Image Reconstruction

Parallel Imaging I

M229 Advanced Topics in MRI

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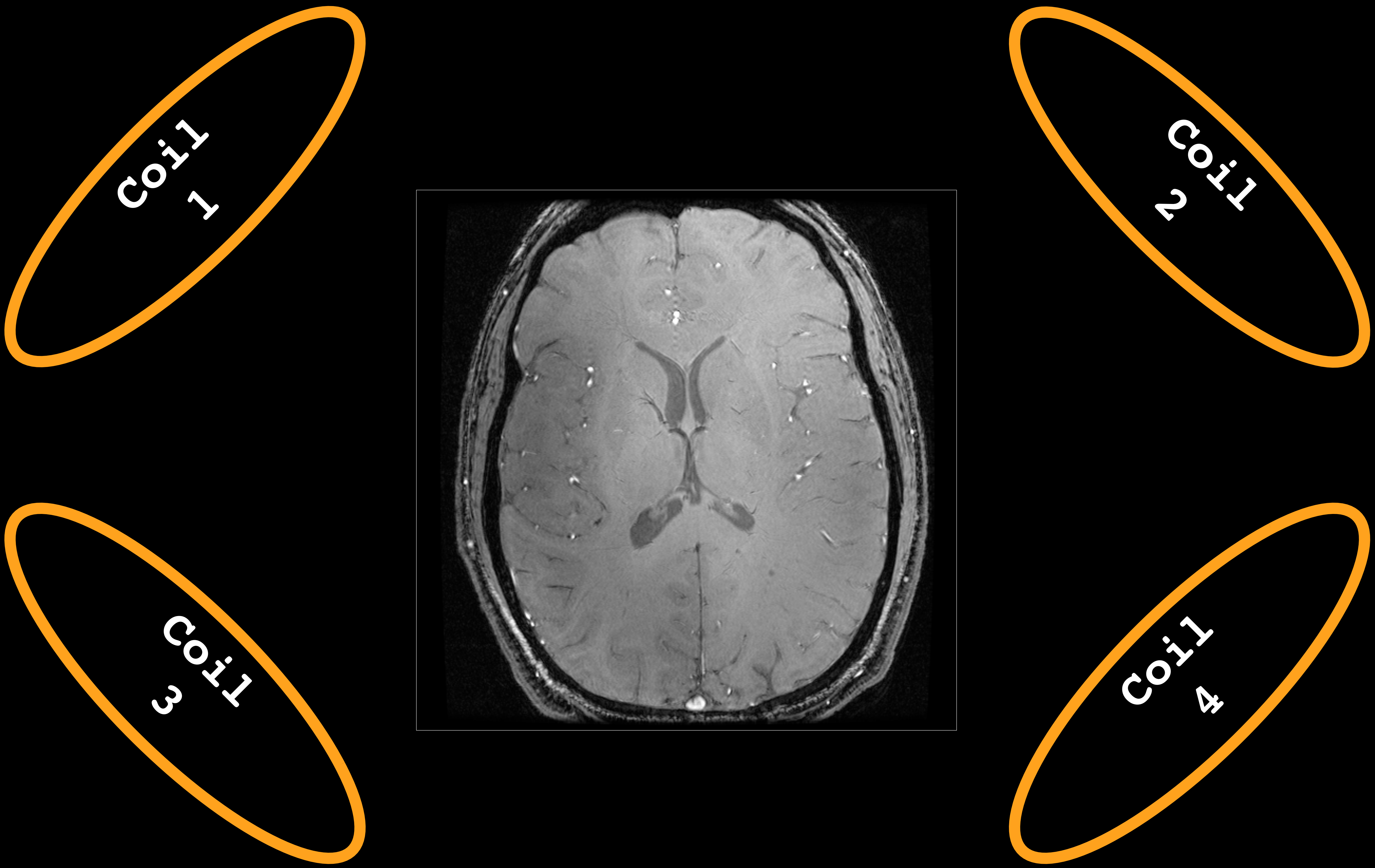
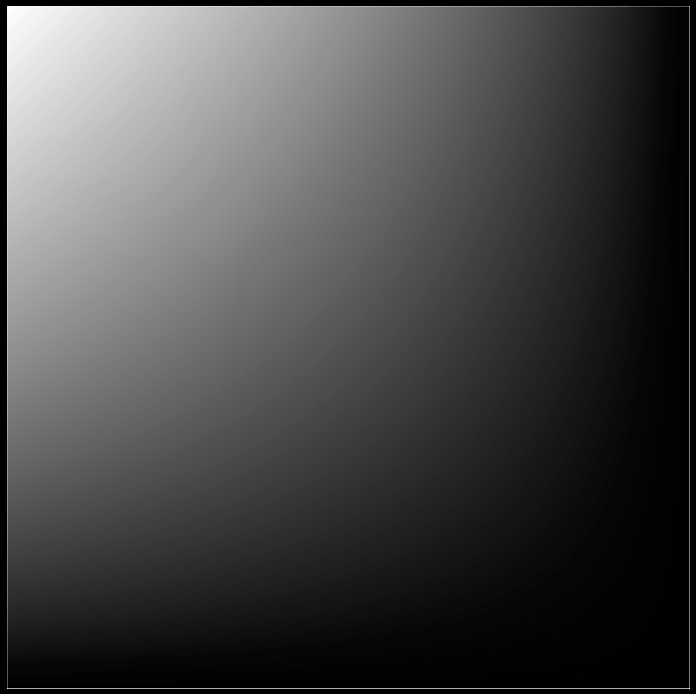
Today's Topics

- Multicoil reconstruction
- Parallel imaging
  - Image domain methods:
    - SENSE
  - k-space domain methods:
    - SMASH
    - GRAPPA (next time)

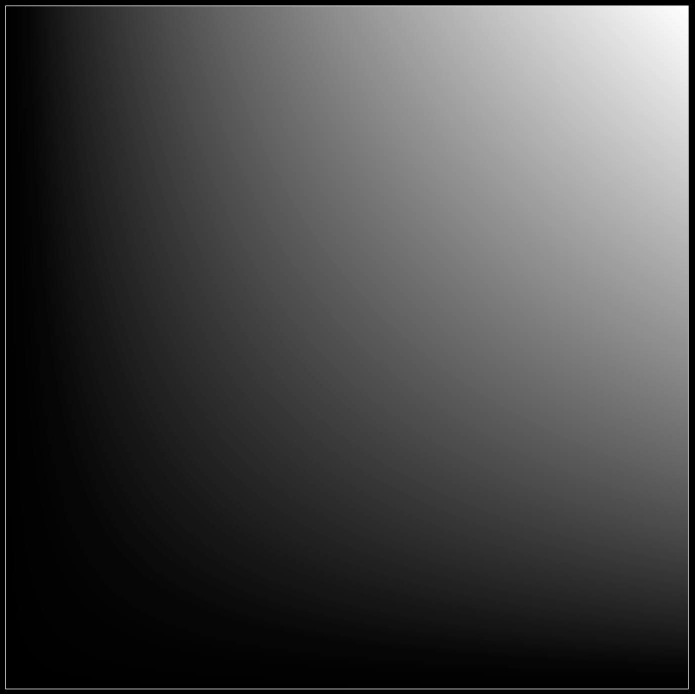
Multi-coil Arrays

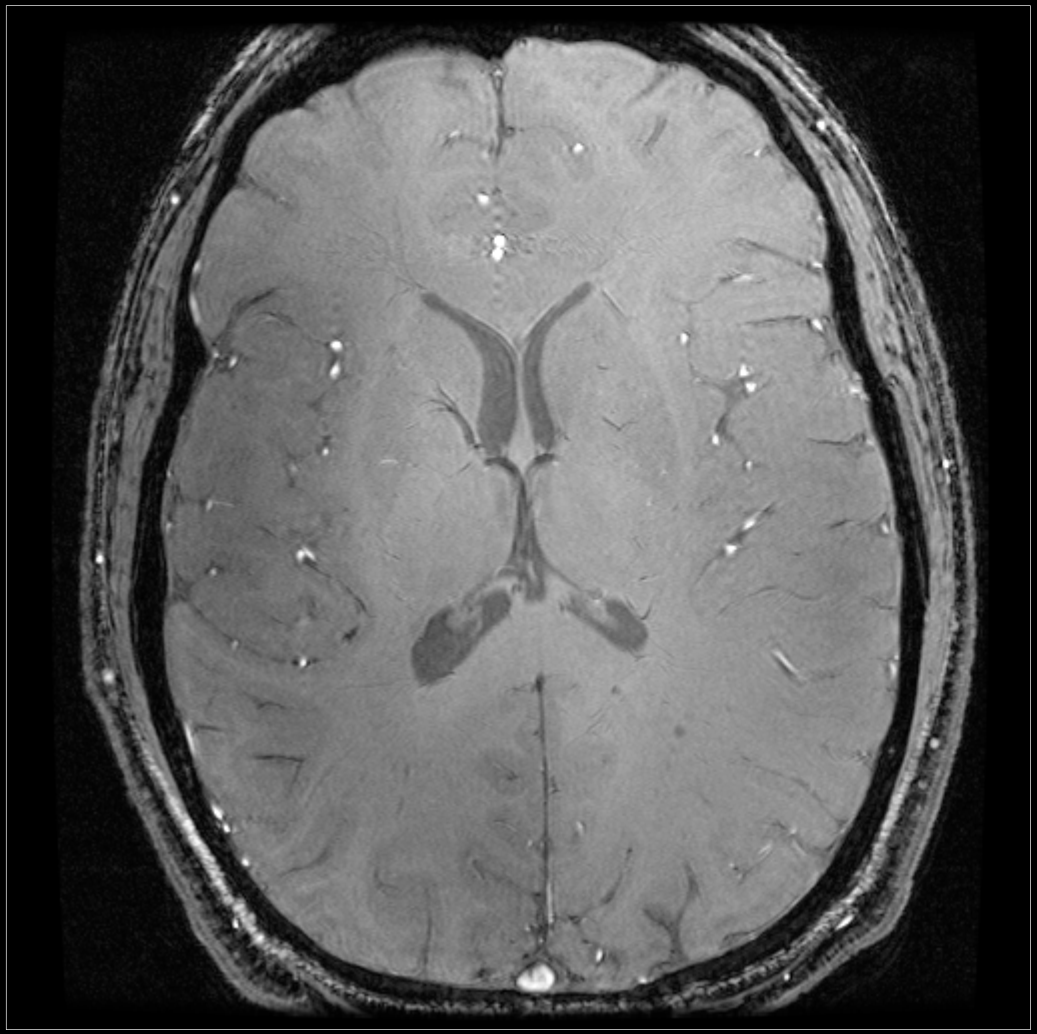


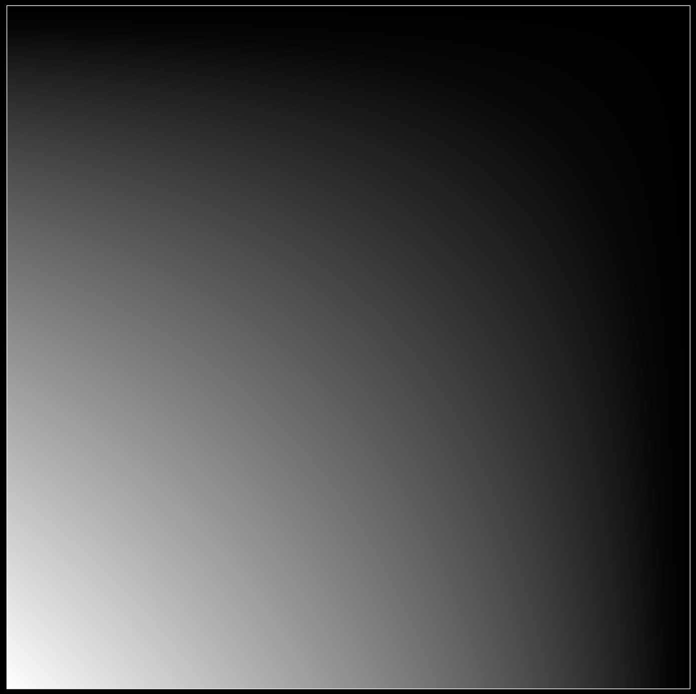
Multi-coil Sensitivity

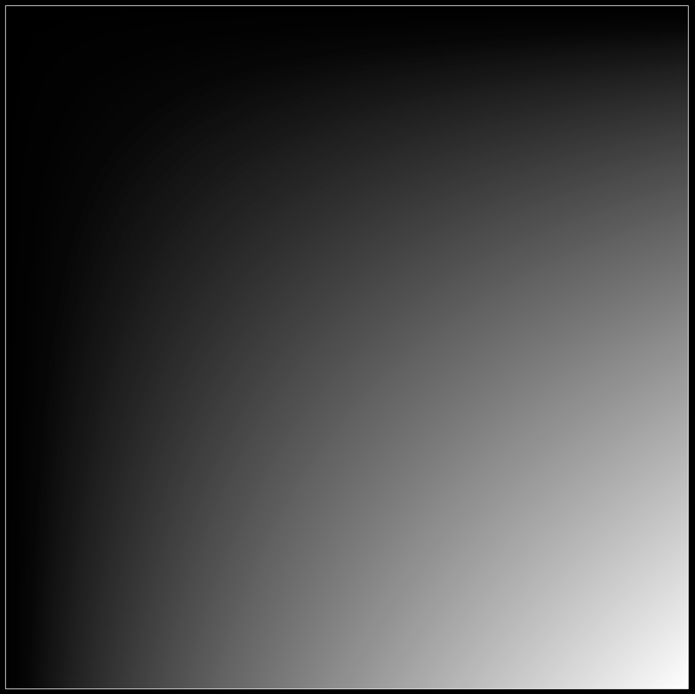


$$\|\vec{B}(\vec{r})\|$$









Multi-coil Reconstruction

- Each coil has a complete image of whole FOV and an amplitude and phase sensitivity

