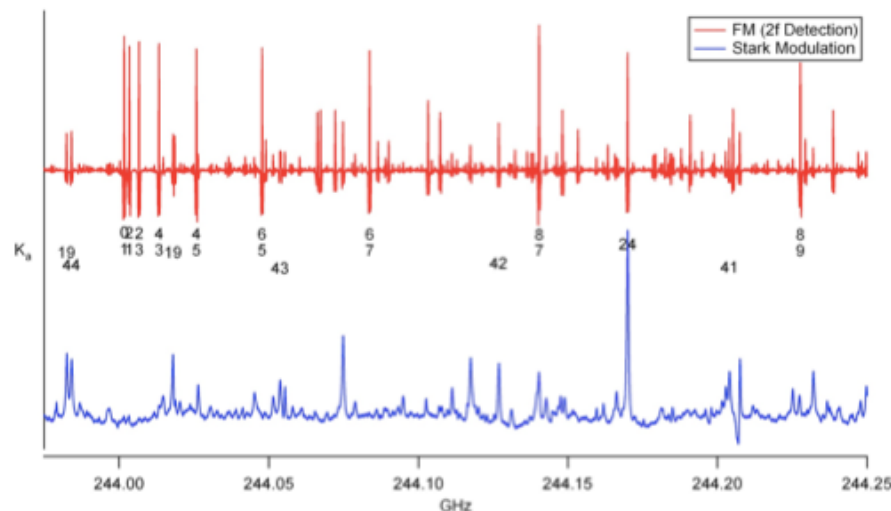
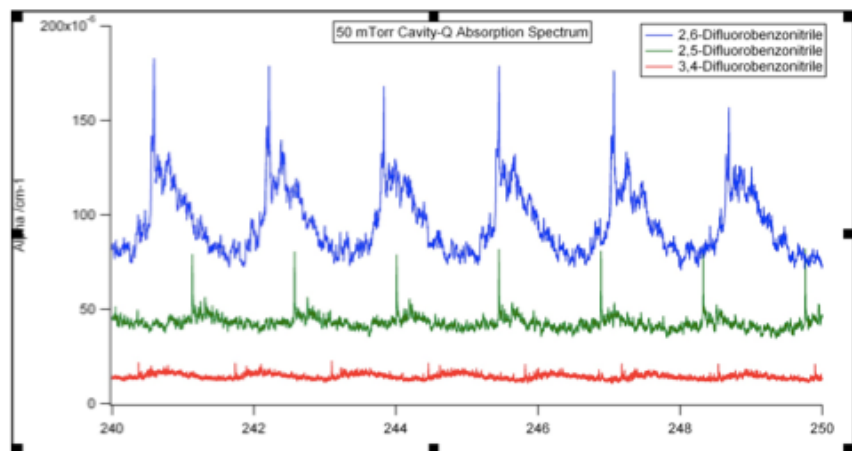
22 FEBRUARY 2003

**The absorption spectroscopy of the lowest pseudorotational states of tetrahydrofuran**

Dmitry G. Melnik, Sandhya Gopalakrishnan, and Terry A. Miller  
*Department of Chemistry, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210*

Frank C. De Lucia  
*Department of Physics, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210*

# Cavity and Stark Approaches to Large Molecules



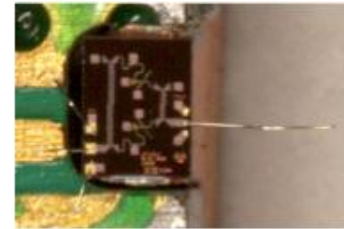
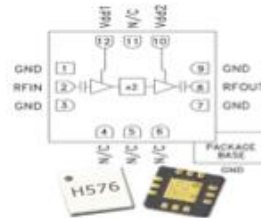
Cavity spectra of the difluorobenzonitriles.

A comparison of and FM modulate spectrum and a Stark modulated spectrum.



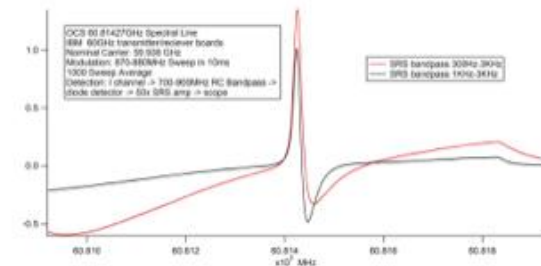
# Clear Paths to Small and Inexpensive

## Wireless Communications chips to 100 GHz

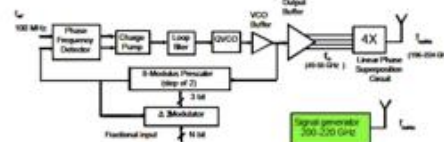


## IBM 60 GHz Rx/Tx HDTV chip set working as spectrometer discussions to extend to 100's of GHz

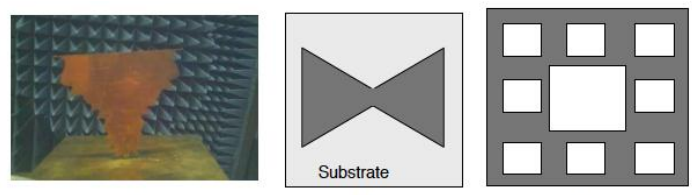
## CMOS Integration of MACS Rx/Tx with UT-D and SRC sponsorship



