



Technische  
Universität  
Braunschweig

Institute of Operating Systems  
and Computer Networks



# Accurate and Precise Distance Estimation from Phase-based Ranging Data

IPIN 2018, Nantes, France

**Yannic Schröder**, Dennis Reimers and Lars Wolf

Institute of Operating Systems and Computer Networks, TU Braunschweig, Germany

# Overview

- Data Acquisition  
→ **Phase-based Ranging**

# Overview

- Data Acquisition  
→ **Phase-based Ranging**
- Distance Computation  
→ **CDE Algorithm**

# Overview

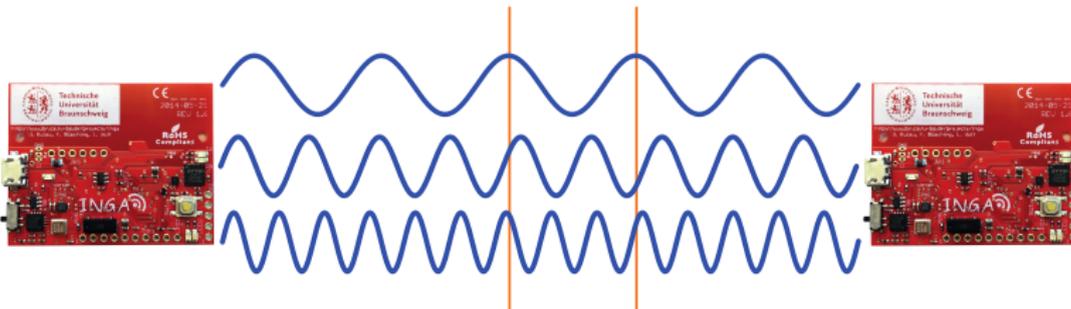
- Data Acquisition  
→ **Phase-based Ranging**
- Distance Computation  
→ **CDE Algorithm**
- Algorithm Speedup  
→ **Interpolation**

# Overview

- Data Acquisition  
→ **Phase-based Ranging**
- Distance Computation  
→ **CDE Algorithm**
- Algorithm Speedup  
→ **Interpolation**
- Comparison to two other algorithms  
→ **Evaluation**

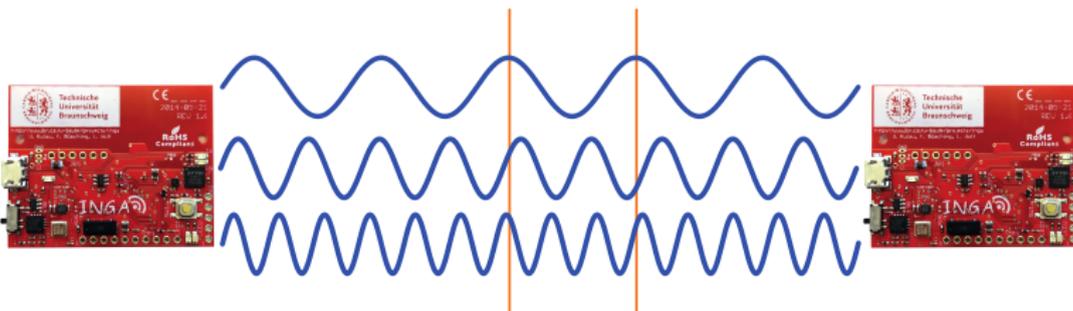
# Phase-based Ranging

- Obtain **distance in meters** between **two wireless sensor nodes**



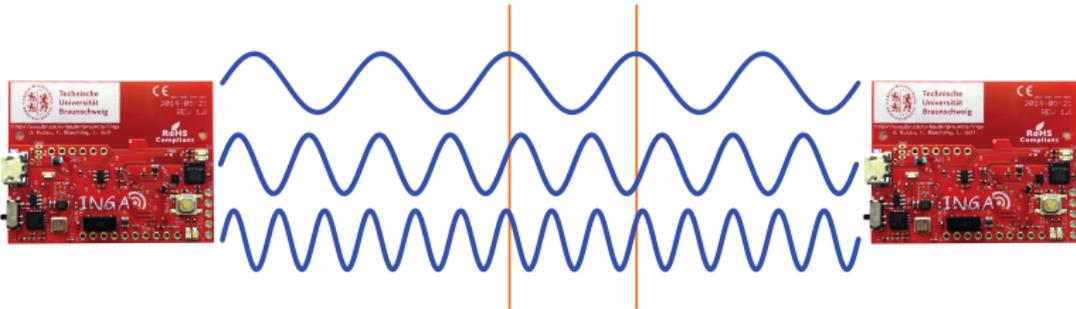
# Phase-based Ranging

- Obtain **distance in meters** between **two wireless sensor nodes**
- Radio transceivers with **Phase Measurement Units** (e.g. AT86RF233)