$$C_l(\vec{x}) \qquad l = 1,2,\ldots L$$

- Coils are coupled, so noise is correlated

$$E[n_i n_j] = \Psi$$

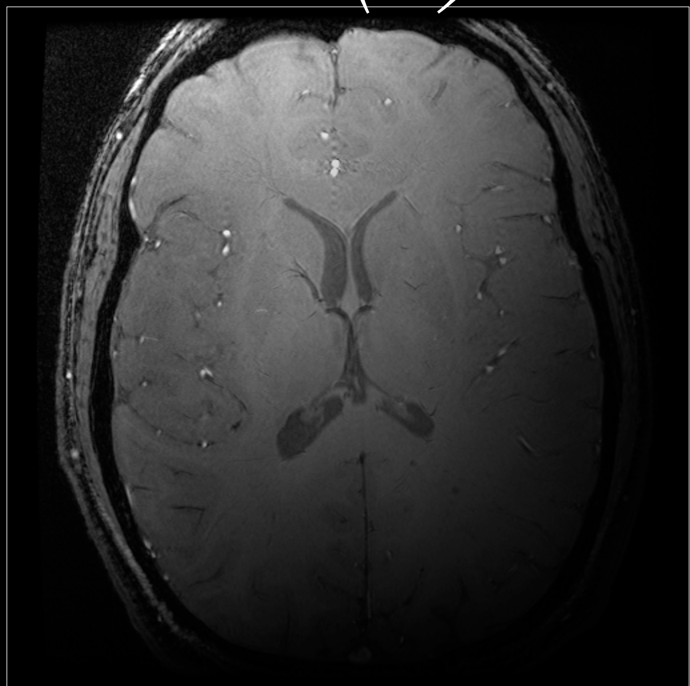
- Received data from coil l:

$$m_l(\vec{x}) = C_l(\vec{x})m(\vec{x}) + n_l(\vec{x})$$

- Given $m_l(x)$, how do we reconstruct $m(x)$?

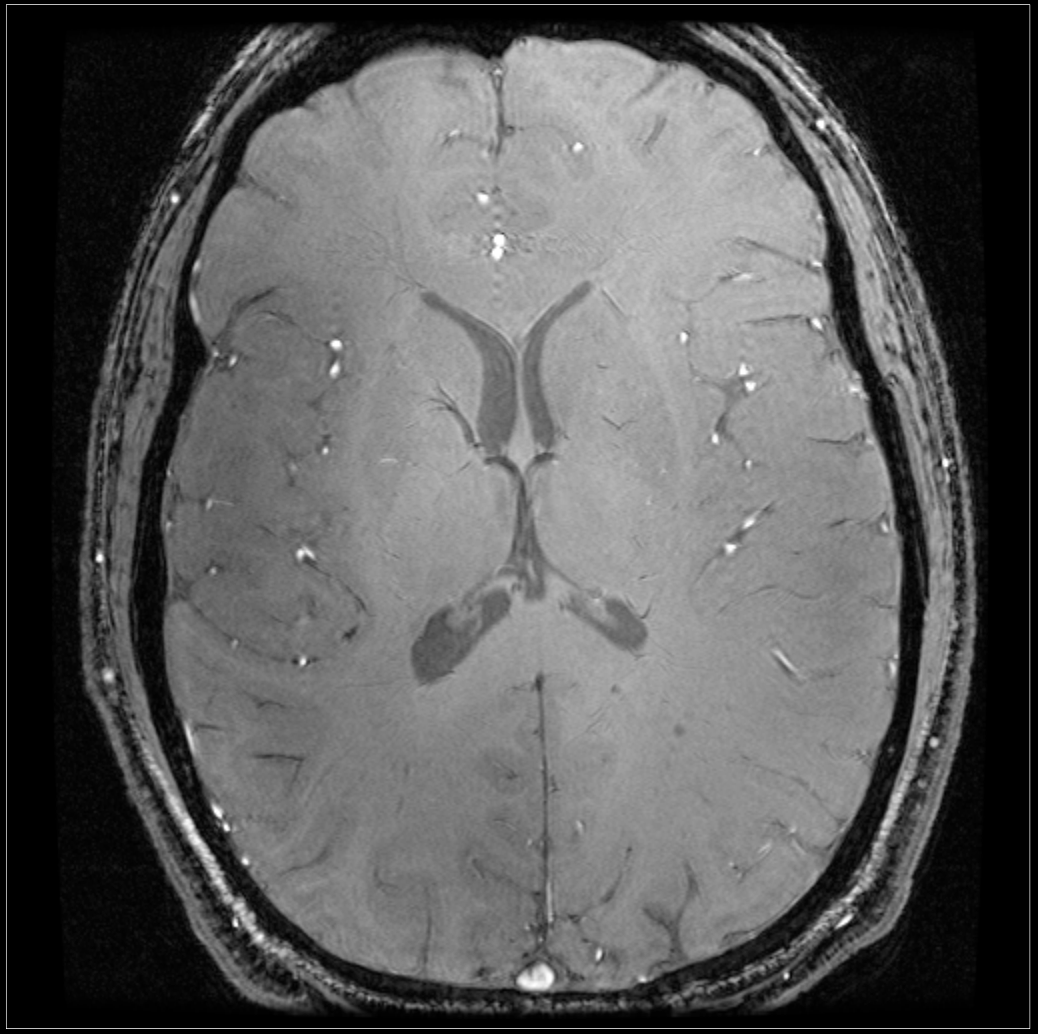
Multi-coil Images

$m_1(x)$

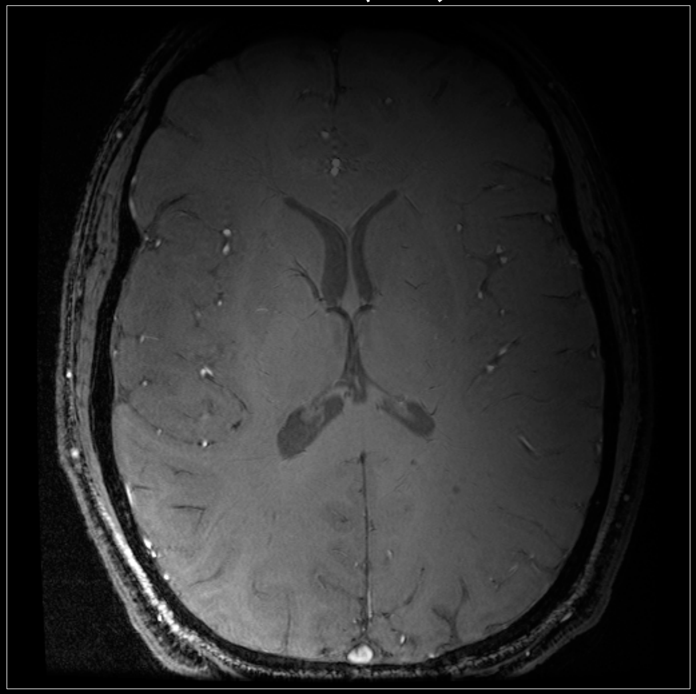


$m_2(x)$

$m_s(x)$



$m_3(x)$



$m_4(x)$

Multi-coil Reconstruction

For a particular voxel x

$$\begin{pmatrix} m_1(\vec{x}) \\ m_2(\vec{x}) \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ m_L(\vec{x}) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} C_1(\vec{x}) \\ C_2(\vec{x}) \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ C_L(\vec{x}) \end{pmatrix} m(\vec{x}) + \begin{pmatrix} n_1(\vec{x}) \\ n_2(\vec{x}) \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ n_L(\vec{x}) \end{pmatrix}$$

OR

$$\underline{m_s(\vec{x})} = \underline{C} m(\vec{x}) + \underline{n}$$

L x 1 L x 1 L x 1

Minimum Variance Estimate

$$\hat{m}(\vec{x}) = \underbrace{(C^*\Psi^{-1}C)^{-1}}_{1 \times 1}\underbrace{C^*\Psi^{-1}}_{1 \times L}\underbrace{m_s(\vec{x})}_{L \times 1}$$

Covariance (variance)

$$COV(\hat{m}(\vec{x})) = C^*\Psi^{-1}C$$

What if Ψ is $\sigma^2 I$?

$$\hat{m}(\vec{x}) = \underbrace{(C^*C)^{-1}}_{\text{Intensity Correction}}\underbrace{C^*}_{\text{Phase Correction}}m_s(\vec{x})$$

Approximate Solution

- Often we don't know $C_l(x)$, but

$$m_l(\vec{x}) = C_l(\vec{x})m(\vec{x})$$

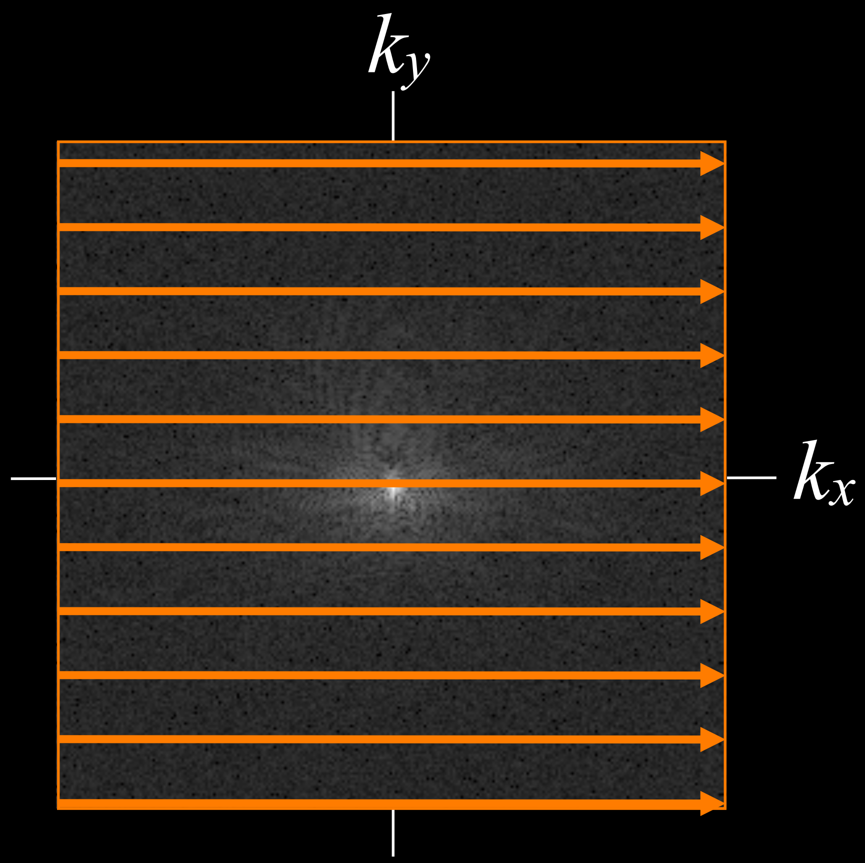
- Approximate solution:

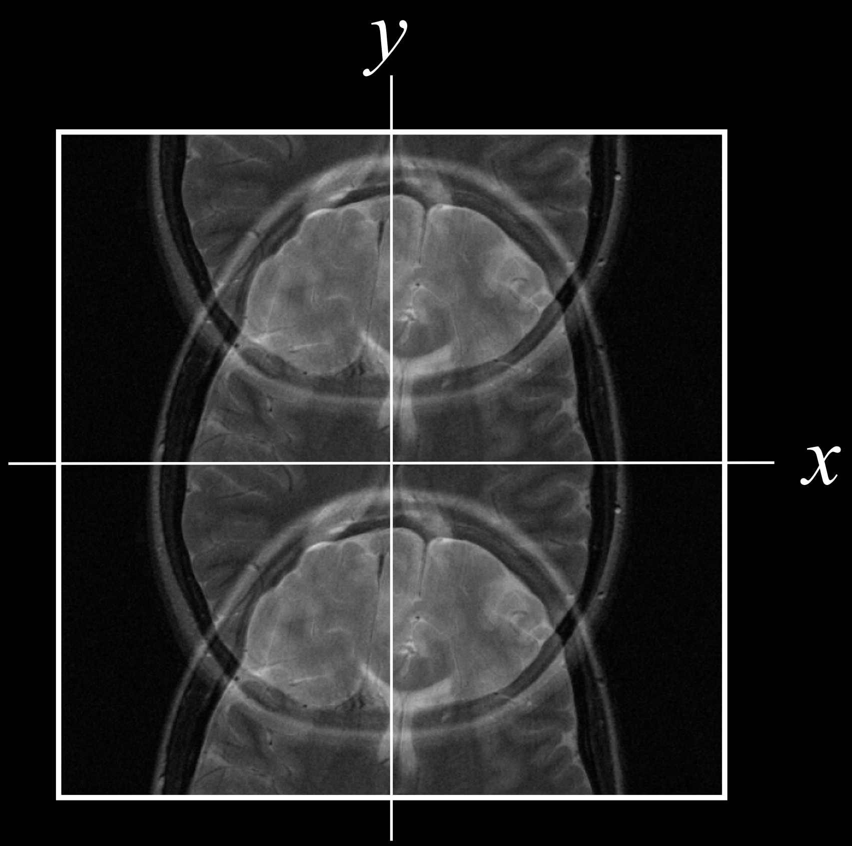
$$\hat{m}_{SS}(\vec{x}) = \sqrt{\sum_l m_l^*(\vec{x})m_l(\vec{x})}$$

- For SNR > 20, within 10% of optimal solution

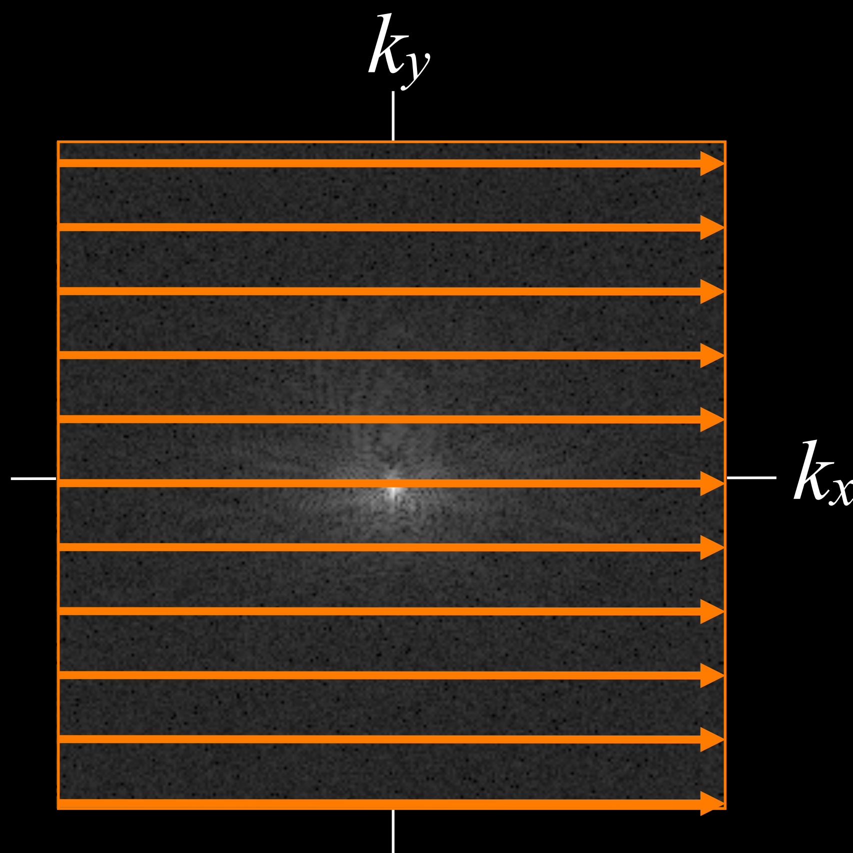
PB Roemer et al. MRM 1990

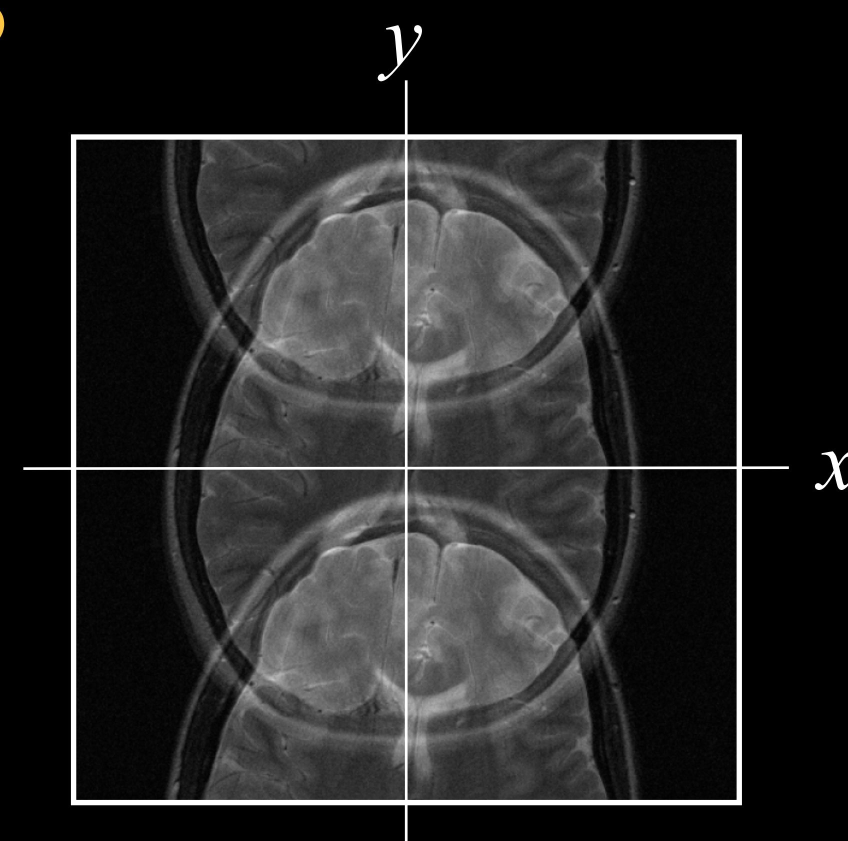
Accelerate Imaging with Array Coils





Accelerate Imaging with Array Coils





- Parallel Imaging
  - Coil elements provide some localization
  - Undersample in k-space, producing aliasing
  - Sort out in reconstruction

Parallel Imaging

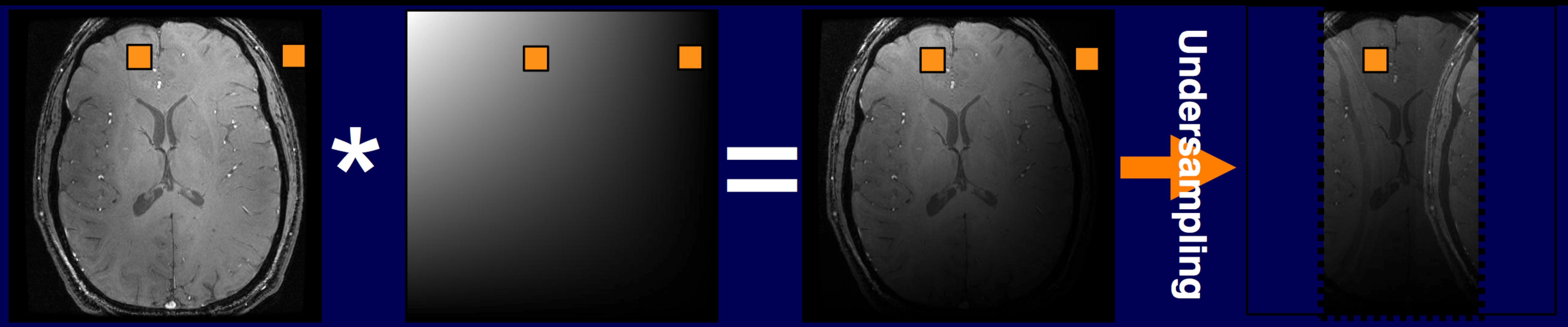
- Many approaches:
  - Image domain - SENSE
  - k-space domain - SMASH, GRAPPA
  - Hybrid - ARC

- We will focus on two:
  - SENSE: optimal if you know coil sensitivities
  - GRAPPA: autocalibrating / robust

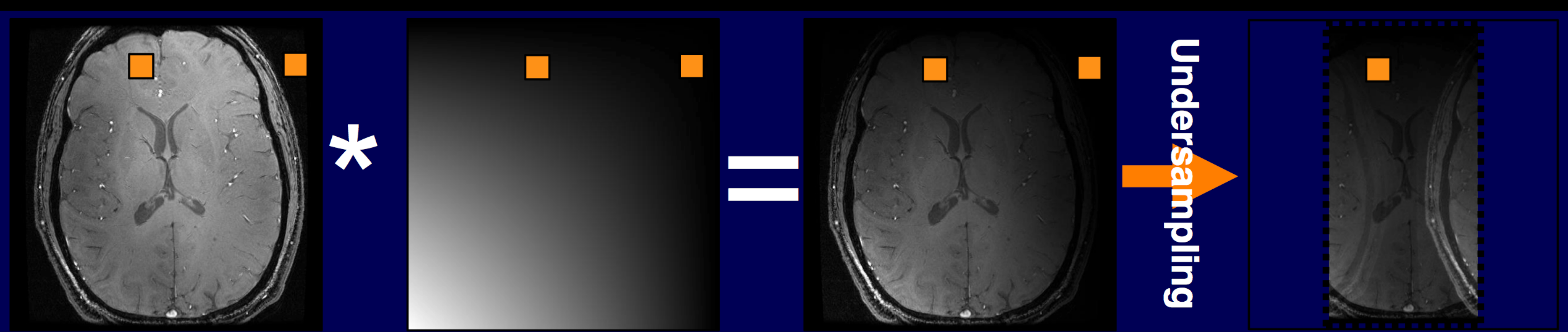
Parallel Imaging
(SENSE)

Cartesian SENSE

$$m_1(\vec{x_1}) = C_1(\vec{x_1})m(\vec{x_1}) + C_1(\vec{x_2})m(\vec{x_2})$$



$$m_2(\vec{x_1}) = C_2(\vec{x_1})m(\vec{x_1}) + C_2(\vec{x_2})m(\vec{x_2})$$



$$\begin{pmatrix} m_1(\vec{x_1}) \\ m_2(\vec{x_1}) \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ m_L(\vec{x_1}) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} C_1(\vec{x_1}) & C_1(\vec{x_2}) \\ C_2(\vec{x_1}) & C_2(\vec{x_2}) \\ \cdot & \\ \cdot & \\ \cdot & \\ C_L(\vec{x_1}) & C_L(\vec{x_2}) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} m(\vec{x_1}) \\ m(\vec{x_2}) \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} n_1(\vec{x_1}) \\ n_2(\vec{x_1}) \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ n_L(\vec{x_1}) \end{pmatrix}$$