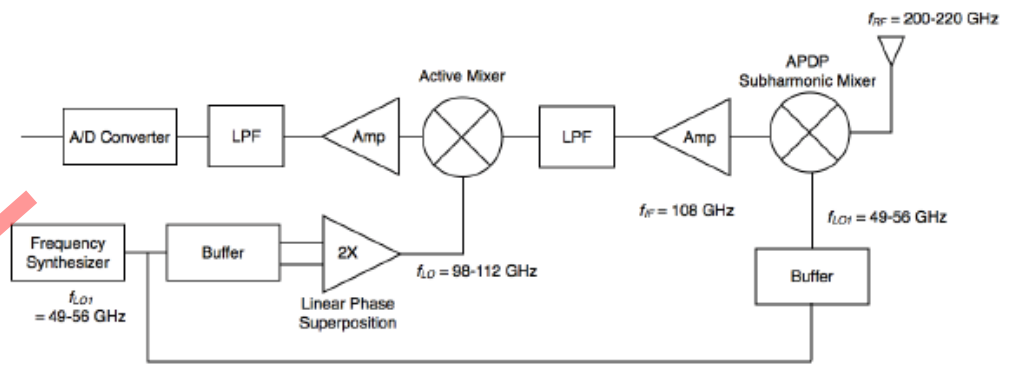
	CASE 1	CASE 2	CASE 3
No absorption	10 <sup>-4</sup> dBm	10 <sup>-4</sup> dBm	10 <sup>-4</sup> dBm
	-0.00000438	-0.45 dBm	-0.45 dBm
S.S. with Transmitter	-10 dBm	-10.0000043 dBm	-10.45 dBm
Spectrometer Cell (-3dB)	-13 dBm	-13.0000043 dBm	-13.45 dBm
PhaseFilter (100.1 dB) Output	-31.1 dBm	-31.1000043 dBm	-31.55 dBm
Summed Noise (30dB) (W)	5.578-24 W	5.578-24 W	5.578-24 W
Summed Noise (dBm)	-1.02 dBm	-1.02 dBm	-1.02 dBm
Summed S/N Carrier	1.39E+07	1.39E+07	1.39E+07
4 db 1P 1P Amplifier (+45 dB)	8.9 dBm	8.9999957	8.45 dBm
Summed Noise (at 1P output)	1.40E-09	1.40E-09	1.40E-09
Carrier (at 1P output)	7.74E-05	7.74E-05	7.74E-05
Summed S/N carrier (at 1P output)	5.54E+06	5.54E+06	5.54E+06
1P Detector (100MHz/Hz)	0.776 V	0.7759993	0.698 V
AC coupling/PM demodulation	0V	-0.00000377 V	-0.277 V
Summed Noise (V)	1.40E-09 V	1.40E-09 V	1.40E-09 V
S/N Measurement Signal	5.5	5.5	5.50E+05
Phase Sensitive Detector	780	780	780
Display	780	780	780



