# **Reconfigurable Intelligent Surface Aided Wireless Sensing for Scene Depth Estimation**



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# **Challenges with scene depth estimation**

### **Depth estimation**



- **B** Measure the distance between
	- The surface of the object
	- The sensor
- Enable some emerging applications
	- Augmented and virtual reality
	- Autonomous vehicles

### **Optical sensing**



- **▶ Good depth accuracy**
- **Depth accuracy degrades** 
	- Unfavorable light conditions
	- Shiny, dark, or transparent targets
	- Around-the-corner targets
- **▶ Key privacy concerns**
- Depth estimation ambiguity for distant targets

**These motivates research for other technologies to accurately sense the environment** 

# **Wireless sensing for scene depth estimation**

### **Wireless sensing**



**Optical sensing**



- Different propagation properties (mmWave)
	- Unaffected by light sources
	- Shiny, dark, or transparent targets
	- Around-the-corner targets
- **B** Fewer privacy concerns
- **Detect more distant targets**

### **▶ Good depth accuracy**

- **Depth accuracy degrades** 
	- Unfavorable light conditions
	- Shiny, dark, or transparent targets
	- Around-the-corner targets
- **EXEY privacy concerns**
- **▶ mmWave MIMO based wireless sensing [Taha'21] ▶ Depth estimation ambiguity for distant targets**
- 

### **The Security Scaling mmWave MIMO antenna array requires large hardware complexity states of the set of the set o**

Reality," in *IEEE Access*, vol. 9, pp. 48341-48363, 2021.

# **Reconfigurable intelligent surface aided wireless sensing**

### **Wireless sensing**



**Reconfigurable intelligent surface**

- Different propagation properties (mmWave)
	- Unaffected by light sources
	- Shiny, dark, or transparent targets
	- Around-the-corner targets
- **B** Fewer privacy concerns
- **Detect more distant targets**
- $\triangleright$  Control propagation of radio waves  $\rightarrow$  extend coverage
- $\triangleright$  Nearly-passive elements  $\rightarrow$  energy-efficient architecture
- **Massive number of elements**  $\rightarrow$  **fine-grained beams**

**RIS can provide a high spatial resolution for scene depth estimation!** 

### **System model**



#### **Adopted wireless sensing system**

- Wideband FMCW radar transceiver with a complex-baseband architecture
- **▶ Tx and Rx: connected through a self-isolation circuitry to a shared single antenna**
- **Transmit signal: radar frame of**  $M_{\text{chirp}}$  **repeated chirp signals**
- Channel model: wideband geometric channel model

# **System model (cont.)**



#### **Proposed RIS-aided wireless sensing process for scene depth estimation**

- a) Sensing signals are transmitted to the RIS through a feeding antenna
- b) RIS reflects incident signals to the environment
- c) Backscattered/reflected signals are reflected by the RIS back to the sensing system
- d) Receive signals are processed for scene depth estimation





### **Receive signal (one radar frame)**





### **Receive signal (one radar frame)**



**Propagation delay**

**Radar Transmitter Chain** 

 $-90^\circ$ 

RF chain

Self-isolation circuitry

Transmit

signal

### **Receive signal (one radar frame)**

 $y_{\rm BP}(t) = \text{Re}(y(t)e^{j2\pi f_0 t})$ 

$$
y(t) = x(t) * h(t) + w(t) = \sum_{g=1}^{G_{\text{tar}}} \sum_{\ell=1}^{L_g} h_{g,\ell}(t) x(t - \xi_{g,\ell}) + w(t)
$$
  

$$
f_0 + B
$$

### **Receive baseband IF digital signal**

After passing through the mixers, the filters and the ADCs





 $\xi_{g,\ell}$ 

#### **Receive signal (one radar frame)**

 $y_{\rm BP}(t) = \text{Re}(y(t)e^{j2\pi f_0 t})$ 

$$
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$$

### **Receive baseband IF digital signal**

After passing through the mixers, the filters and the ADCs

$$
z[s,c] = I[s,c] + \jmath\,Q[s,c]
$$

$$
z[s,c] = \sum_{g=1}^{G_{\text{tar}}} \sum_{\ell=1}^{L} \sqrt{\rho_{g,\ell}} e^{-j\vartheta_{g,\ell}} e^{+j\Xi_{g,\ell}} + w[s,c] e^{j\chi[s]} \longleftrightarrow \chi[s] = 2\pi f_0 t_{\text{fast}} + \pi St_{\text{fast}}^2
$$
  