Aliased Images

Sensitivity at Source Voxels

Source Voxels

OR

2 x 1

$$m_s = Cm + n$$

L x 1 L x 2 L x 1

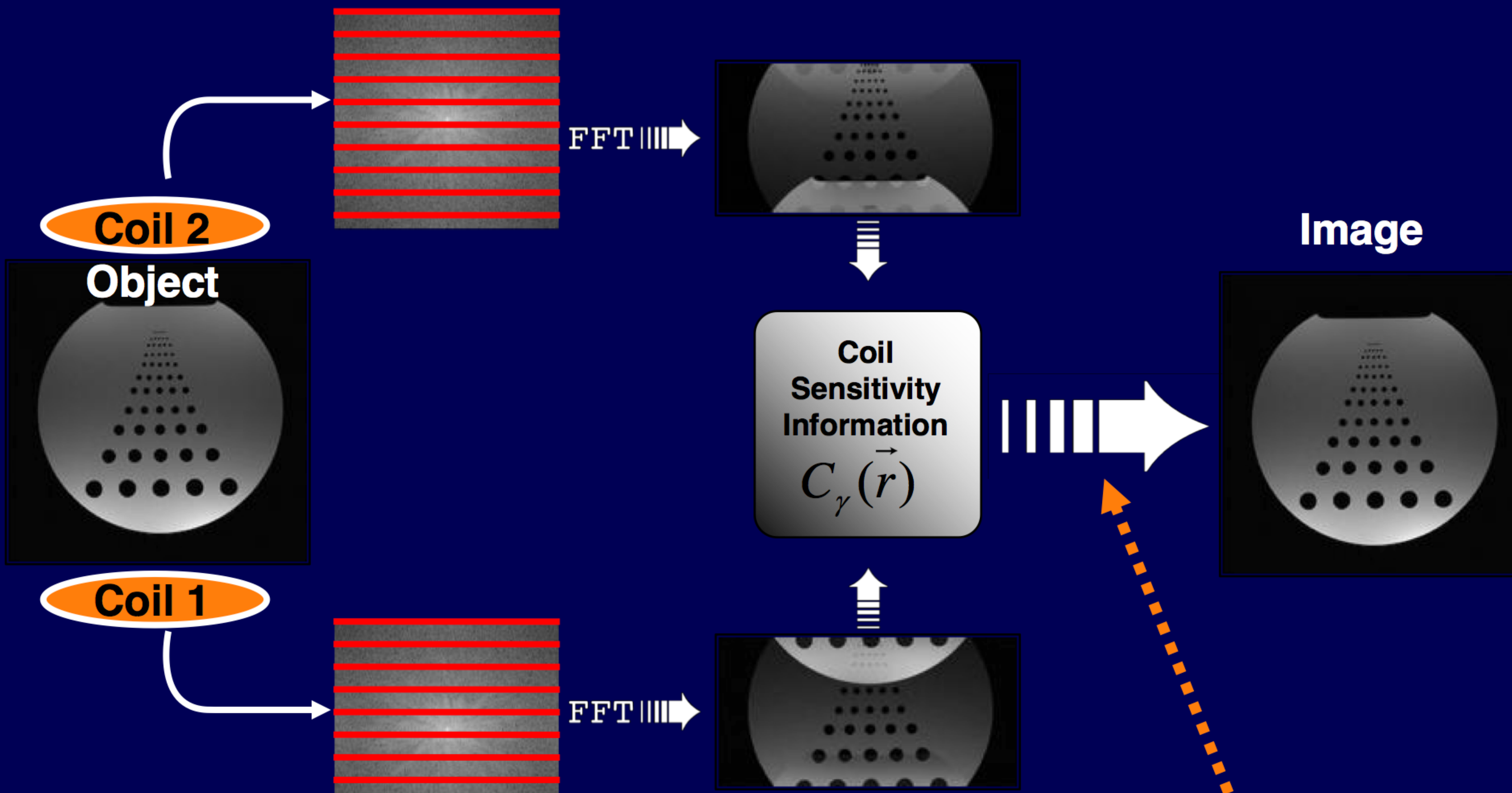
$$\hat{m}(\vec{x}) = \underbrace{(C^* \Psi^{-1} C)^{-1}}_{2 \times 2} \underbrace{C^* \Psi^{-1}}_{2 \times L} \underbrace{m_s(\vec{x})}_{L \times 1}$$

L aliased reconstruction resolves 2 image pixels

For an N x N image, we solve (N/2 x N) 2 x 2 inverse systems

For an acceleration factor R, we solve (N/R x N) R x R inverse systems

SENSE Reconstruction



$$\hat{m}(\vec{x}) = (C^*\Psi^{-1}C)^{-1}C^*\Psi^{-1}m_s(\vec{x})$$

Unwrap fold over in image space

SNR Cost

- How large can R be?
- Two SNR loss mechanisms
  - Reduced scan time
  - Condition of the SENSE decomposition
- SNR Loss

$$SNR_{SENSE} = \frac{SNR}{g\sqrt{R}}$$

Geometry Factor (g) — Reduced Scan Time ($\sqrt{R}$)

Geometry Factor

- Covariance for a fully sampled image (variance of one voxel):

$$\chi_F = \frac{1}{n_F}(C_F^* \Psi^{-1} C_F)^{-1}$$

- Covariance for a reduced encoded image:

$$\chi_R = \frac{1}{n_R}(C_R^* \Psi^{-1} C_R)^{-1}$$

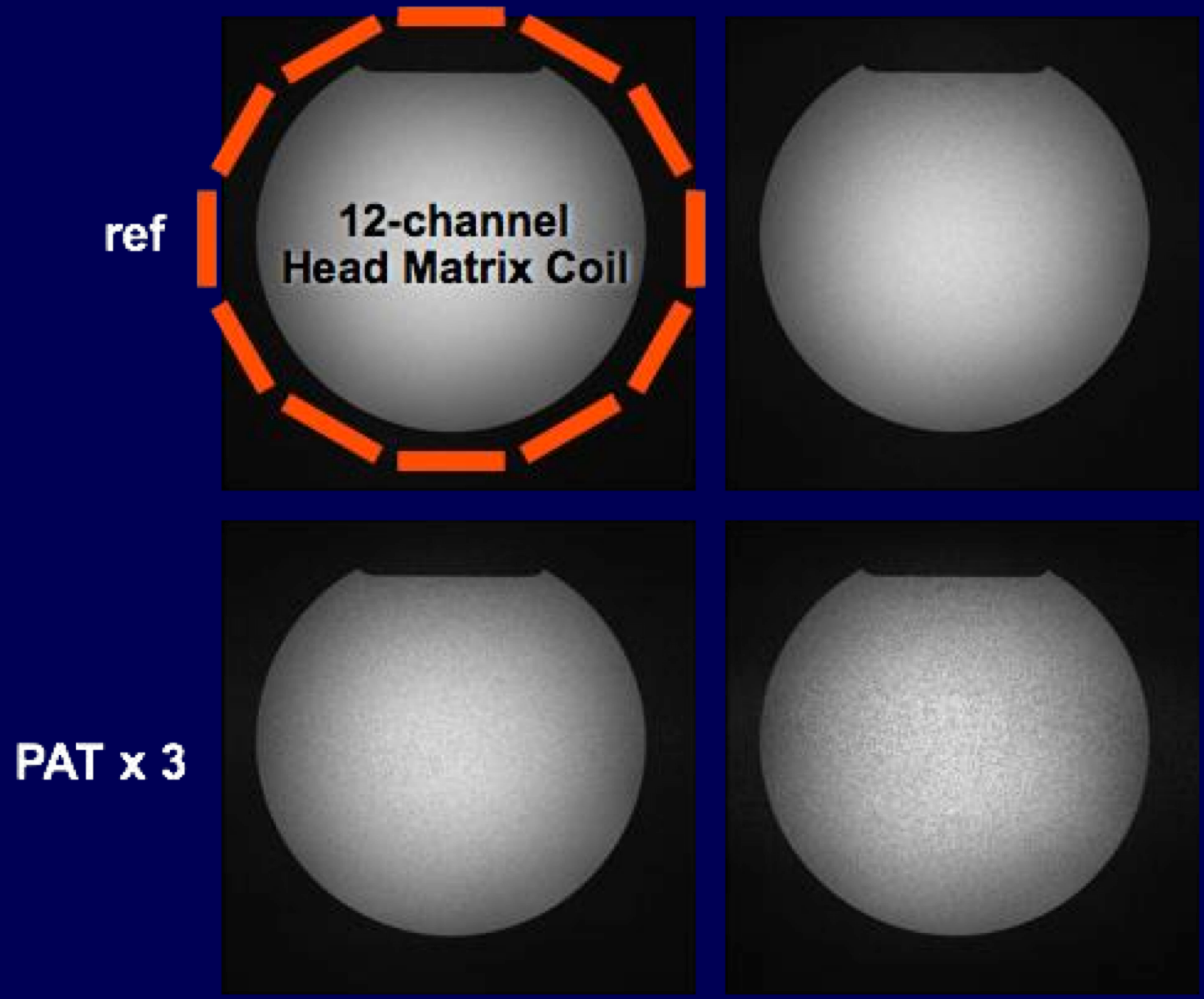
To the board ...

Geometry Factor

- g-factor is critical since it depends on:
  - Acceleration
  - Spatial position
  - Aliasing direction
  - Coil geometry
- Minimizing g-factor drives system design
- Sense coils are different from traditional array coils

To the board ...