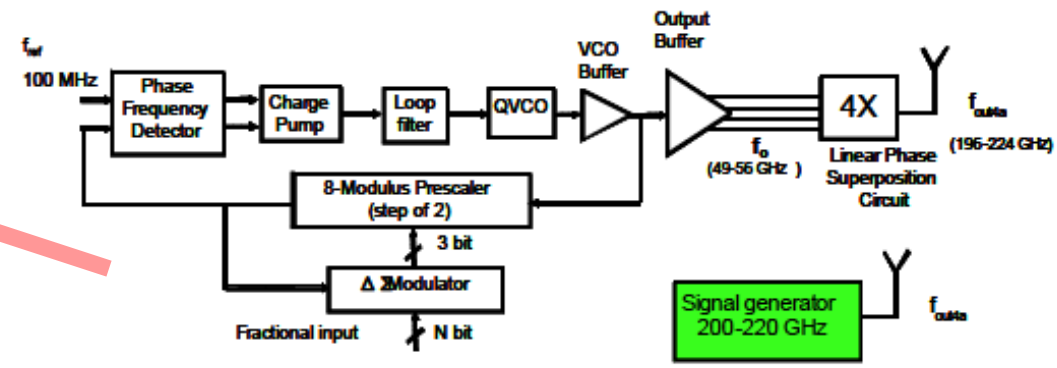
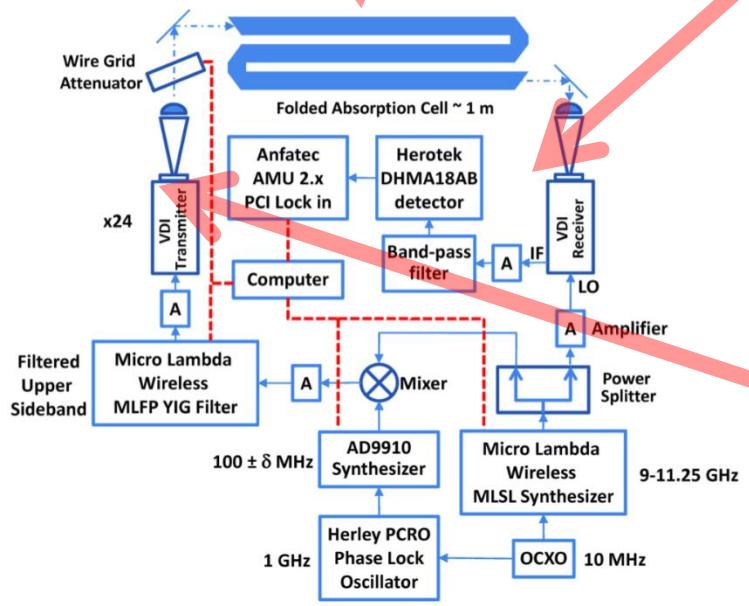
# CMOS Integration for 240 GHz\*



Antennas: Rashaunda Henderson (UT-D)



Receiver: Bhaskar Banerjee (UT-D)



Transmitter: Kenneth O (UT-D)

\*Sponsored by the Semiconductor Research Corporation

# Point Sensor Summary

**The current Phase I MACS is the brassboard of an operational sensor, with well defined capabilities as tested by a third party for DARPA.**

**The technology used has been shown to be fieldable.**

**There are a few, low risk upgrades which should be implemented, irregardless of application – can be done in the context of a brassboard system that would be prototype for production system.**

**It is likely that additional spectroscopy/library/preconcentration work will be required to meet specific needs of users.**

**There are well defined paths forward (often correlated with MACS Phase II) to meet a range of requirements.**

# Innovations and Advances to go beyond Current System Capabilities or Improve Technical/Physical Attributes

## I. MM Technology

- A. Currently two VDI chains
- B. Move to one VDI, with double modulation
- C. 100 GHz Hittite system
- D. 250 GHz Wireless (Hittite?) system.
- E. CMOS system

## II. X-band Technology

- A. Upgrade package current system
- B. Hittite Synthesizer(s)
- C. CMOS synthesizer(s)

## III. Cells (alternatives and evolution)

- A. currently folded 1 m (0.5 liter)
- B. 0.3 m, 1 cm diameter (0.03 liter)
- C. 10 cm cavity (0.15 liter)
- D. 0.3 m, 1 mm diameter (0.0003 liter)
- E. Larger cell for optimized ppx sensitivity

## IV. Pumps

- A. Currently, turbo + diaphragm
- B. Custom mechanical
- C. No pump

## V. Sorbents

- A. Currently 3 cm x .5 cm cylinder
- B. Sandia-like micro hot plate ( $< 1 \text{ cm}^3$ )
- C. Thermo cooler approaches
- D. Many other application dependent approaches

## VI. Signal Recovery Technology

- A. Currently PC cage + lockin card + USB interface
- B. Laptop + custom lockin + USB interface
- C. Webbook + custom lockin + USB interface
- D. Custom, smart phone scale

## VII. More and larger molecules

- A. Library development
- B. Sorbent/preconcentration development
- C. The intricate dance
- D. Cavity/medium resolution methods
- E. Stark modulation

# Examples

(How the physics drives system choices)

Point Gas Sensors

**Remote Gas Sensors**

THz Imaging

# New Physical Regime for Remote Sensing in the THz

PI: Frank De Lucia / Henry Everitt: Ohio State, AMRDEC

Award Number: HDTR1-09-1-0031

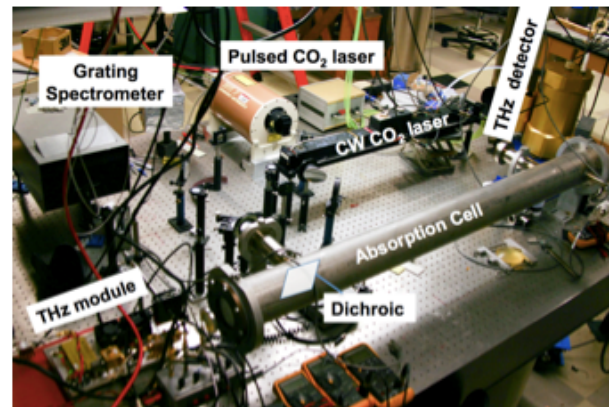
**Objective:** To develop fundamental understandings of collisional energy transfer in the high pump intensity – high pressure limit appropriate for highly specific atmospheric remote sensing.