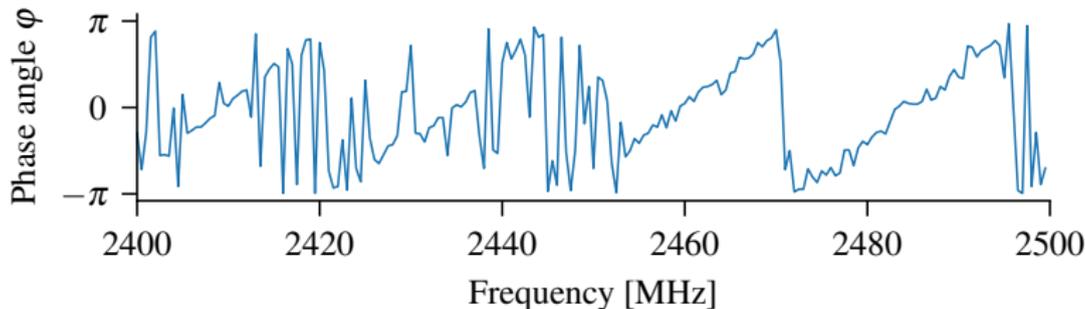
# Phase-based Ranging

- Obtain **distance in meters** between **two wireless sensor nodes**
- Radio transceivers with **Phase Measurement Units** (e.g. AT86RF233)
- Measure **phase response of radio channel** between nodes



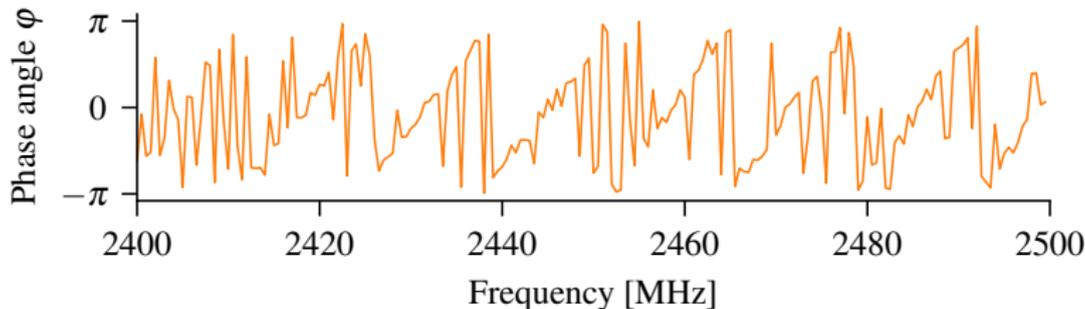
# Phase-based Ranging

- Obtain **distance in meters** between **two wireless sensor nodes**
- Radio transceivers with **Phase Measurement Units** (e.g. AT86RF233)
- Measure **phase response of radio channel** between nodes
- Exemplary phase data for 5 meter distance:



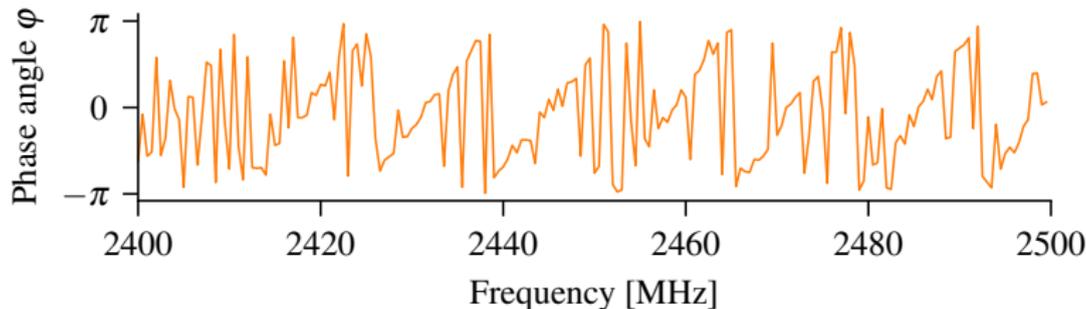
# Phase-based Ranging

- Obtain **distance in meters** between **two wireless sensor nodes**
- Radio transceivers with **Phase Measurement Units** (e.g. AT86RF233)
- Measure **phase response of radio channel** between nodes
- Exemplary phase data for 10 meter distance:



# Phase-based Ranging

- Obtain **distance in meters** between **two wireless sensor nodes**
- Radio transceivers with **Phase Measurement Units** (e.g. AT86RF233)
- Measure **phase response of radio channel** between nodes
- Exemplary phase data for 10 meter distance:



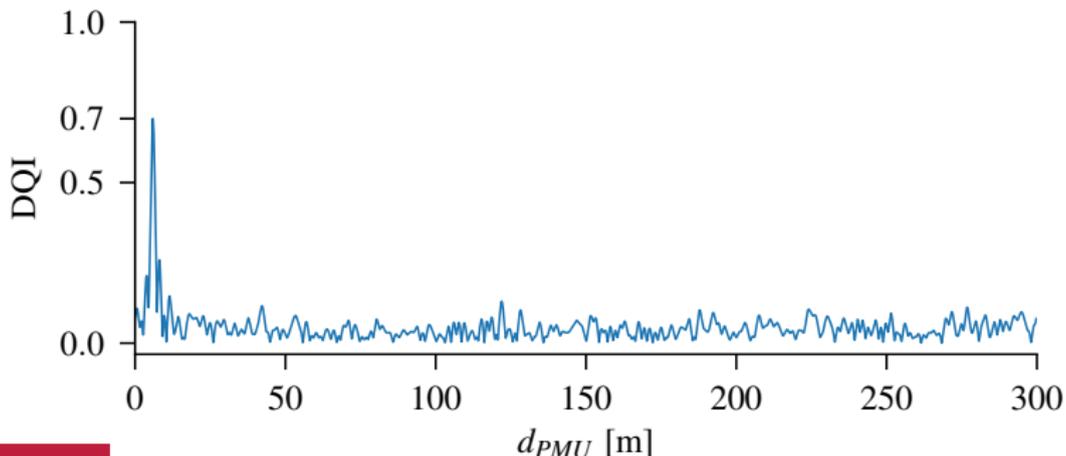
- Distance is **proportional to slope/frequency** of phase response