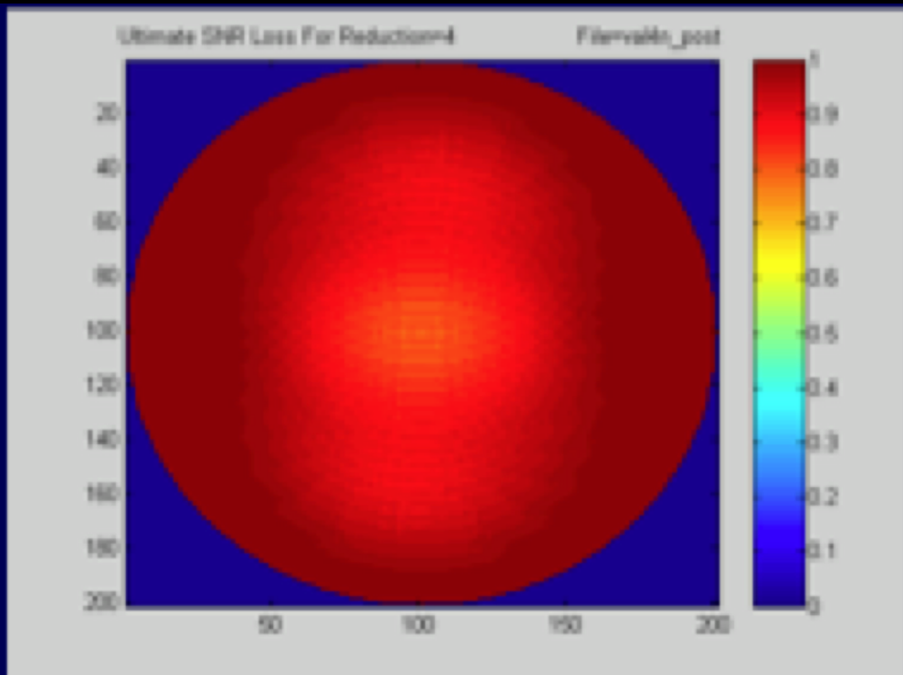
Parallel Imaging Tradeoffs



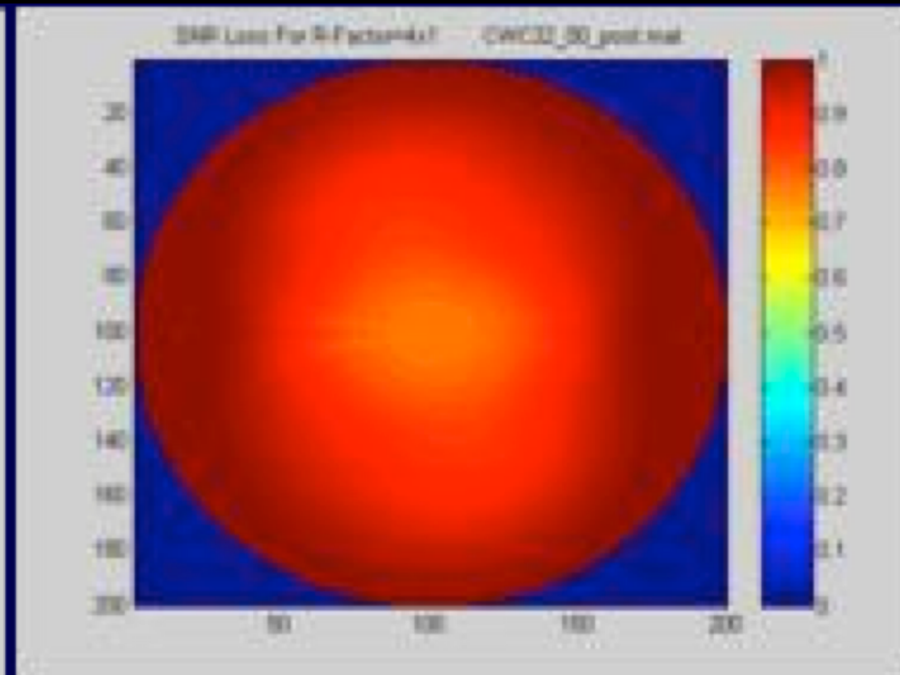
f_p = acceleration factor

g = coil geometry factor

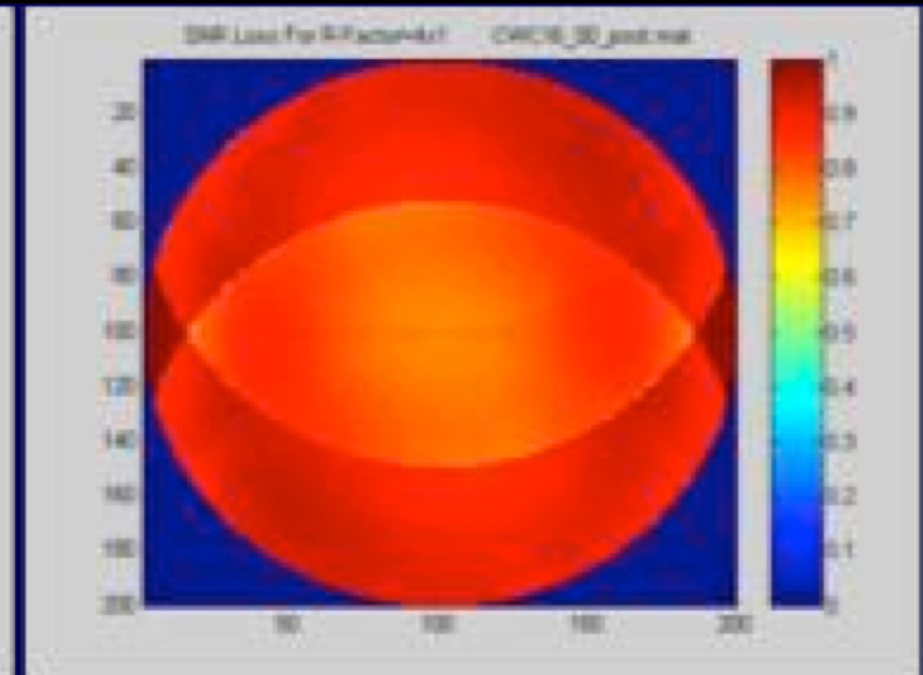
1/g-factor Map for R=4



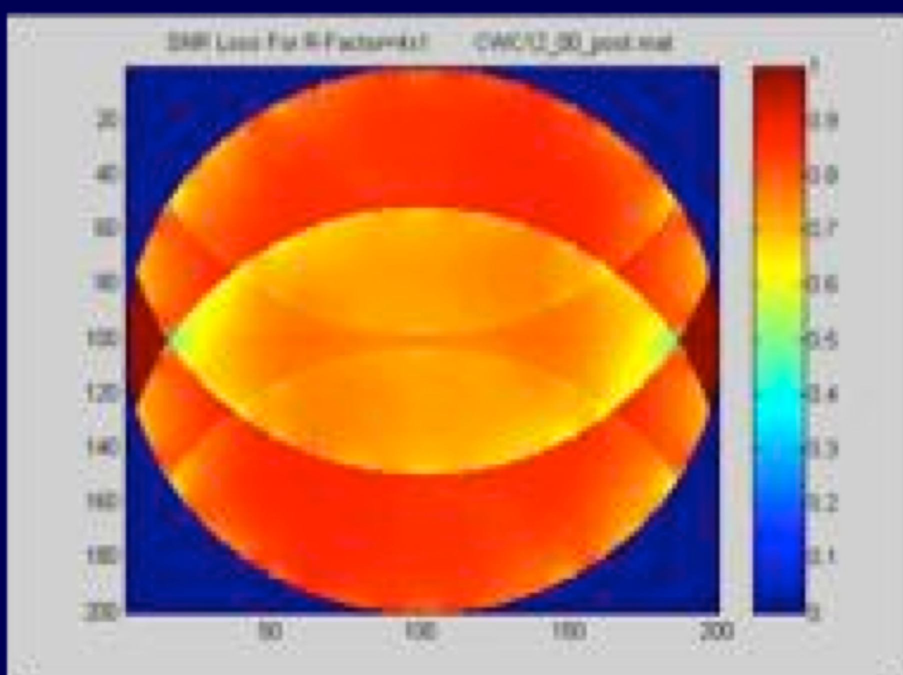
∞ elements



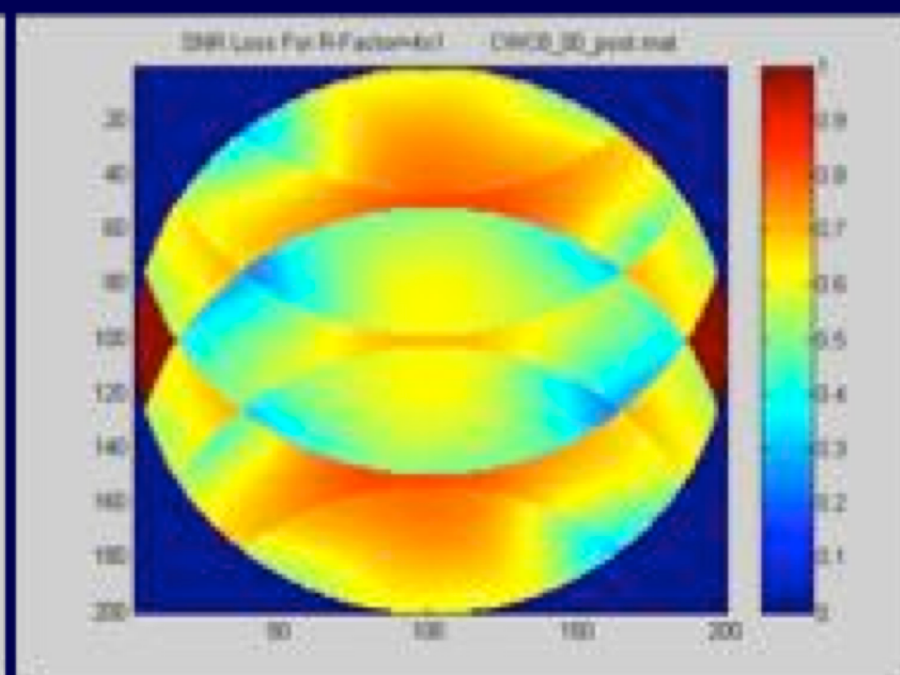
32 elements



16 elements



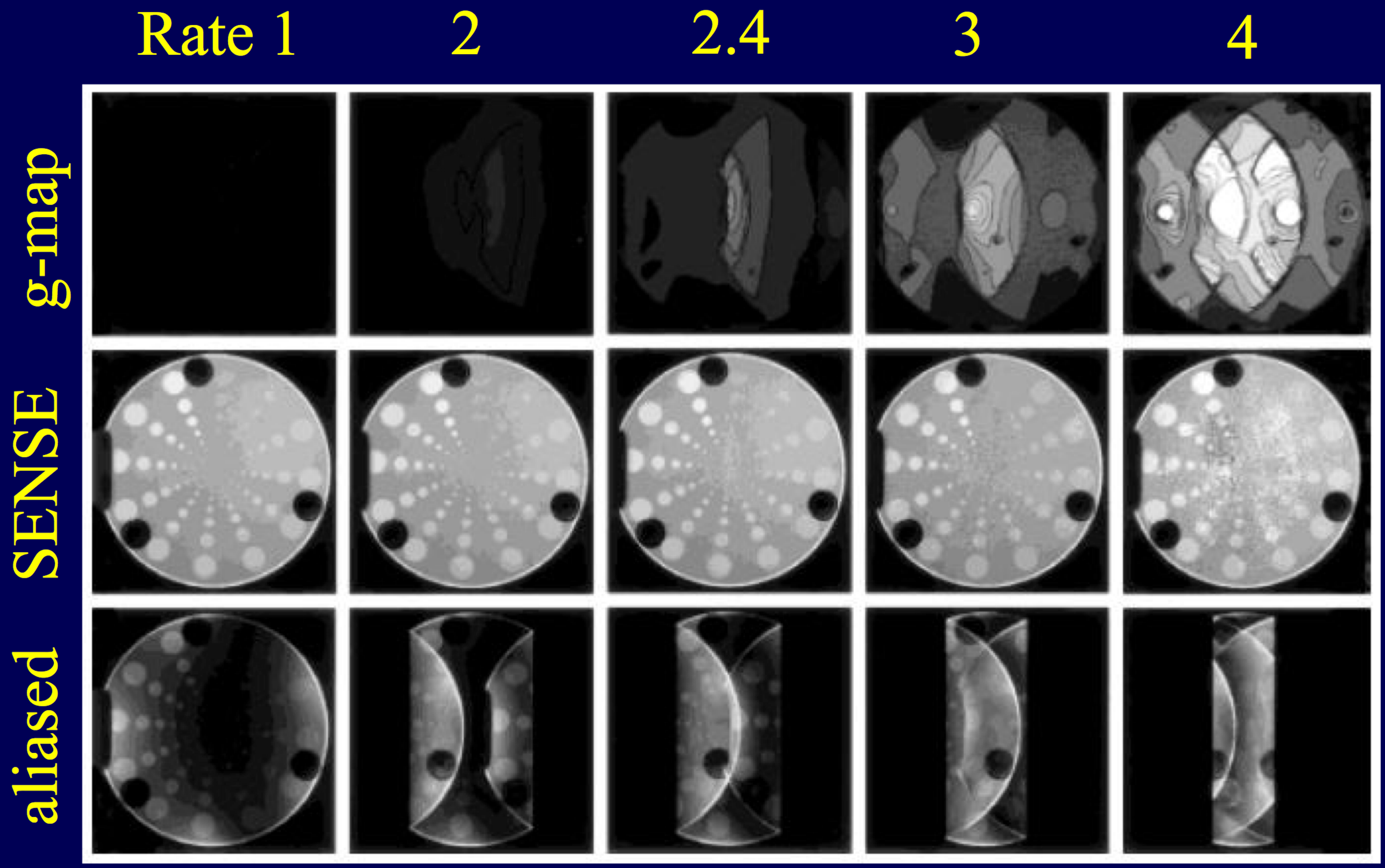
12 elements



8 elements

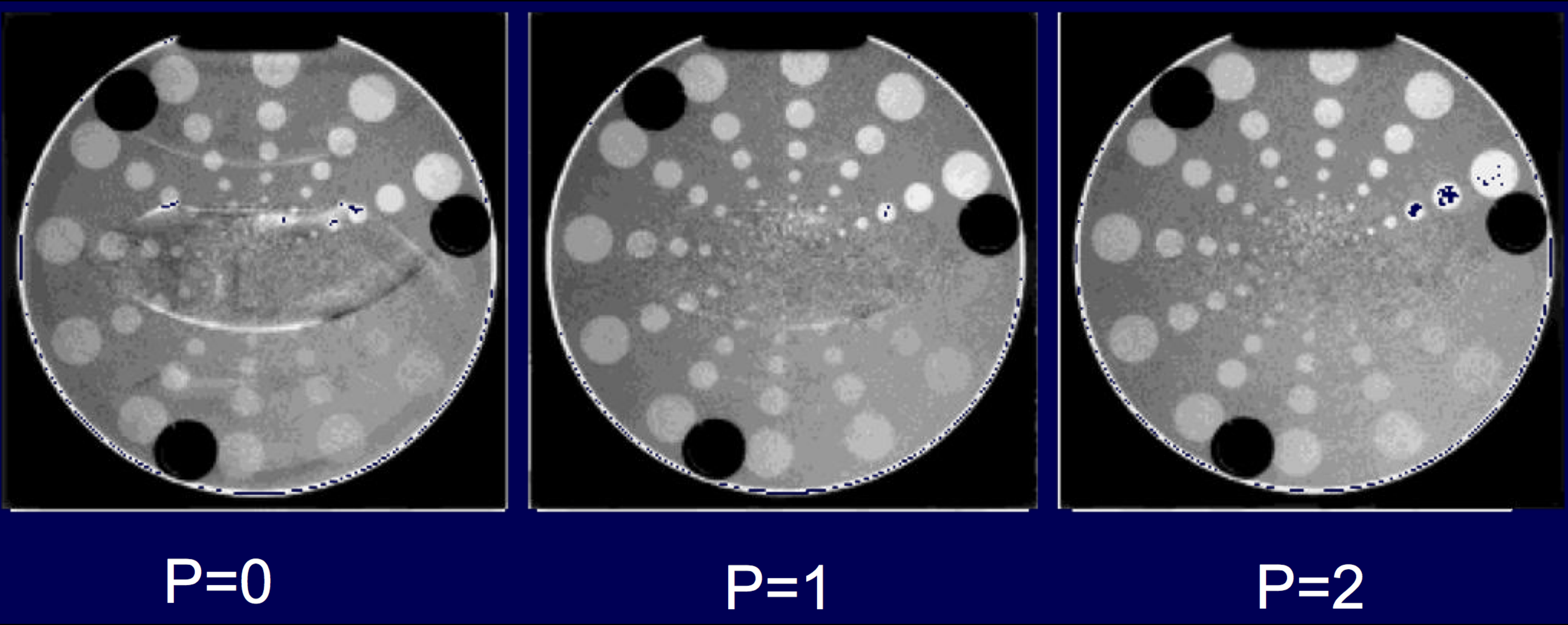
Relative SNR Scale

g-factor and its impact on images



Dependence on Coil Sensitivity

- Images reconstructed using coil sensitivity maps with different order P of polynomial fitting



Pruessmann et al. MRM 1999

Parallel Imaging
(SMASH)

SMASH

- Simultaneous Acquisition of Spatial Harmonics (SMASH) uses linear combinations of acquired k-space data from multiple coils to generate multiple data sets with offsets in k-space

Phase Encoding by Amplitude Modulation

- Signal Equation:

$$S(k_x, k_y) = \int\int C(x,y)\rho(x,y)e^{-ik_x x - ik_y y}dxdy$$