**Relevance:** This project explores a fundamentally new concept for the remote detection of chemicals with specificity and sensitivity.

**Approach:** This project develops a general purpose double resonance energy transfer system for the study of energy transfer in the high intensity regime.

It also develops a comprehensive theoretical model.

Both are applied to a range of molecular types.



**Results:**

Experimentally and theoretically explore:

3-D specificity matrix

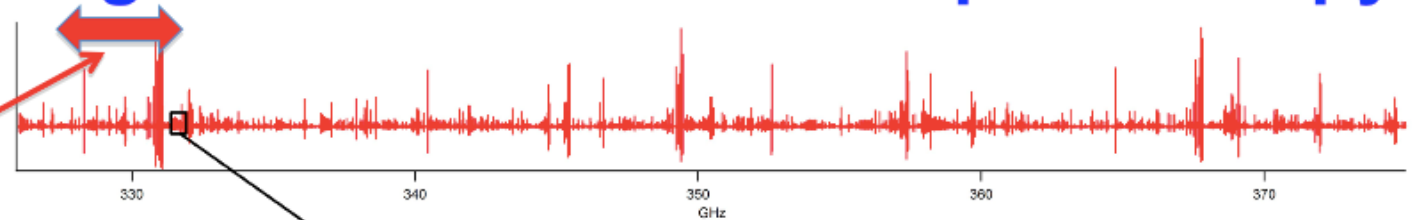
Relation between signals at long and short time

Pump overlap as a function of pressure

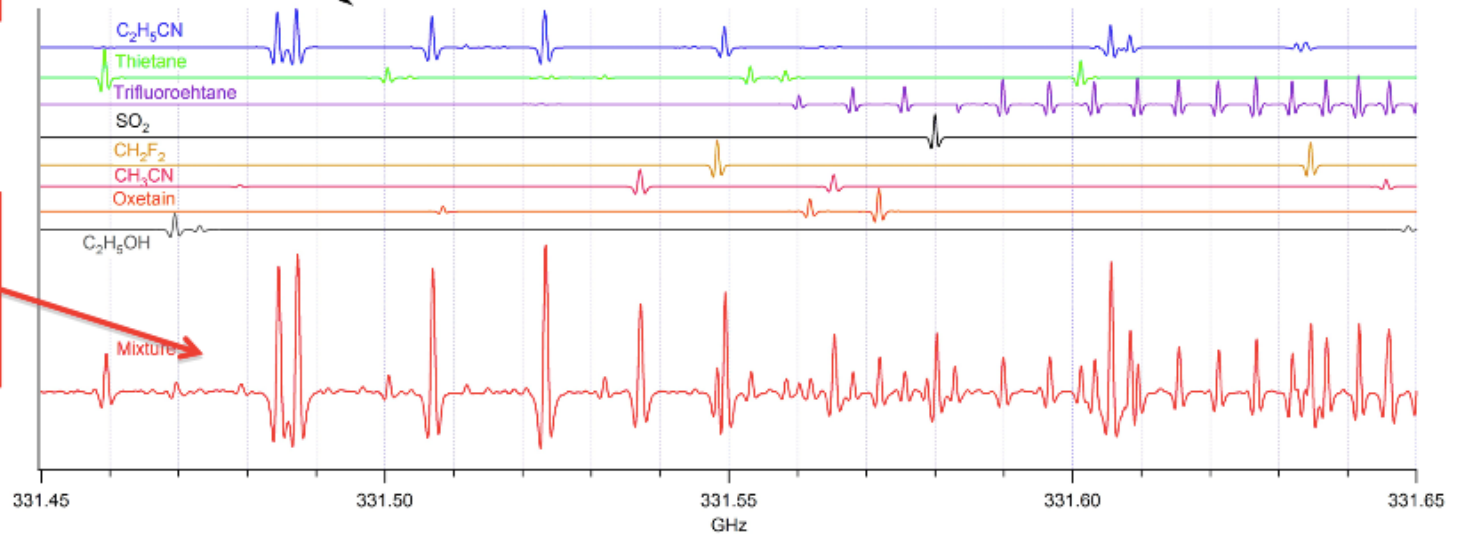
Larger molecules with denser spectra

# Low vs. High Pressure SMM/THz Spectroscopy

Atmospheric Broadening



4% of Atmospheric Broadening



A mixture of 20 gases – ‘Absolute’ specificity at low pressure ( $10^{-5}$  atm)  
3 seconds of data acquisition => information graph 100 m x 1 km