# Complex-valued Distance Estimation (CDE)

- Compute **Fast Fourier Transform (FFT)** from complex signal

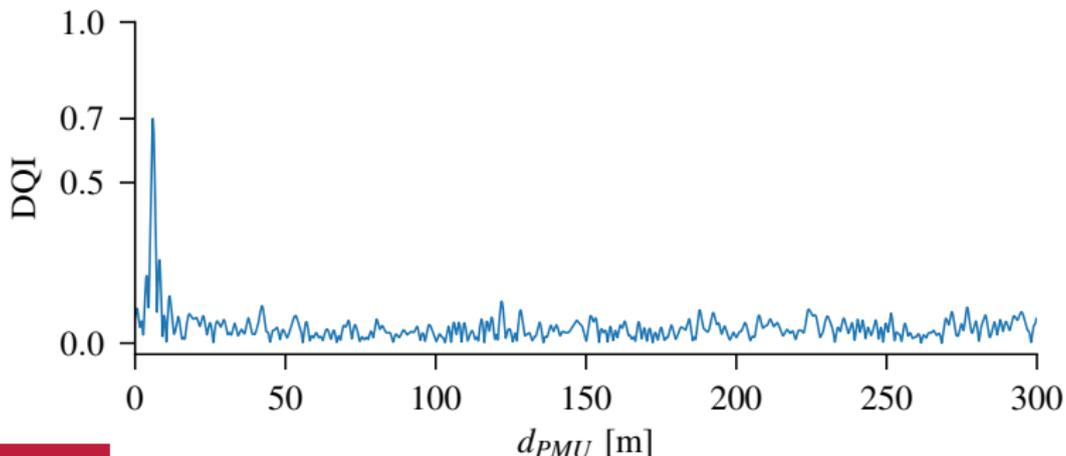
# Complex-valued Distance Estimation (CDE)

- Compute **Fast Fourier Transform (FFT)** from complex signal
- Result is the **time-domain impulse response** of the radio channel
  
- Exemplary impulse response for 5 meter distance:



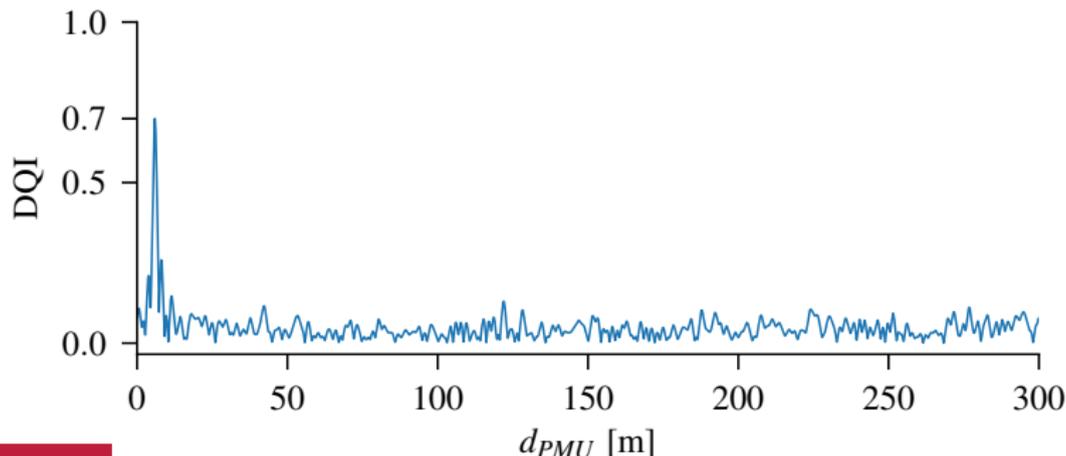
# Complex-valued Distance Estimation (CDE)

- Compute **Fast Fourier Transform (FFT)** from complex signal
- Result is the **time-domain impulse response** of the radio channel
- **Maximum peak** indicates the distance (via propagation speed  $c$ )
- Exemplary impulse response for 5 meter distance:



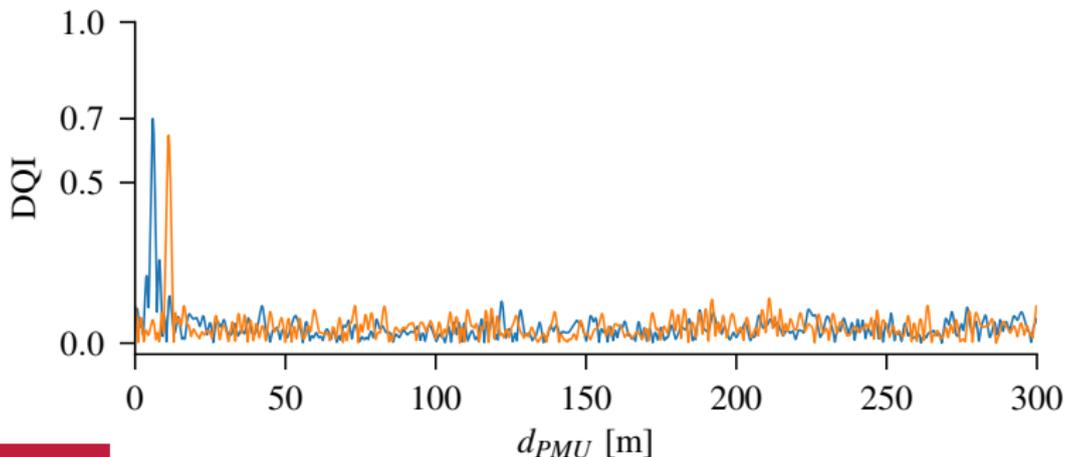
# Complex-valued Distance Estimation (CDE)