ρ(x,y) = spin density

C(x,y) = receiver coil sensitivity

Phase Encoding by Amplitude Modulation

$$S(k_x, k_y) = \int\int C(x, y)\rho(x, y)e^{-ik_x x - ik_y y}dxdy$$

- If $C(x,y) \approx 1$ (relatively homogeneous coil sensitivity), $S(k_x,k_y) = FT\{\rho(x,y)\}$
- But coils often do not have uniform sensitivity, and usually there is a fall-off of sensitivity with distance from the coil

Phase Encoding by Amplitude Modulation

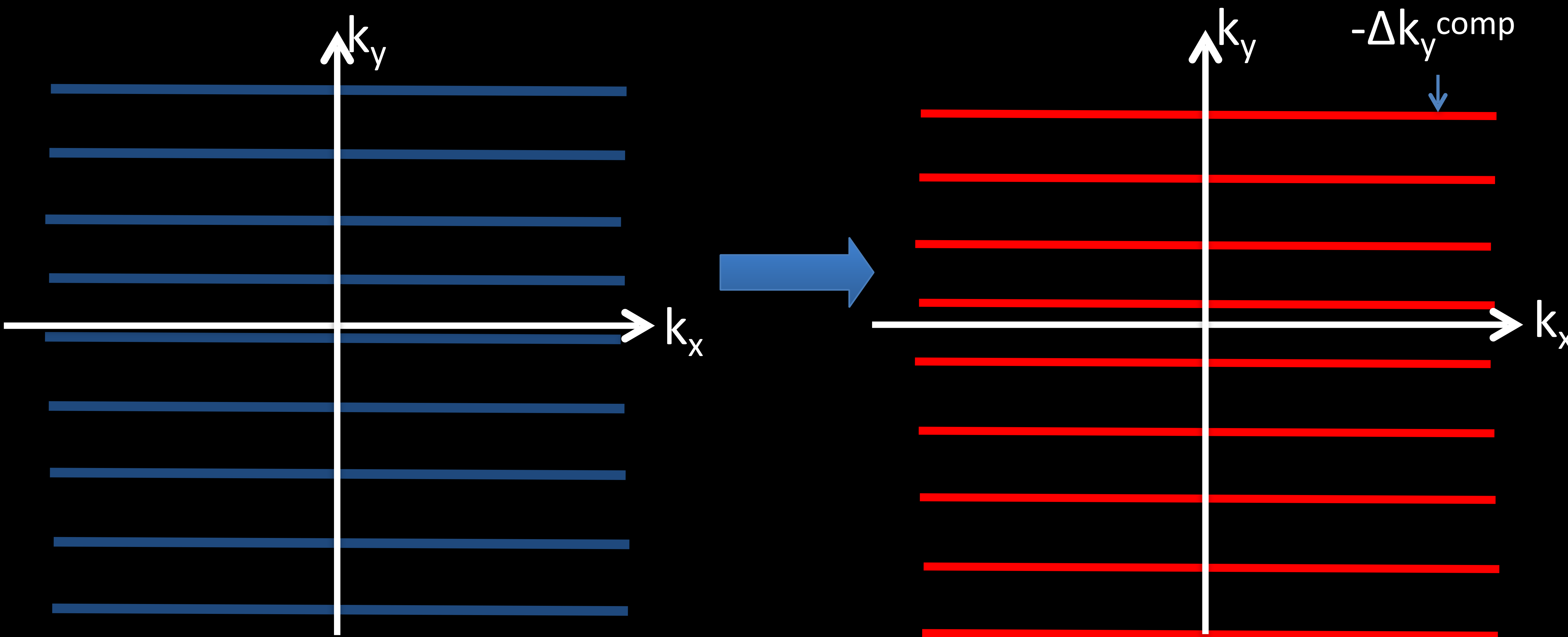
- Use the arrangement of coils to construct sinusoidal sensitivity profiles
  - Sensitivity profiles are combination of multiple coils, whose signals are combined to produce the desired sinusoidal sensitivity

$$C^{comp}(y) = \cos(\Delta k_y^{comp} y) + i\sin(\Delta k_y^{comp} y)$$
$$= e^{i\Delta k_y^{comp} y}$$

The wavelength could be $\lambda = 2\pi/\Delta k_y = \mathrm{FOV}$

$C(x,y) \approx 1$

$C^{comp}(x,y) = \exp(i \Delta k_y^{comp} y)$



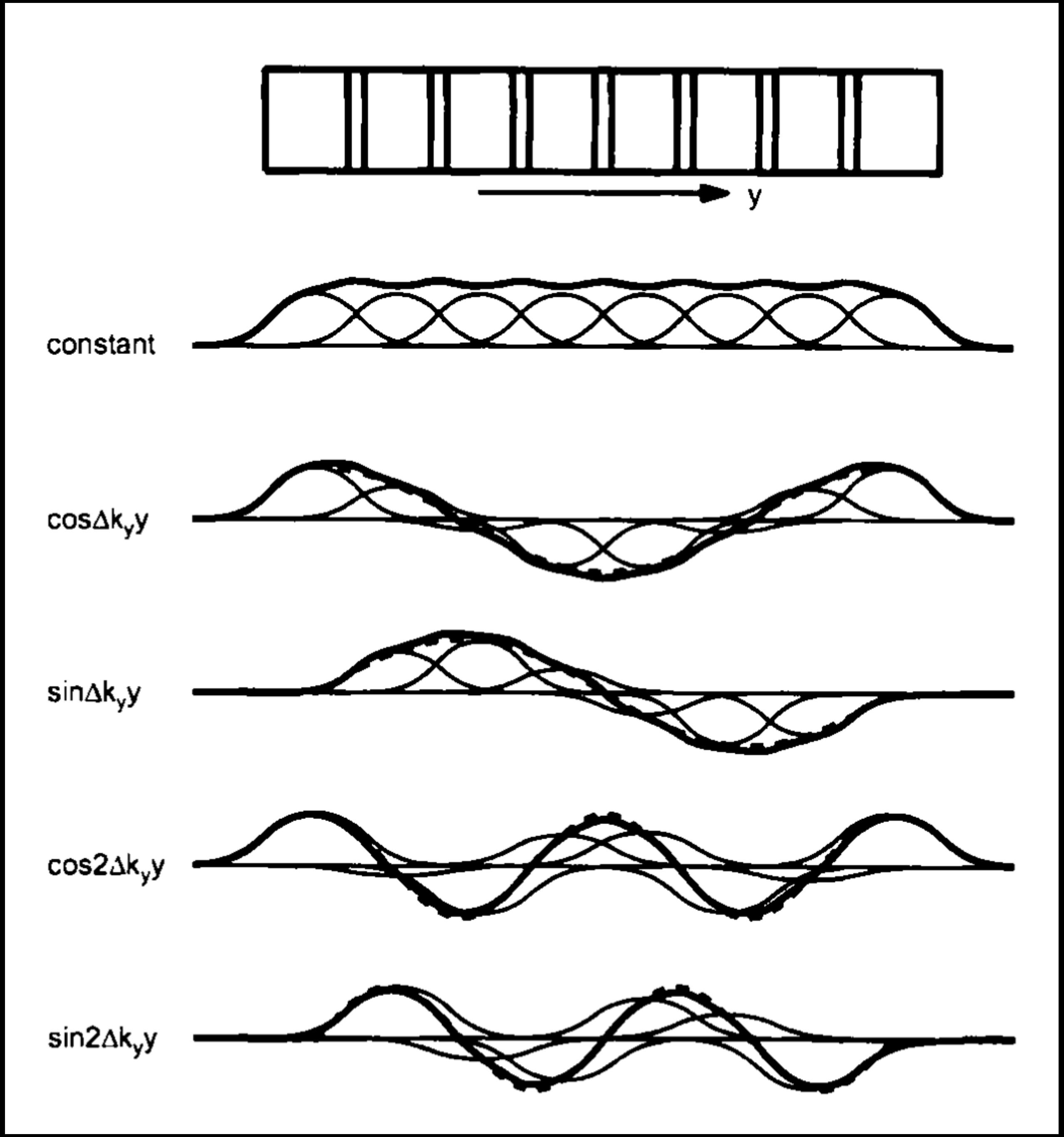
Spatial Harmonic Generation Using Coil Arrays