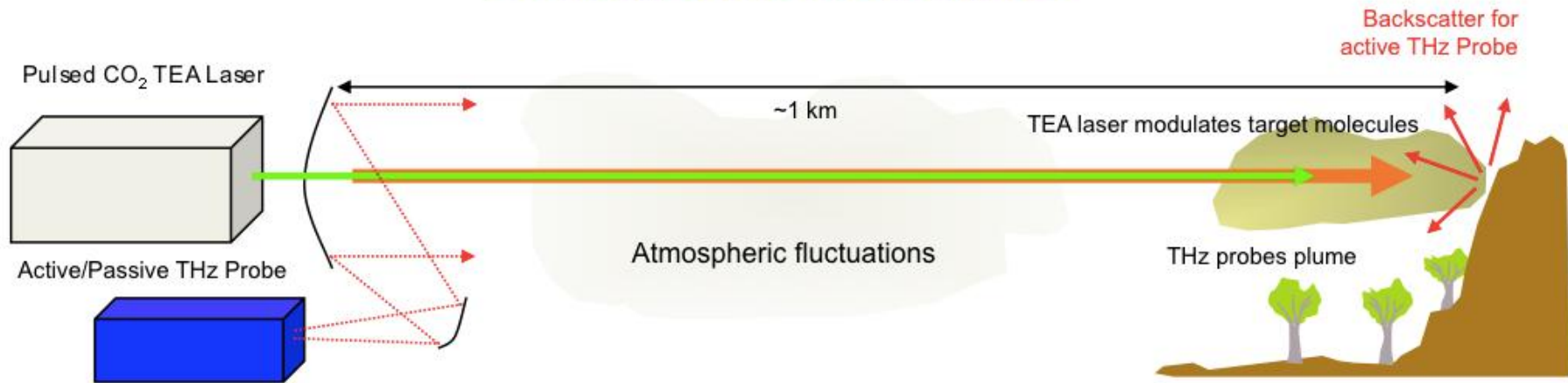
At atmospheric pressure fingerprint lines  **$10^4$  broader** (~5000 MHz)

- **Specificity:** 5000 times fewer resolution elements
- Orders of magnitude reduction in **sensitivity** because of **~10% baseline problem**

**These challenges are easy to ignore:** Doesn't impact **ideal** sensitivity calculations

Very special favorable cases can be chosen to eliminate specificity problems

# A Solution: A New Physical Regime via Double Resonance



## Problem # 1: Specificity

Dimension 1: Choose IR pump frequency

Dimension 2: Monitor the SMM/THz probe frequencies

Dimension 3: Match pump pulse to relaxation of atmosphere (~100 ps)

=> Large number of points in 3-D space increases specificity

=> Time dimension measure of environmental interactions

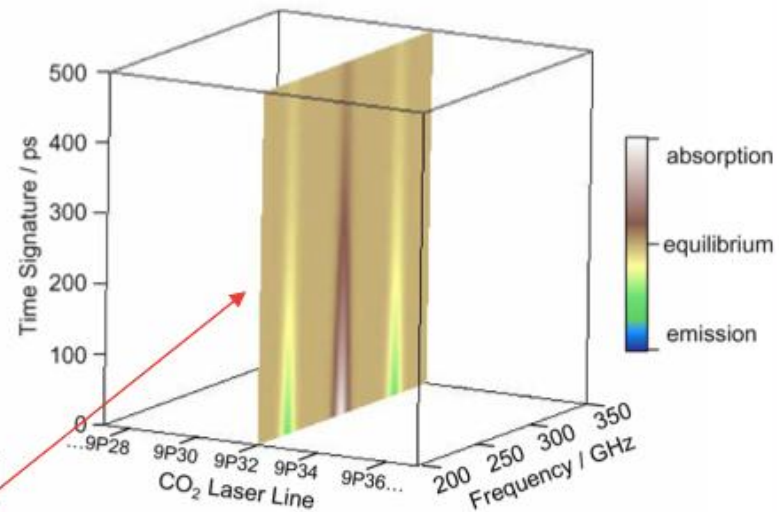
=> Different slices are measures of different interactions