- Compute **Fast Fourier Transform (FFT)** from complex signal
- Result is the **time-domain impulse response** of the radio channel
- **Maximum peak** indicates the distance (via propagation speed  $c$ )
  - Peak height = Distance Quality Indicator (DQI)
- Exemplary impulse response for 5 meter distance:



# Complex-valued Distance Estimation (CDE)

- Compute **Fast Fourier Transform (FFT)** from complex signal
- Result is the **time-domain impulse response** of the radio channel
- **Maximum peak** indicates the distance (via propagation speed  $c$ )
  - Peak height = Distance Quality Indicator (DQI)
- Exemplary impulse response for 5 and 10 meter distance:

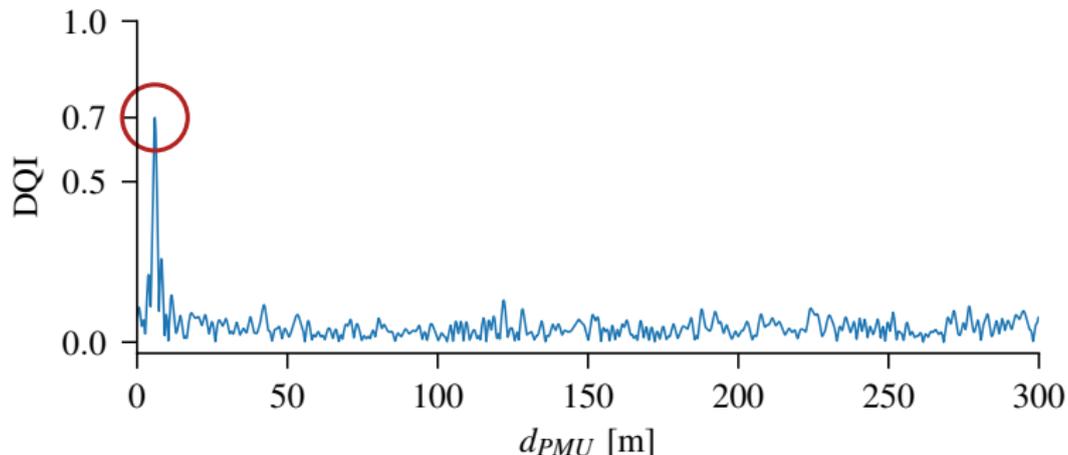


# FFT Bin Count

- What is the **optimal** FFT bin count?

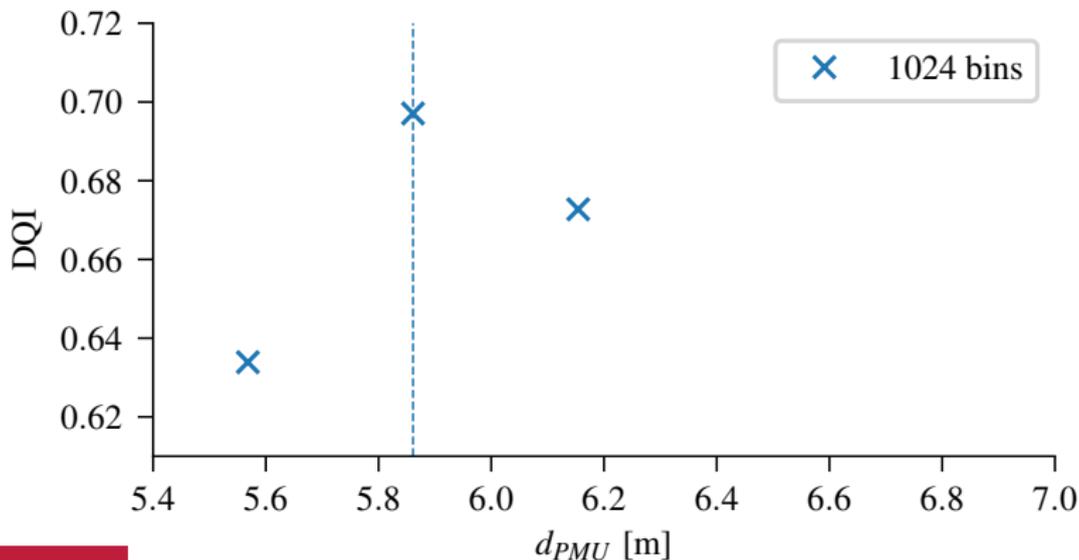
# FFT Bin Count

- What is the **optimal** FFT bin count?