\n
$$
t_{\text{fast}} = sT_s
$$
  
\n**receive power  
\nof a single path  
\n
$$
\rho_{g,\ell} = \mathcal{E}_{\text{T}} |h_{g,\ell}|^2
$$
  
\n
$$
\vartheta_{g,\ell} = \arg(h_{g,\ell})
$$
  
\n
$$
\Xi_{g,\ell} = 2\pi \left( f_0 \xi_{g,\ell} + St_{\text{fast}} \xi_{g,\ell} - \frac{S}{2} \xi_{g,\ell}^2 \right)
$$
  
\n
$$
\xi_{g,\ell} = R_{g,\ell}/S
$$**





### **Assumptions**

- RIS is equipped with N reconfigurable elements (phase shifters)  $\rightarrow$  Not mutually correlated  $\triangleright$
- Channel between the RIS and the radar transceiver  $\rightarrow$  Near-field channel  $\triangleright$
- Channel between the RIS and the targets  $\rightarrow$  Far-field channel P
- Channel between the radar transceiver and the targets  $\rightarrow$  Neglected (directional rad. pattern of the feeding ant.)  $\triangleright$
- Reciprocal RIS interaction (incident signal directions  $\leftrightarrow$  reflected signal directions) Þ

## **Problem definition: How to construct depth maps?**

#### **1. Scanning the environment using RIS interaction vectors**

 $\triangleright$  Beam codebook  $F: M$  RIS interaction vectors for M directions

 $\mathcal{F} = \{ \psi_m : m \in \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{M} = \{0, \ldots, M - 1\} \}$ 

For each interaction vector, the channel and IF signal models:

$$
h_{g,\ell}[m] = \bar{\gamma}_{g,\ell} \left( (\mathbf{g} \odot \boldsymbol{\psi}_m)^T \mathbf{v} \left( \bar{\theta}_{g,\ell} \right) \right) \times \ddot{\gamma}_{g,\ell} \left( (\mathbf{g} \odot \boldsymbol{\psi}_m)^T \mathbf{v} \left( \ddot{\theta}_{g,\ell} \right) \right)
$$
  

$$
z[s,m] = \sum_{g=1}^{G_{\text{tar}}} \sum_{\ell=1}^{L} \sqrt{\rho_{g,\ell}[m]} e^{-j \vartheta_{g,\ell}[m]} e^{+j \Xi_{g,\ell}} + \underbrace{w[s,m] e^{j \chi[s]}}_{\text{Noise}}
$$
  
Receive signal



$$
\blacktriangleright \text{Received sensing signal matrix}
$$
\n
$$
\mathbf{z}[m] = [z[0, m], \dots, z[M_{\text{sample}} - 1, m]]^T
$$
\n
$$
\mathbf{Z} = [\mathbf{z}[0], \mathbf{z}[1], \dots, \mathbf{z}[M - 1]]
$$

# **Problem definition: How to construct depth maps?**

### **2. Processing the receive signals to construct depth maps**

- $\triangleright$  Ground-truth depth map,  $D_{map}: 2D$  image of depth values
- Depth value in one direction:

Smallest depth bet. RIS reference element and the nearest target

- Estimated depth map,  $\widehat{\mathbf{D}}_{\text{map}}$ :  $\widehat{\mathbf{D}}_{\text{map}} = \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{Z}; \mathcal{F})$
- **▶ Estimation performance metrics** 
	- Root-mean squared error (RMSE)
	- Mean absolute error (MAE)

$$
\Delta_{\mathrm{RMSE}}=\left(\frac{1}{M}\|\mathbf{D}_{\mathrm{map}}-\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{Z};\boldsymbol{\mathcal{F}})\|_2^2\right)^{1/2}\\ \Delta_{\mathrm{MAE}}=\frac{1}{M}\|\mathbf{D}_{\mathrm{map}}-\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{Z};\boldsymbol{\mathcal{F}})\|_1^2
$$



### **How can we design the sensing framework to reduce the est. errors?**

# **Proposed solution: RIS interaction codebook design**

 $\triangleright$  We adopt the design for the set of reflected angle directions,  $\mathcal{O}$  [Taha'21]

- Inputs: field of view, aspect ratio, horizontal and vertical resolutions
- Output: the set of reflected angle directions for a rectangular grid



**[Taha'21]** A. Taha, Q. Qu, S. Alex, P. Wang, W. L. Abbott and A. Alkhateeb, "Millimeter Wave MIMO-Based Depth Maps for Wireless Virtual and Augmented Reality," in *IEEE Access*, vol. 9, pp. 48341-48363, 2021. 16