## Problem # 2: Separation of target signature from baseline and clutter

Lock on to IR pulse sequence to reject atmospheric clutter -

=> Elimination of 10% baseline effect increases sensitivity by 10<sup>6</sup>

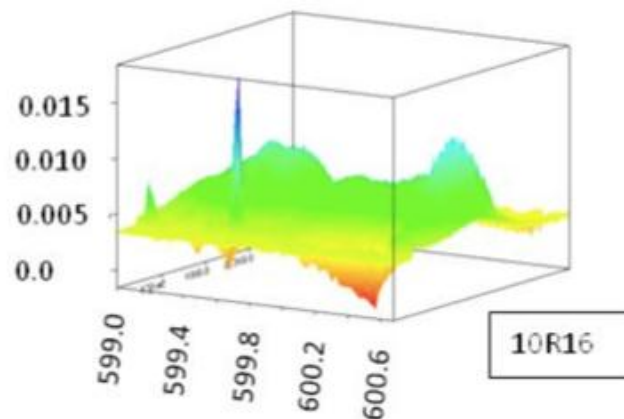
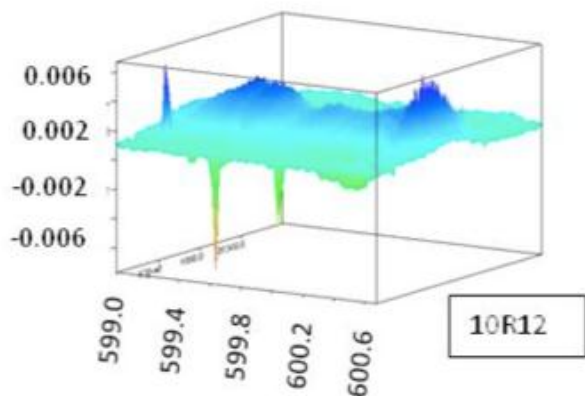
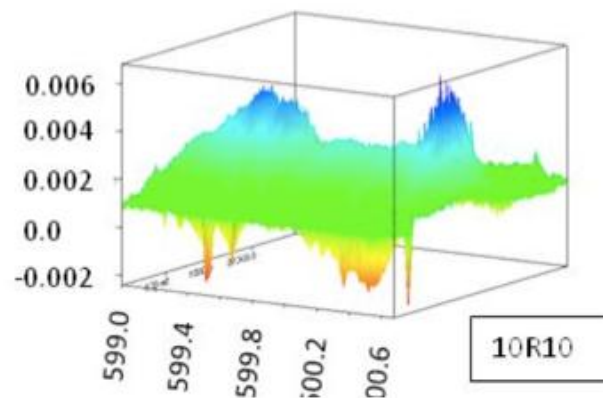
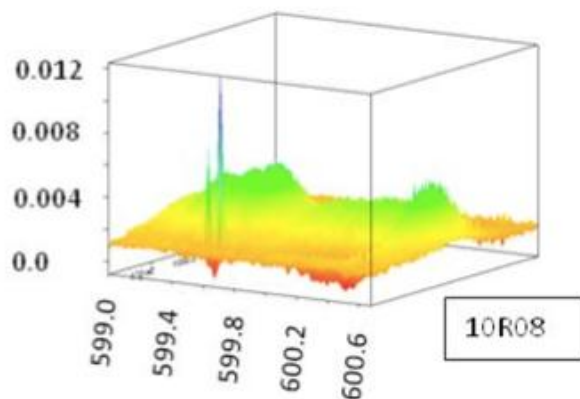
## 3-D Specificity Cube



Probe slice for a *particular* pump



# 3-D Signatures



**Double resonance signatures of 1,1,1 trifluoroethane for four different laser pumps.**

# Double Resonance Paths Forward

## Atmospheric Remote Sensing

Signatures and physics in the high pump (fixed frequency),  
high pressure, 100 ps regime

DARPA funded laser under construction

## Large Molecules in Point Sensors

Signatures in the ns regime

Operate at reduced pressure

Smaller QCL lasers (tunable)

# Examples

(How the physics drives system choices)

Point Gas Sensors

Remote Gas Sensors

**THz Imaging**

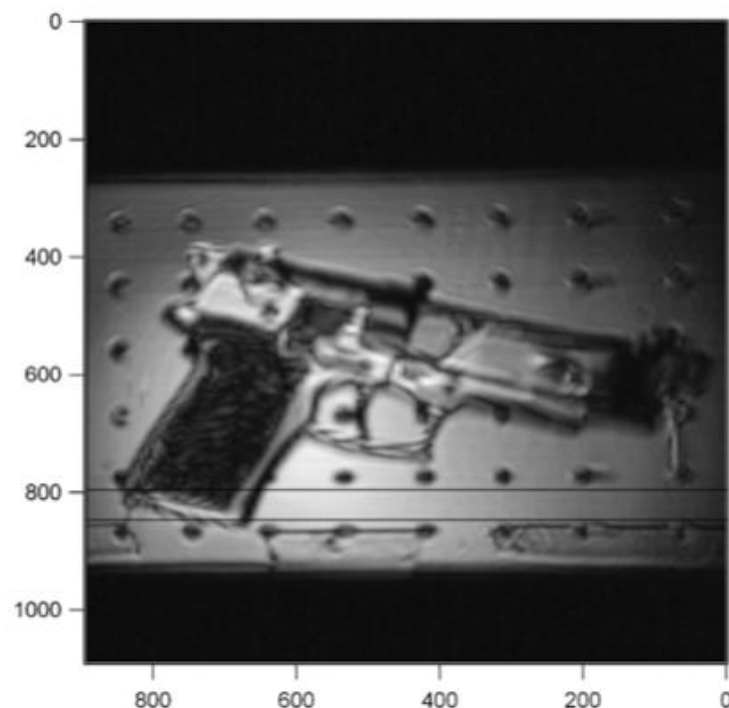
# Active Imaging without Coherent Speckle or Special Angle Requirements:

## Modulated Mode Mixing

**“Passive” Cold sky illumination at 0.094 THz**



**Specular target at special angle => strong return, no speckle**



# Angle and Coherent Effects in Active Images

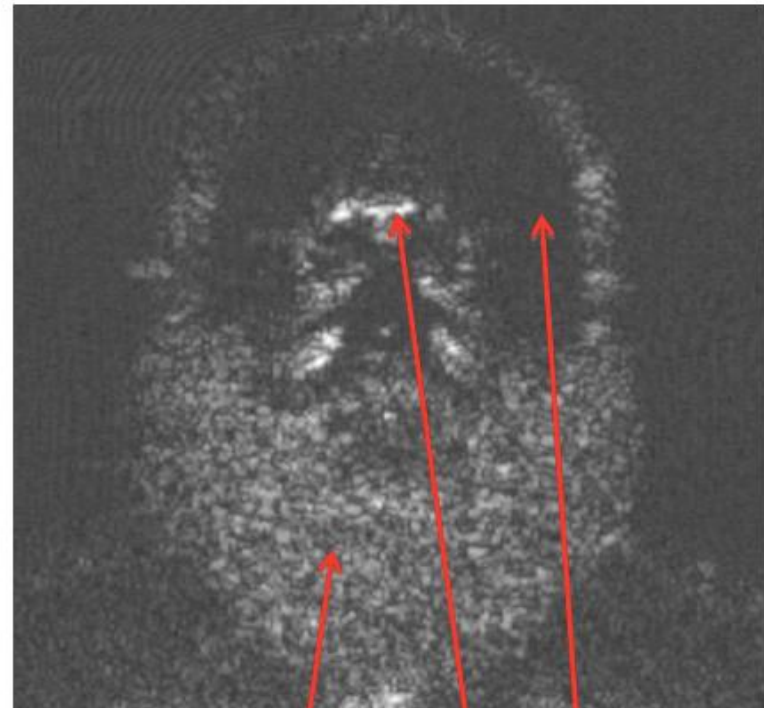
Passive Image



No Speckle

No orientation requirements

Active Image



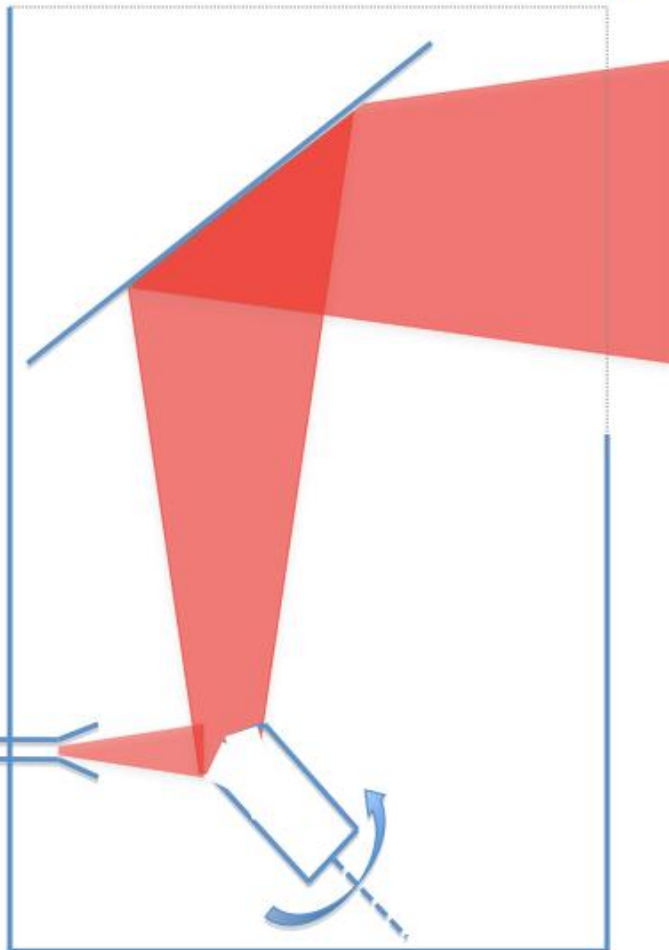
Speckle

Normal orientation

Non-normal orientation

Goal: Use  $M^3$  to produce very hot (1 mw in 1 MHz  $\Rightarrow 10^{14}$  K) incoherent black body