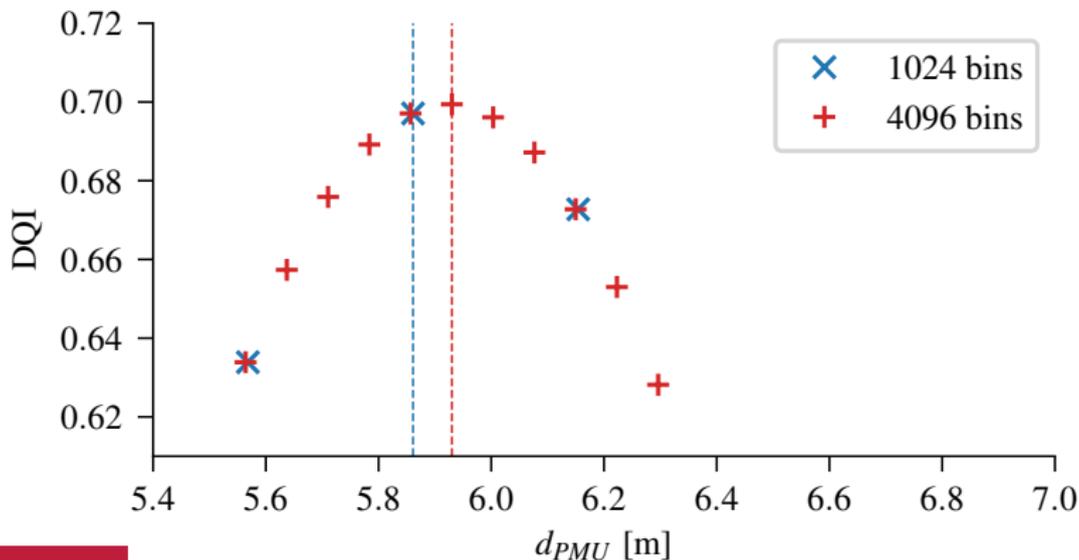
# FFT Bin Count

- What is the **optimal** FFT bin count?



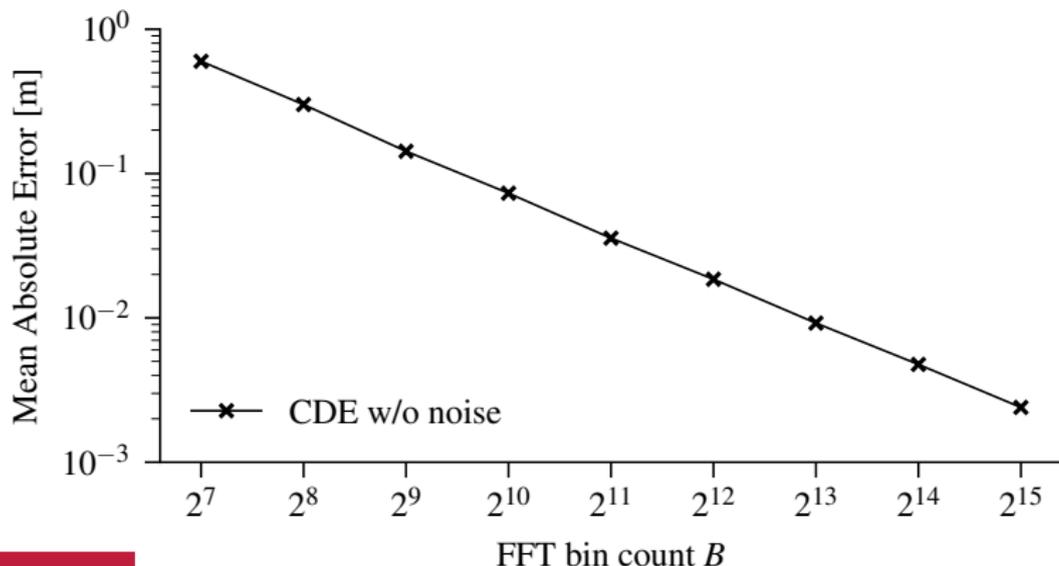
# FFT Bin Count

- What is the **optimal** FFT bin count?



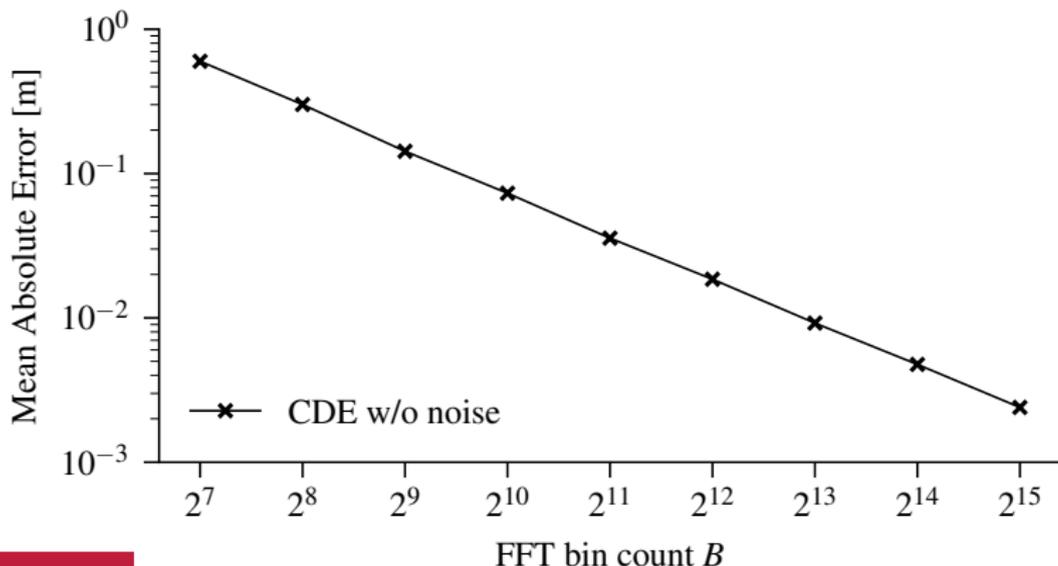
# FFT Bin Count

- What is the **optimal** FFT bin count?