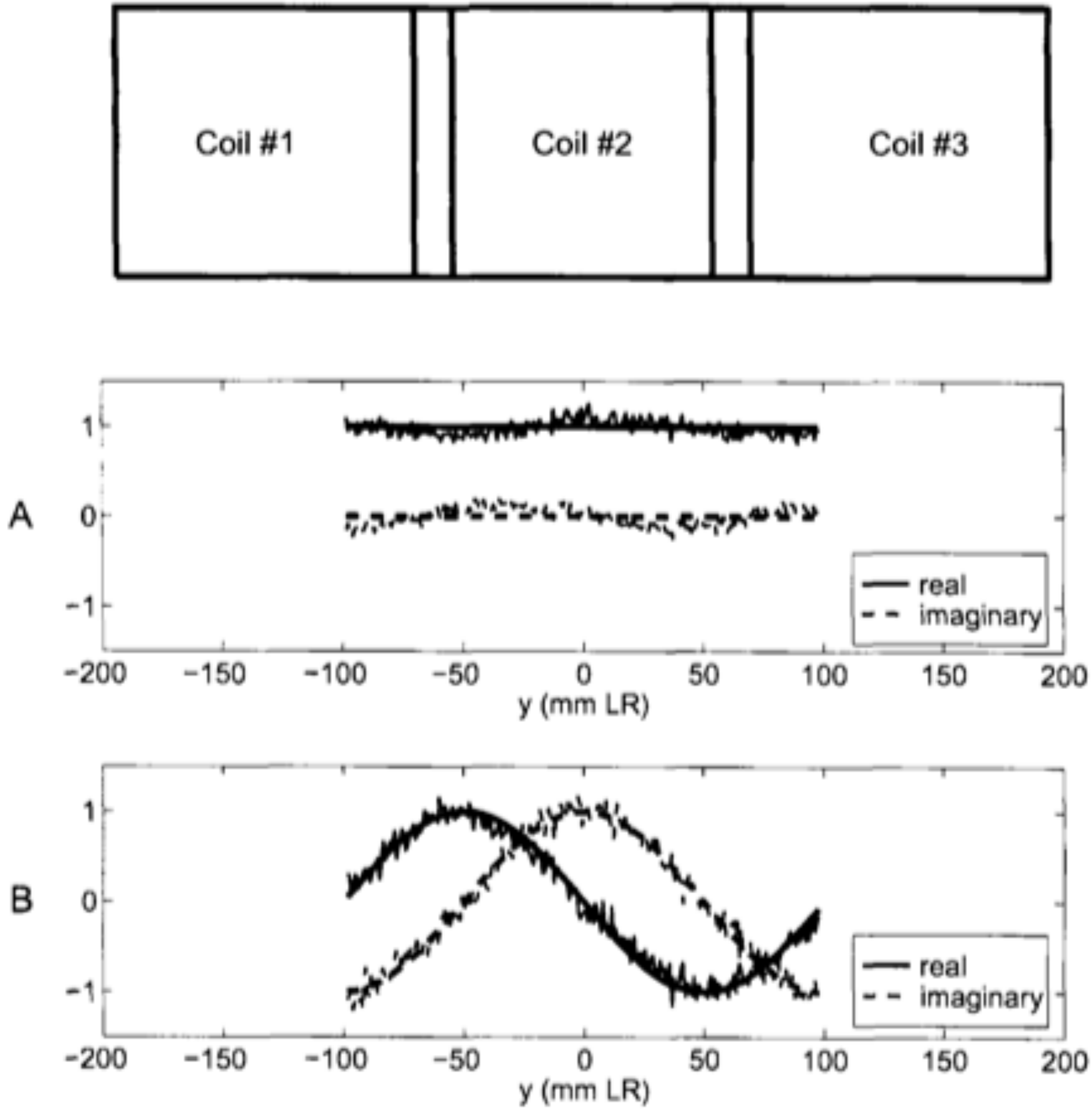
$$C_m^{comp}(y) = \sum_j a_{j,m} C_j(y) = e^{-i2\pi m \Delta k_y y}$$

- Linear surface coil array sensitivities C_j are combined with linear weights, $a_{j,m}$, to produce composite sinusoidal sensitivity
- Composite sensitivities are arranged to be spatial harmonics
- m is an integer, chosen to be a desired harmonic

Theory: Spatial Harmonics

- 8 coil array
- Gaussian coil sensitivity distribution used
- m = 0, 1, -1, 2, -2
- Each spatial harmonic generated is shifted by $-m\Delta k_y$



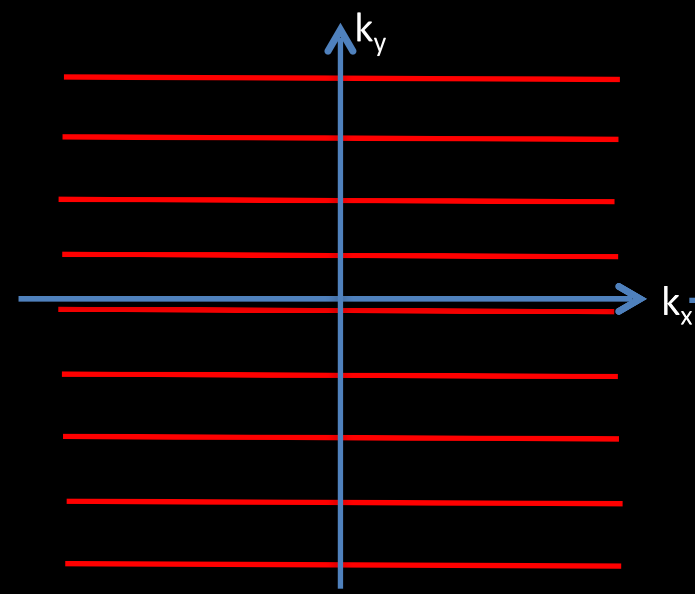


Coil #1
Coil #2
Coil #3
A
1
0
-1
real
imaginary
-200
-150
-100
-50
0
50
100
150
200
y (mm LR)
B
1
0
-1
real
imaginary
-200
-150
-100
-50
0
50
100
150
200
y (mm LR)