# 218.4 GHz Imager in Large Volume



**1 mw in 1 MHz =>  $10^{14}$  K**

**Vacuum electronics makes possible very hot multimode illumination in atrium and extension to considerably greater range (~1 km)**

# Physics Atrium as 50 Meter Range



Optical Image



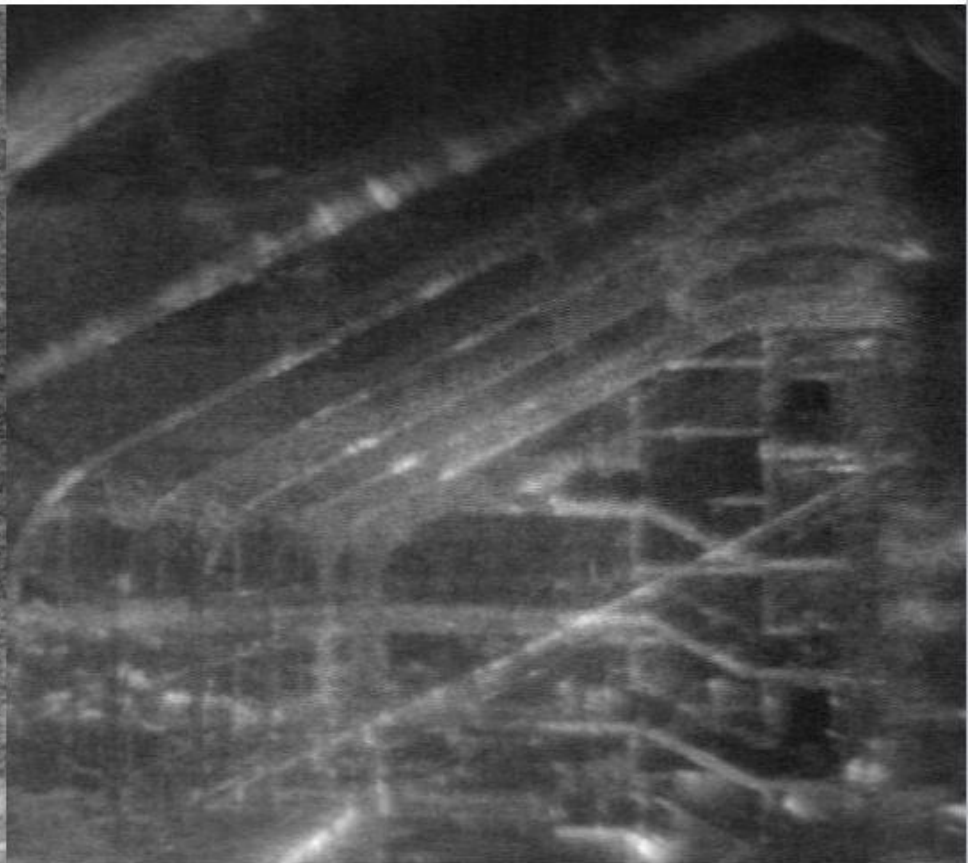
217 GHz Image  
(without mode modulation)

**Speckle => 100% noise modulation on image  
=> cannot take advantage of illumination power**

# Modulated Multimode Mixing



**217 GHz Image  
(without mode modulation)**



**217 GHz Image  
(with mode modulation)**



# Summary and Comments

**There are clear development paths to important applications (match scenario to capability).**

**There are clear R&D paths to broaden 'read to go' capabilities.**

**There are many orders of magnitude at stake in the evaluation of proposed THz applications, often as steep functions of frequency.**

**The choice of technology also has many orders of magnitude impact.**

**Special selection of illumination in imaging and molecule selection in spectroscopic sensors in demonstrations also are orders of magnitude effects.**

**Quantitative analyses (many of which can be done quite simply) are required to select promising applications and the appropriate technology to support them.**

**We have developed:**

- 1. A gas sensor capable of analysis of complex mixtures of gases. Need to follow the clear paths to small and inexpensive systems. R&D to broaden applicability.**
- 2. A double resonance scheme for atmospheric remote sensing/large molecule detection. Need to evaluate target signatures in operational pulse regimes.**
- 3. An active imaging approach which eliminates the need for special target orientation and coherent effects such as speckle; effectively producing very hot, passive-like images. More generally, need to explore phenomenology, illumination strategies, longer ranges, and system implementations.**



# Acknowledgements

## **DARPA/ARO**

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## **Teledyne**

**Mark Field**

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**Doug Pektie, Ivan Medvedev**

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**Chris Ball**