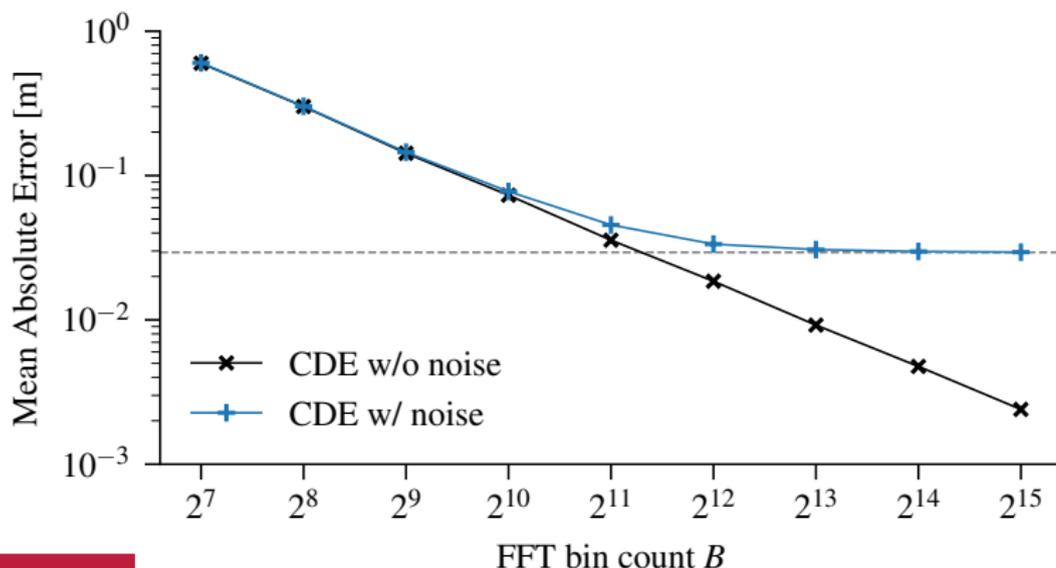
# FFT Bin Count

- What is the **optimal** FFT bin count?
- What happens if the phase response is **noisy**?



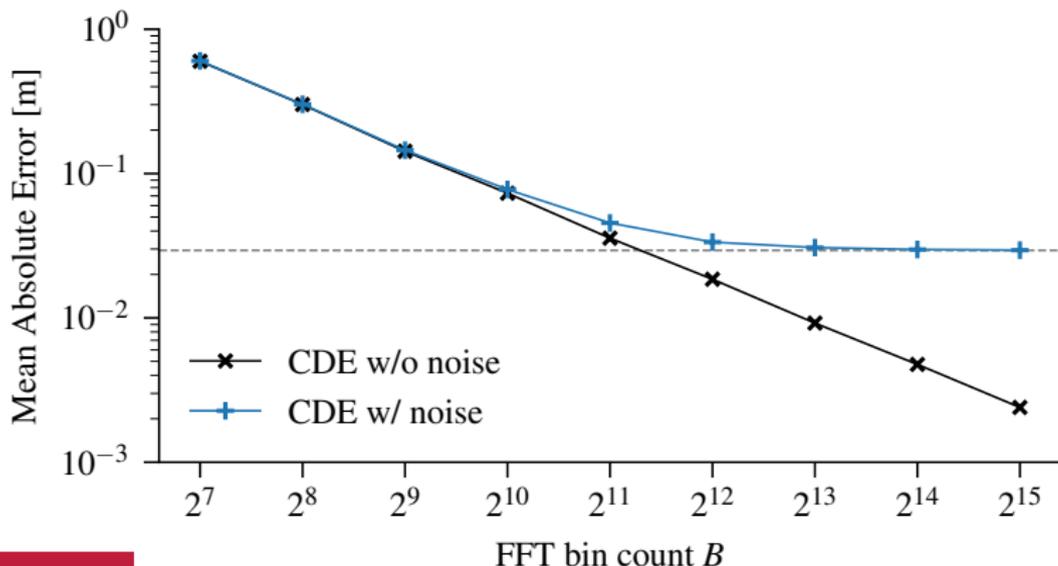
# FFT Bin Count

- What is the **optimal** FFT bin count?
- What happens if the phase response is **noisy**?



# FFT Bin Count

- What is the **optimal** FFT bin count?
- What happens if the phase response is **noisy**?
- $2^{12} = 4096$  bins reach **lower bound on accuracy**