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**►** For  $\theta_m \in \mathcal{O}$ , the RIS interaction vector can be designed as

$$
\begin{aligned}\n\boldsymbol{\psi}_m^* &= \arg \max_{\boldsymbol{\psi}_m} \ |\mathbf{h}_{g,\ell}[m]| && \text{Prior knowledge} \\
&\text{s.t. } \ |\left[\boldsymbol{\psi}_m\right]_n| = 1, \ \forall n \in \{1, \dots, N\} && \text{The distance} \\
\boldsymbol{\psi}_m^* &= \left(\mathbf{v}(\theta_m) \ \odot \ \mathrm{e}^{-\jmath 2\pi (\boldsymbol{\delta} - \boldsymbol{\delta}_1)/\lambda}\right)^*, \ m \in \mathcal{M}\n\end{aligned}
$$

- The distance vector  $\delta$  bet. Radar antenna and RIS elements
- The direction specified by  $\theta_m$

**EXTHE proposed RIS interaction codebook** 

$$
\boldsymbol{\mathcal{F}}=\left\{\boldsymbol{\psi}_{m}\in\mathbb{C}^{N\times1}:\boldsymbol{\psi}_{m}=(\mathbf{v}(\theta_{m})\odot\mathrm{e}^{-\jmath2\pi(\boldsymbol{\delta}-\boldsymbol{\delta}_{1})/\lambda})^{*},\theta_{m}\in\mathcal{O}\right\}
$$

#### **Given the designed RIS codebook, we next present the scene depth estimation solution**

**[Taha'21]** A. Taha, Q. Qu, S. Alex, P. Wang, W. L. Abbott and A. Alkhateeb, "Millimeter Wave MIMO-Based Depth Maps for Wireless Virtual and Augmented Reality," in *IEEE Access*, vol. 9, pp. 48341-48363, 2021. 17

# **Proposed solution: RIS-based scene depth estimation**

### **Operation**

- Acquire received sensing matrix
- Estimate range vector (Fourier transform)

 $\mathbf{Z}^{\rm RP} = \text{FFT}_m(\mathbf{Z}), m \in \mathcal{M}$  $[\hat{\mathbf{r}}]_m = \Delta_{\mathrm{R}} \times \argmax_s$ | |  $\left[\mathbf{Z}^{\rm RP}\right]_{s,m}$  $\Big\}$  $\Big\vert$ ,  $m \in \mathcal{M}$ 

- **▶ Construct scene depth map [Taha'21]**
- Apply 2D interpolation to scale the depth maps

**Algorithm 1 RIS-Based Scene Depth Estimation Solution Inputs:** Field of view FoV, aspect ratio  $A_{\rm R}$ , number of horizontal/vertical grid points  $\overline{N}_{\rm H}, \overline{N}_{\rm V}$ . **Output:** Depth map estimate  $\widehat{\mathbf{D}}_{\text{map}}$ . 1: Design RIS interaction codebook  $\mathcal{F}$ , as in Section IV-B. 2: for  $m=1$  to  $M$  do  $\triangleright$  For each  $\psi_m$ Acquire receive sensing signal  $z[s, m]$ ,  $\forall s \in S$ , (14).  $3:$ 4: Construct receive *sensing* matrix  $Z$ , as in (15). 5: Calculate scene range estimate vector  $\hat{\mathbf{r}}$ , as in (32). 6: Construct the range map estimate  $\widehat{\mathbf{R}}_{\text{map}}$ , as in (33). 7: Construct the depth map estimate  $\widehat{\mathbf{D}}_{\text{map}}$ , as in [6].

**[Taha'21]** A. Taha, Q. Qu, S. Alex, P. Wang, W. L. Abbott and A. Alkhateeb, "Millimeter Wave MIMO-Based Depth Maps for Wireless Virtual and Augmented Reality," in *IEEE Access*, vol. 9, pp. 48341-48363, 2021. 18

# **Simulation framework**



**▶ Wireless InSite: 0.1° ray spacing. Enabled interactions: reflection, diffraction, transmission, diffuse scattering** 

- $\triangleright$  {30×30; 40×40} RIS uniform planar arrays (UPAs) at 60GHz with 4GHz transmission bandwidth
- Codebook: oversampling factors of 4, size of  $\{14,400, 25,600\}$ D
- $\triangleright$  100° field of view, 4/3 aspect ratio, 480p resolution, 32mm sensor width (ground-truth depth map)
- **Assuming 38Msps sampling rate, 512 samples per chirp, and 13.47**  $\mu$ s chirp repetition interval
- **Estimate depth map sensing rate**  $\{5.15; 2.90\}$  **Hz**