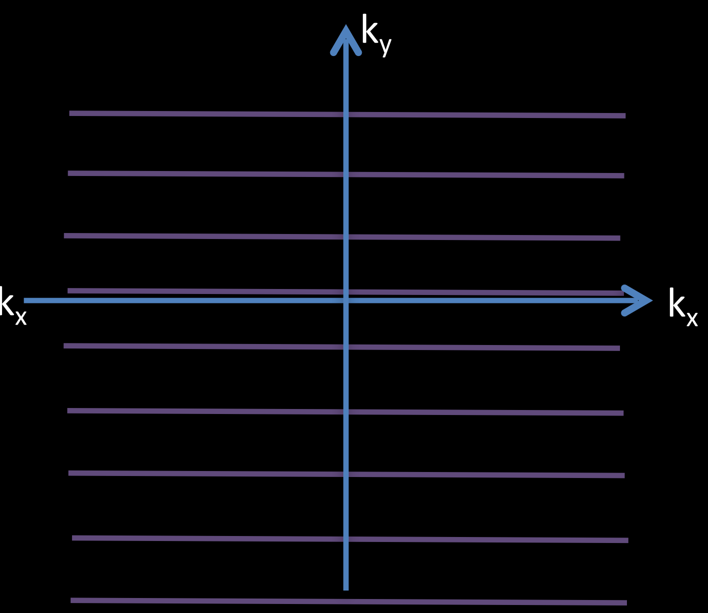
Interleave the Harmonics

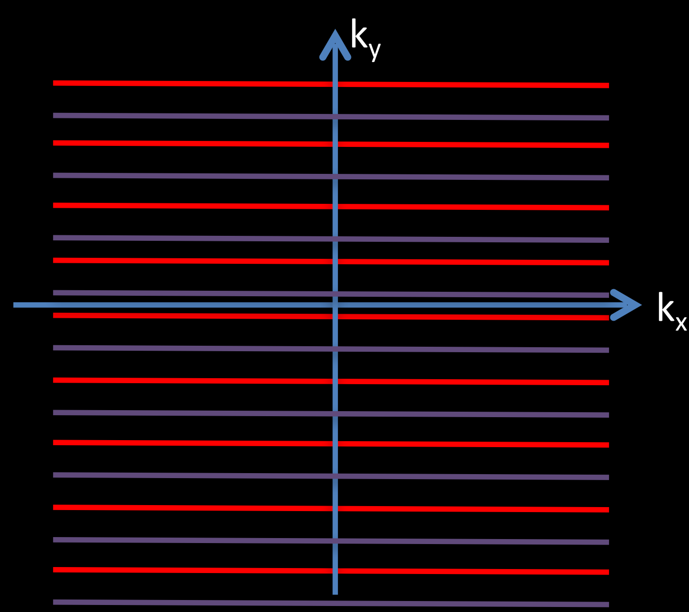
$$\hat{\rho}(k_x, k_y - m\Delta k_y)$$

Zeroth Harmonic, m=0



First Harmonic, m=1

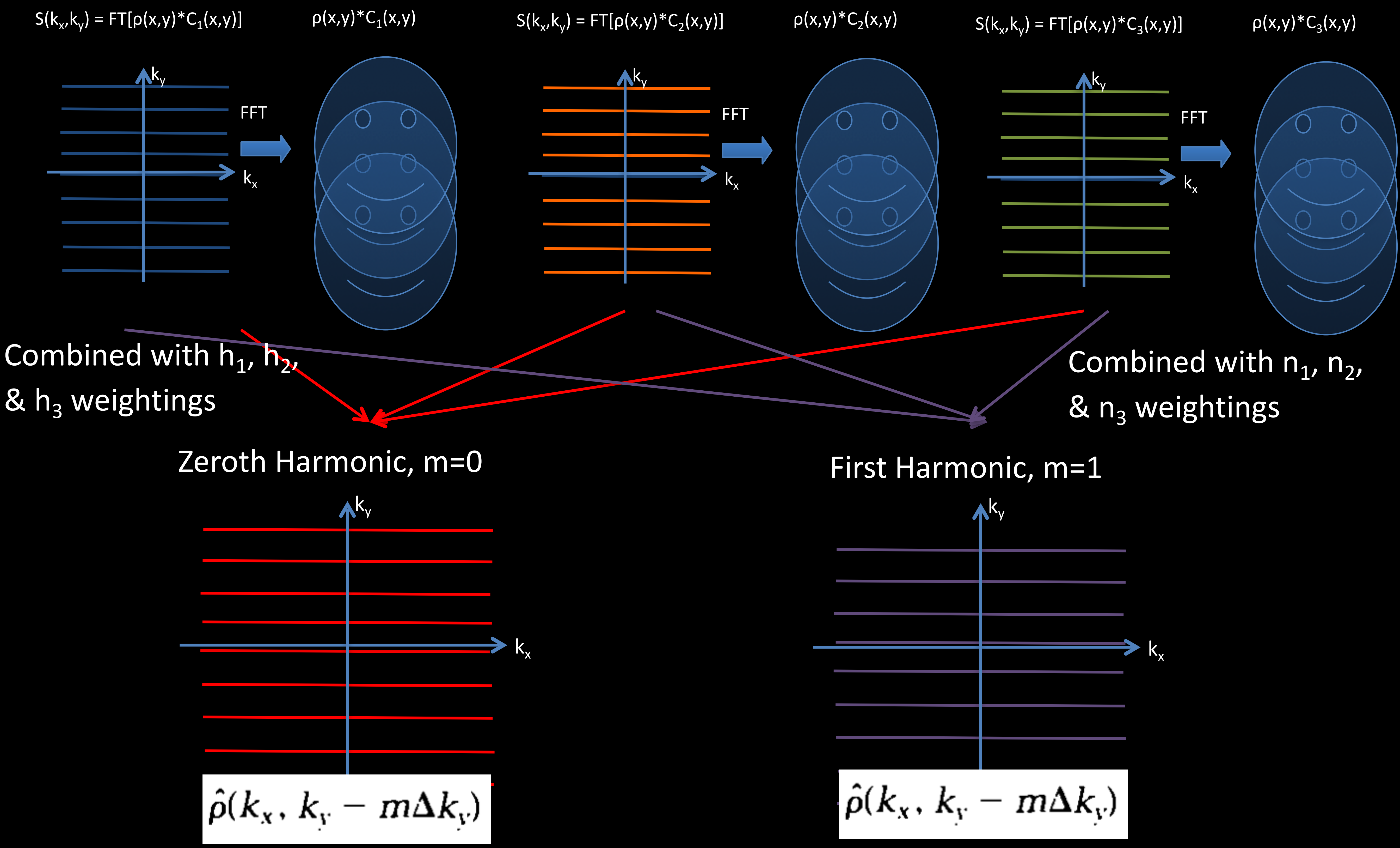


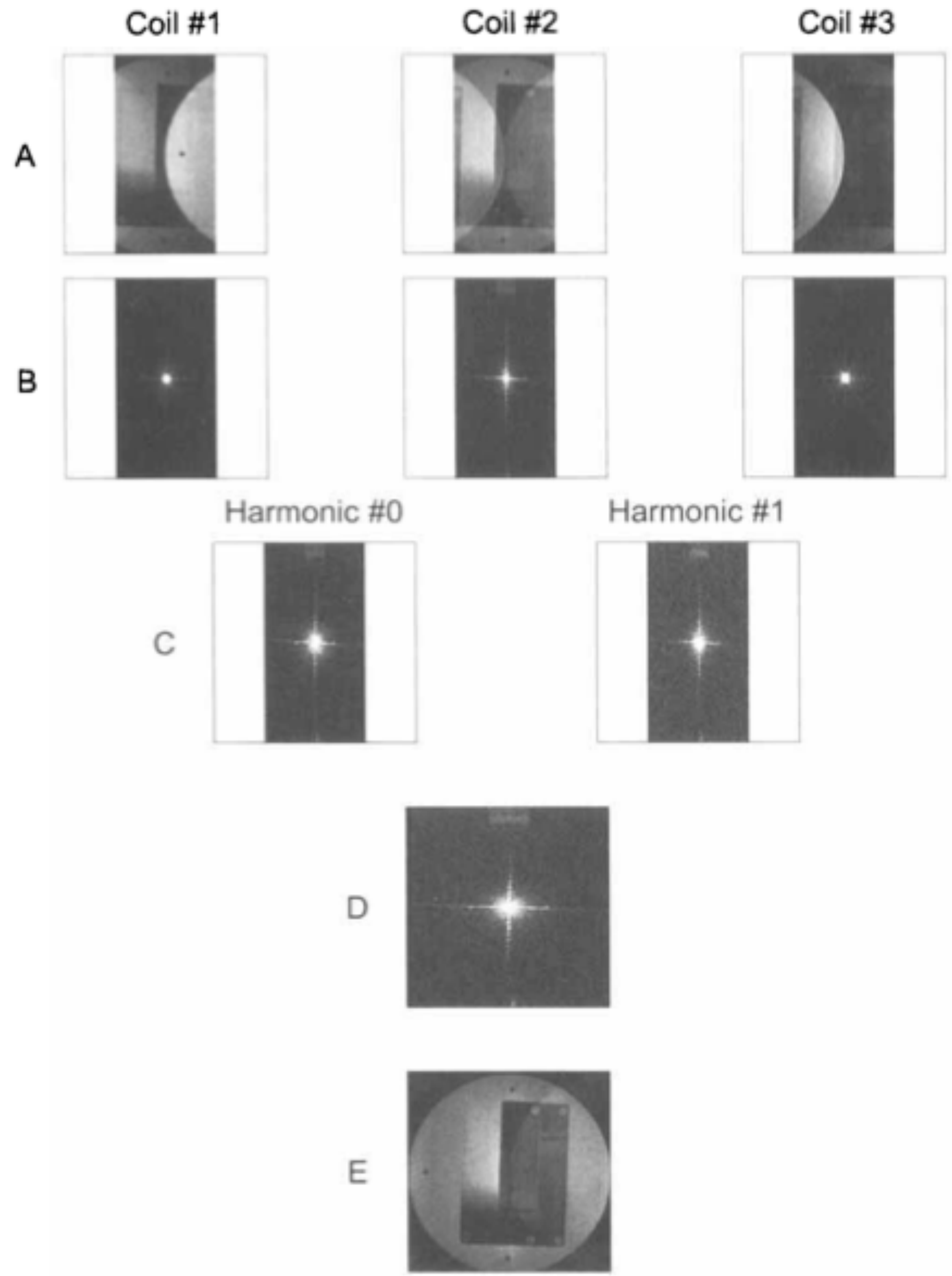


FFT

ρ(x,y)

SMASH Reconstruction



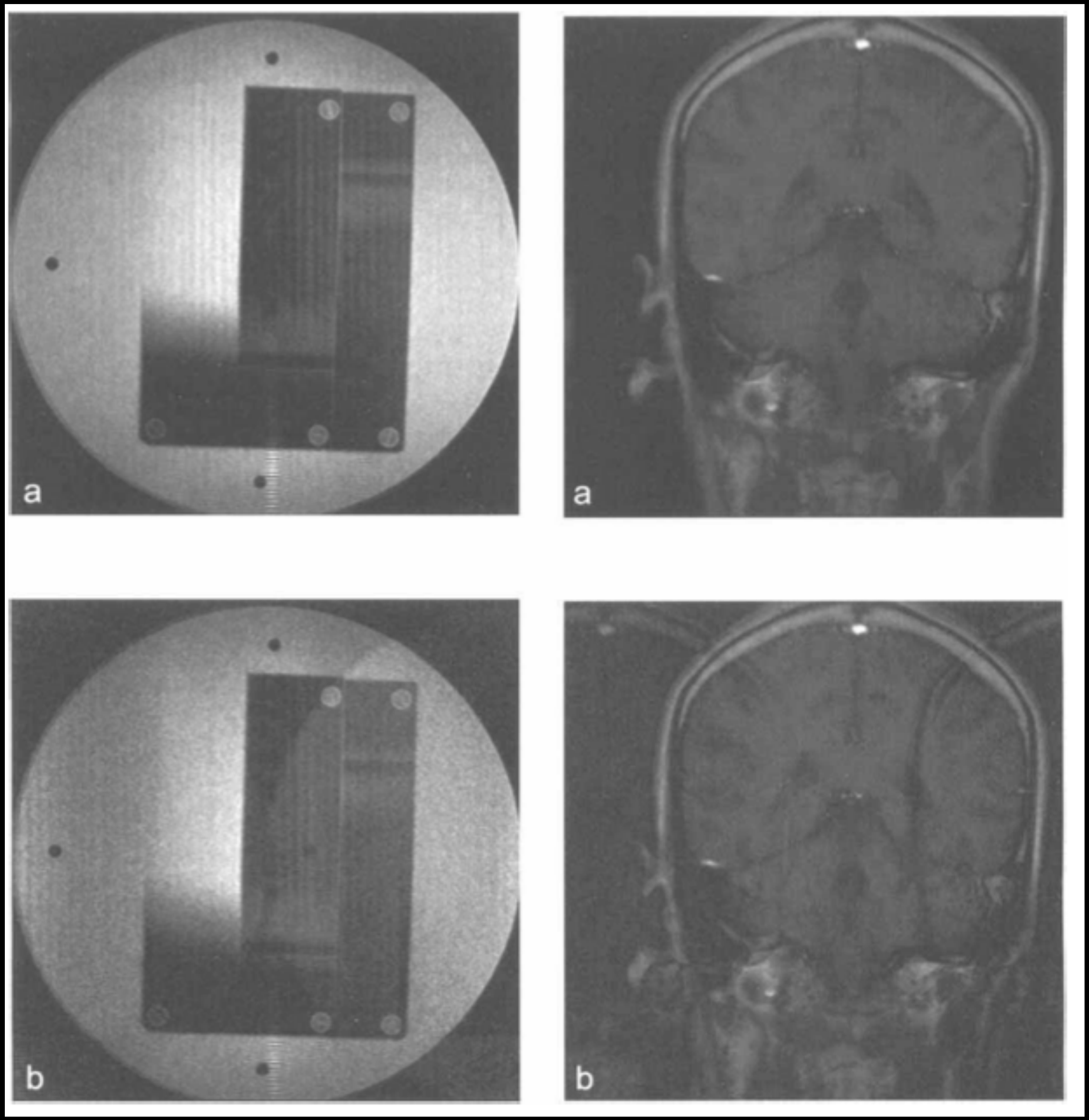


Coil #1
Coil #2
Coil #3
A
B
Harmonic #0
Harmonic #1
C
D
E

Three-Element Array

Reference images

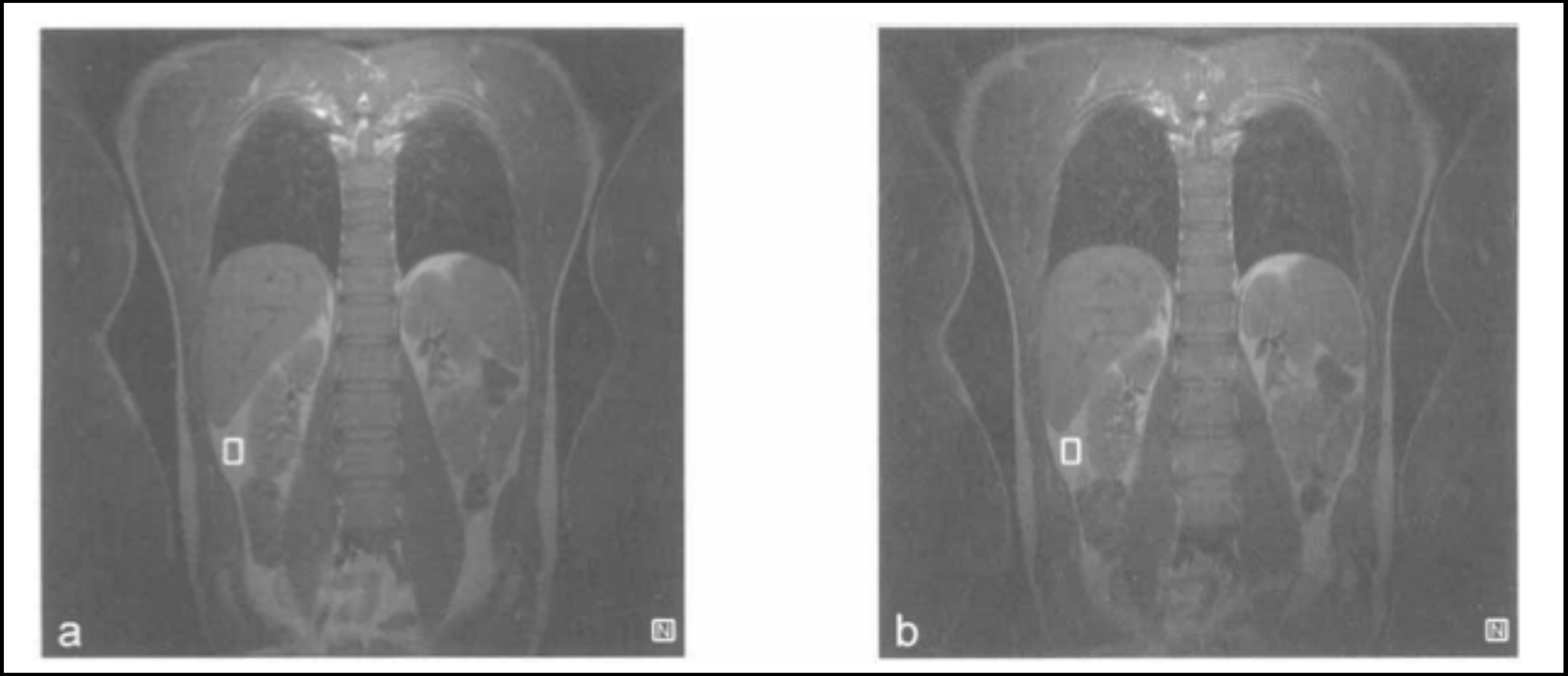
SMASH images



Four-Element Array

Reference images

SMASH images



Key Points of SMASH

- k-space lines are synthesized by combining signals from multiple coils such that it creates a partial replacement for a phase encoding gradient
- Decreases acquisition time by 1/N
  - N is the number of generated spatial Harmonics

$$\sum_j a_{j,m} C_j(y) = e^{-i2\pi\Delta k_y y}$$

Sodickson et al. MRM 1997

Summary

- Parallel imaging utilizes coil sensitivities to increase the speed of MRI
- Cases for parallel imaging
  - Higher patient throughput,
  - Real-time imaging/Interventional imaging
  - Motion suppression
- Cases against parallel imaging
  - SNR starving applications

Further Reading

- Multi-coil Reconstruction
  - http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/mrm.1910160203/abstract
- SENSE
  - http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10542355
- SMASH
  - http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9324327
- Parallel Imaging Overview
  - http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17374908

Thanks!

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