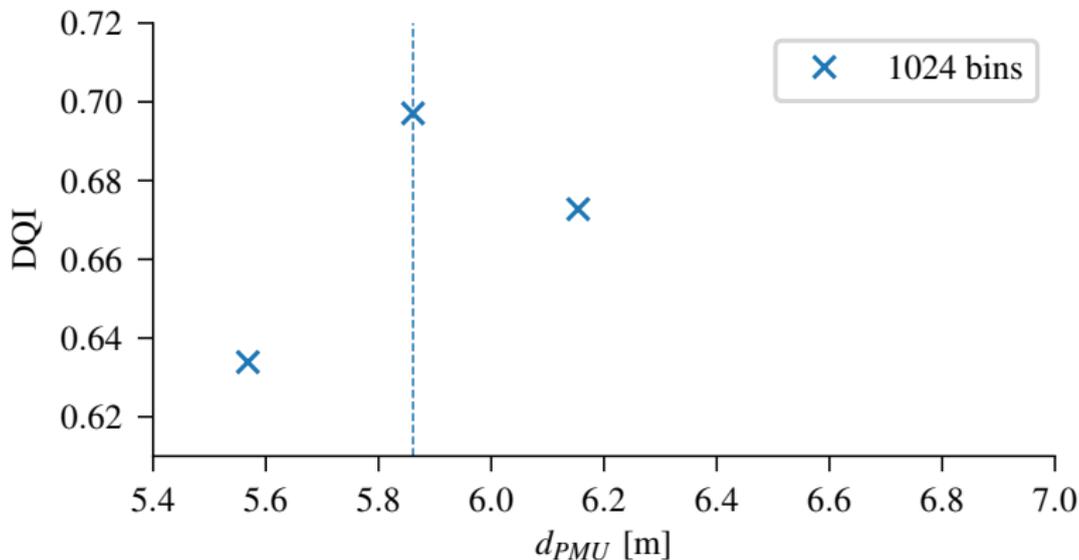


# Interpolation

- Can we reduce the FFT bin count by **interpolating the peak?**

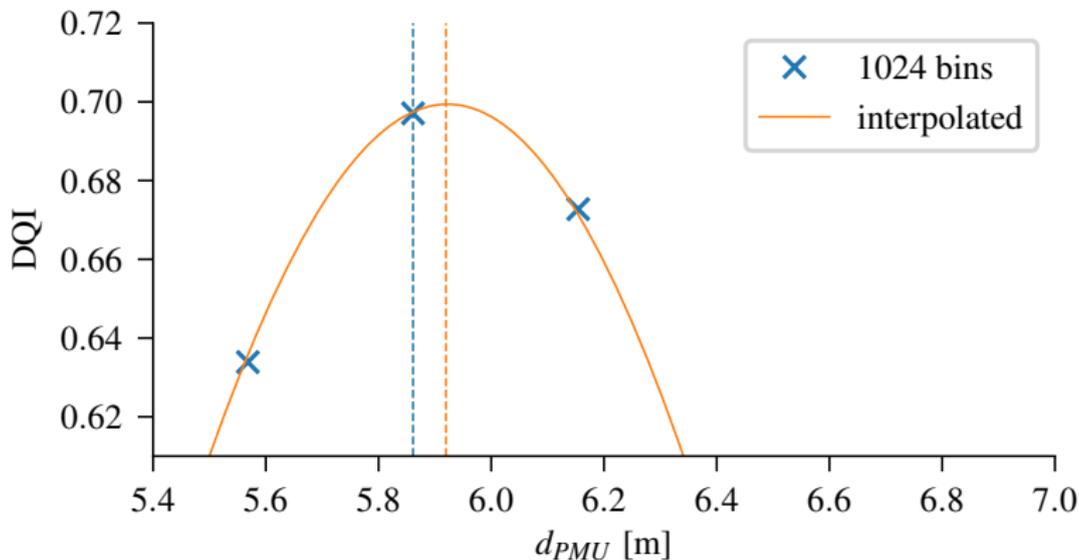
# Interpolation

- Can we reduce the FFT bin count by **interpolating the peak**?



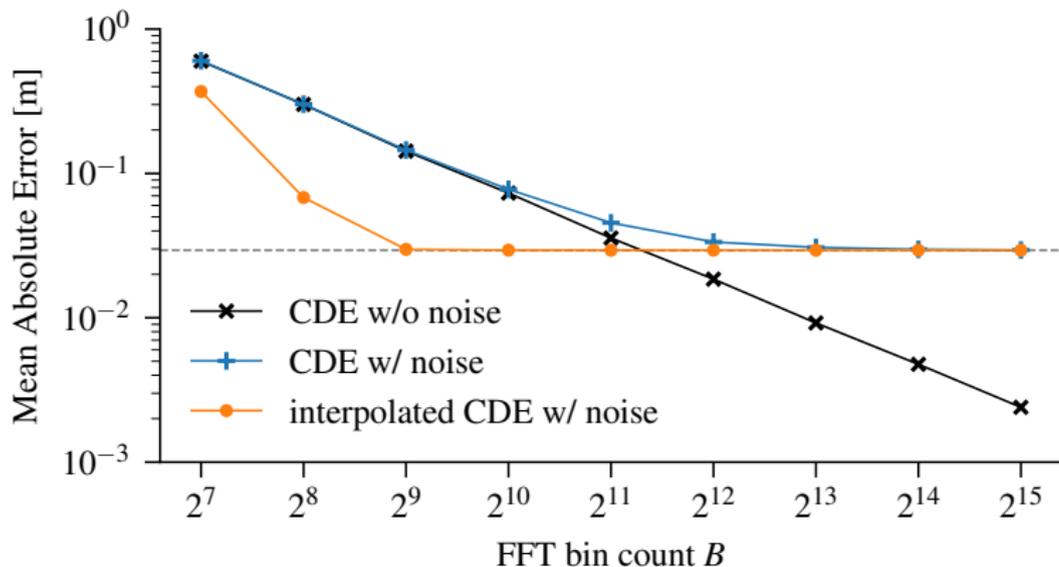
# Interpolation

- Can we reduce the FFT bin count by **interpolating the peak**?