# **Living room scenario**

### $\geq 15.6\times6.5\times3.8m$  indoor space

- 1.8m tall person
- Concrete for the walls
- Floorboard for the floor
- Ceiling board for the ceiling
- Glass material for the wall dividing the space
- Glass material for the TV
- Wood for the furniture
- Follow ITU default parameter values for the materials at 60GHz
- **EXTER FIGULE IS ENDING** CONTERNIES The RIS is mounted on the wall behind the sofa





**We compare the proposed solution against RGB-based solutions for depth estimation**

# **Living room scenario (cont.)**

### **RGB-based solutions**

- **EXECONSTRUCT CONSTRUCT THE Shape of the objects more clearly**
- **Mis-detect the transparent glass wall**
- ▶ Higher depth errors compared to ground truth

### **Proposed RIS-based solutions**

- **EX** Transparent glass wall can be well perceived
- **EXECUTE:** Lower depth errors compared to ground truth
- Suffer from some inter-path interferences
- Relatively wide sensing beams (errors around the edges)













100

200

250

300

350

 $450$ 





(f) Proposed sol.  $(40 \times 40$  RIS)  $\Delta_{\rm RMSE}=31.9\,\rm cm$  $\Delta_{\text{MAE}} = 11.6 \text{ cm}$ 

#### **The proposed solution can achieve higher depth accuracy**

 $100$ 

150

200

250

350

400

**[Hu'19]** Junjie Hu, Mete Ozay, Yan Zhang, and Takayuki Okatani. "Revisiting single image depth estimation: Toward higher resolution maps with accurate object boundaries." In 2019 IEEE Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision (WACV), pp. 1043-1051. IEEE, 2019.

**[Ranftl'21]** René Ranftl, Alexey Bochkovskiy, and Vladlen Koltun. "Vision transformers for dense prediction." In Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF International Conference on Computer Vision, pp. 12179-12188. 2021.

# **Conclusions and future work**

- Optical sensing for depth perception suffers from critical limitations
	- Shiny, dark, transparent, or distant objects/surfaces
	- Key privacy concerns
	- Around-the-corner objects/surfaces
- **▶ RIS-aided mmWave sensing framework for scene depth estimation** 
	- Design a depth map suitable RIS sensing codebook
	- Develop a processing solution to estimate high-resolution depth maps
	- Simulation results highlight the potential of this solution to achieve accurate depth perception
- **B** Future work
	- Improve the *precision* of the proposed solutions
	- Extend to near-field channels between RIS and targets
	- Adopt target mobility, i.e., depth and Doppler velocity estimation

# **Thank you**

# **Appendix**

**Backward from the target**

$$
\mathbf{h}_{g,\ell}(t) = \underbrace{(\mathbf{g}^T \mathbf{\Psi} \mathbf{v}(\bar{\theta}_{g,\ell}(t))\bar{\gamma}_{g,\ell})(t)}_{\text{Radar} \to \text{RIS} \to \text{Target}} \times \underbrace{(\mathbf{g}^T \mathbf{\Psi} \mathbf{v}(\ddot{\theta}_{g,\ell}(t))\ddot{\gamma}_{g,\ell}(t))}_{\text{Target} \to \text{RIS} \to \text{Radar}}
$$

**Forward to the target** 

 $\begin{tabular}{c} \quad \quad \quad \textbf{Target} \rightarrow \textbf{RIS} \rightarrow \textbf{Radar} \\ \end{tabular}$ 



**[Buzzi'21]** S. Buzzi, E. Grossi, M. Lops, and L. Venturino, "Foundations of MIMO Radar Detection Aided by Reconfigurable Intelligent Surfaces," *IEEE Transactions on*  25 *Signal Processing*, vol. 70, pp. 1749–1763, 2022.



26 **[Buzzi'21]** S. Buzzi, E. Grossi, M. Lops, and L. Venturino, "Foundations of MIMO Radar Detection Aided by Reconfigurable Intelligent Surfaces," *IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing*, vol. 70, pp. 1749–1763, 2022.





$$
\mathbf{h}_{g,\ell}(t) = \underbrace{(\mathbf{g}^T \mathbf{\Psi} \mathbf{v}(\bar{\theta}_{g,\ell}(t))\bar{\gamma}_{g,\ell})(t)}_{\text{Radar}\to \text{RIS}\to \text{Target}} \times \underbrace{(\mathbf{g}^T \mathbf{\Psi} \mathbf{v}(\dot{\theta}_{g,\ell}(t))\ddot{\gamma}_{g,\ell}(t))}_{\text{Target}\to \text{RIS}\to \text{Radar}}
$$
\n
$$
= \bar{\gamma}_{g,\ell}(t) \left( (\mathbf{g} \odot \mathbf{\psi})^T \mathbf{v} \left( \bar{\theta}_{g,\ell}(t) \right) \right) \times \ddot{\gamma}_{g,\ell}(t) \left( (\mathbf{g} \odot \mathbf{\psi})^T \mathbf{v} \left( \ddot{\theta}_{g,\ell}(t) \right) \right)
$$



#### **Two-hop forward and backward channel path gains**

$$
\bar{\gamma}_{g,\ell}(t) = \sqrt{\frac{\mathcal{G}(\bar{\Omega}_1)\zeta(\bar{\omega}_1,\bar{\theta}_{g,\ell})}{(4\pi)^2\delta_1^2d_{g,\ell}^2(t)L_{g,\ell}(t)}} e^{-j2\pi(\delta_1 + \bar{d}_{g,\ell})/\lambda}
$$
\n
$$
\ddot{\gamma}_{g,\ell}(t) = \sqrt{\frac{\sigma_g\zeta(\ddot{\theta}_{g,\ell},\ddot{\omega}_1)\mathcal{G}(\ddot{\Omega}_1)\lambda^2}{(4\pi)^3\ddot{d}_{g,\ell}^2(t)\delta_1^2L_{g,\ell}(t)}} e^{-j2\pi(\ddot{d}_{g,\ell}+\delta_1)/\lambda}
$$
\nRadar range equation

\n\n- Directional gain of feeding antenna
\n- Directional RIS cross-section gain
\n- Distance bet. RIS reference and target  
\n $\zeta_{\text{ign}}$
\n- Target cross-section gain
\n- Distance bet. RIS reference and radar antenna
\n





#### **Two-hop forward and backward channel path gains**

#### **Normalized near-field channel path gains**

$$
\bar{\gamma}_{g,\ell}(t) = \sqrt{\frac{\mathcal{G}(\bar{\Omega}_1)\zeta(\bar{\omega}_1,\bar{\theta}_{g,\ell})}{(4\pi)^2 \delta_1^2 \bar{d}_{g,\ell}^2(t)\bar{\mathsf{L}}_{g,\ell}(t)}} e^{-j2\pi(\delta_1 + \bar{d}_{g,\ell})/\lambda} \qquad \qquad [\mathbf{g}]_n
$$

$$
\ddot{\gamma}_{g,\ell}(t) = \sqrt{\frac{\sigma_g \zeta(\ddot{\theta}_{g,\ell},\ddot{\omega}_1)\mathcal{G}(\ddot{\Omega}_1)\lambda^2}{(4\pi)^3 \ddot{d}_{g,\ell}^2(t)\delta_1^2\ddot{\mathsf{L}}_{g,\ell}(t)}} e^{-j2\pi(\ddot{d}_{g,\ell}+\delta_1)/\lambda}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned} [\mathbf{g}]_n &= \sqrt{\frac{\mathcal{G}(\bar{\Omega}_n)\zeta(\bar{\omega}_n,\bar{\theta}_{g,\ell})\delta_1^2}{\mathcal{G}(\bar{\Omega}_1)\zeta(\bar{\omega}_1,\bar{\theta}_{g,\ell})\delta_n^2}} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{-j2\pi(\delta_n-\delta_1)/\lambda} \\ \varphi &= \{\varphi^{\mathrm{az}},\varphi^{\mathrm{ze}}\} \\ \text{Angle notation} \end{aligned}
$$

**[Buzzi'21]** S. Buzzi, E. Grossi, M. Lops, and L. Venturino, "Foundations" *Signal Processing*, vol. 70, pp. 1749–1763, 2022.

**Normalized gain for each RIS element w.r.t. RIS reference element**

<sup>2</sup> Intelligent Surfaces," IEEE Transactions on <sub>29</sub>

# **FMCW radar configuration**

- $\triangleright$  System configuration
	- 60 GHz starting frequency
	- Chirp slope:  $300$  MHz  $\mu s^{-1}$
	- ADC sampling frequency: 38 MS/s
	- 512 samples per chirp
	- 13.47 µs chirp repetition interval

### **Derived parameters**

- 13.47 µs chirp duration
- 4.04 GHz transmission bandwidth
- Range resolution: 3.71 cm
- Maximum range: 18.95 m
- Chirp rate: 74.2 kHz
- RIS codebook size: {14,400; 25,600}
- Depth map sensing rate:  $\{5.15; 2.90\}$  Hz