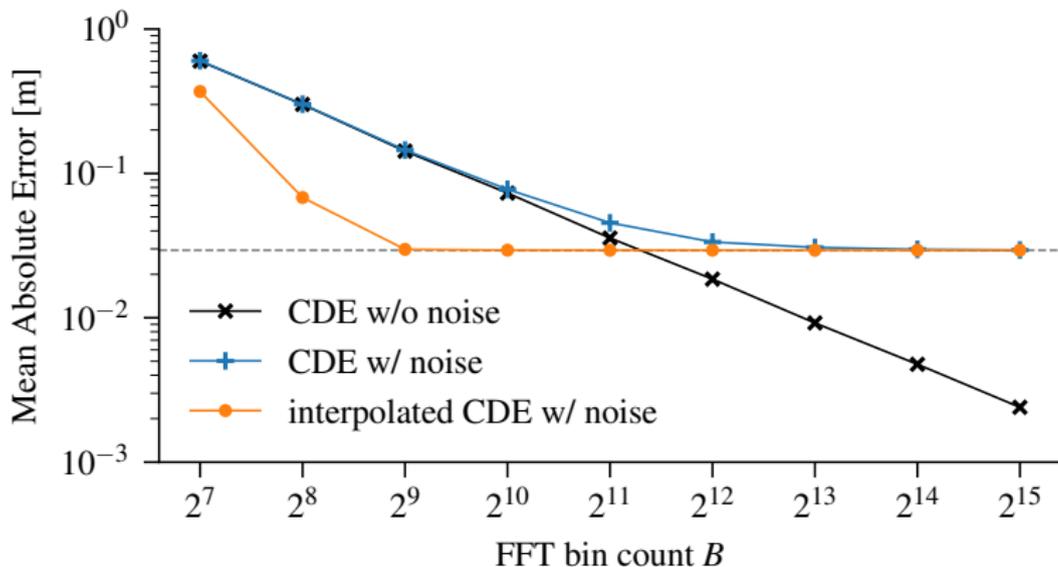
# Interpolation

- Can we reduce the FFT bin count by **interpolating the peak?**



# Interpolation

- Can we reduce the FFT bin count by **interpolating the peak?**
- $2^9 = 512$  bins suffice with interpolation



# Evaluation Setup

- Phase-based data from **4 scenarios**

# Evaluation Setup

- Phase-based data from **4 scenarios**
- Comparison of regular CDE with **interpolated version (iCDE)**

# Evaluation Setup

- Phase-based data from **4 scenarios**
- Comparison of regular CDE with **interpolated version (iCDE)**
- Comparison with **two other algorithms**

# Evaluation Setup

- Phase-based data from **4 scenarios**
- Comparison of regular CDE with **interpolated version (iCDE)**
- Comparison with **two other algorithms**
  - **RDE**: Real-valued Distance Estimation

# Evaluation Setup

- Phase-based data from **4 scenarios**
- Comparison of regular CDE with **interpolated version (iCDE)**
- Comparison with **two other algorithms**
  - **RDE**: Real-valued Distance Estimation
  - **ESSR**: Efficient Slope Sampling Ranging by Oshiga et al.

# Evaluation Setup

- Phase-based data from **4 scenarios**
- Comparison of regular CDE with **interpolated version (iCDE)**
- Comparison with **two other algorithms**
  - **RDE**: Real-valued Distance Estimation
  - **ESSR**: Efficient Slope Sampling Ranging by Oshiga et al.
- **Accuracy**: Mean Absolute Error (MAE)

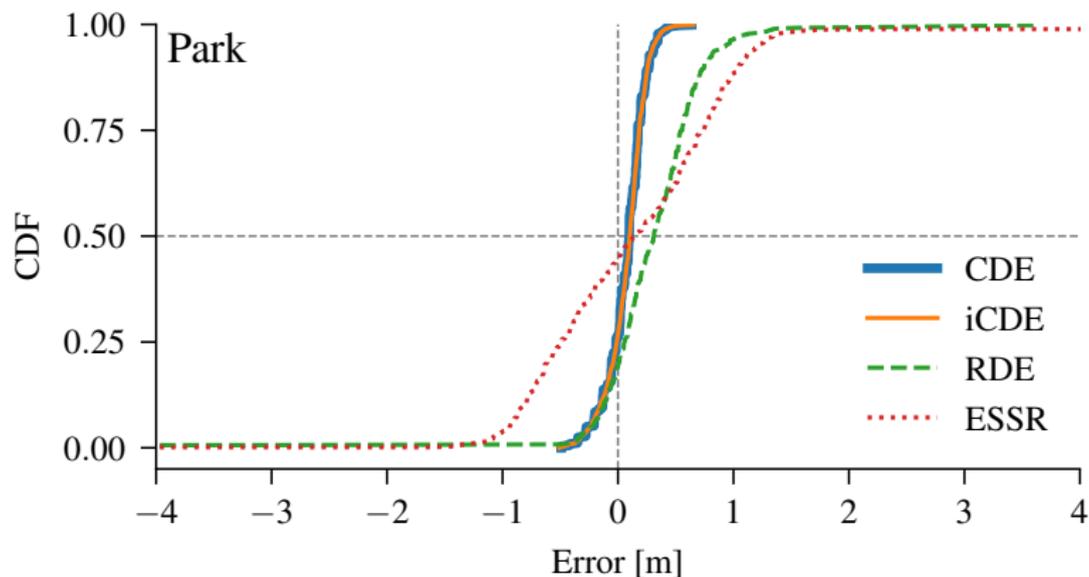
# Evaluation Setup

- Phase-based data from **4 scenarios**
- Comparison of regular CDE with **interpolated version (iCDE)**
- Comparison with **two other algorithms**
  - **RDE**: Real-valued Distance Estimation
  - **ESSR**: Efficient Slope Sampling Ranging by Oshiga et al.
- **Accuracy**: Mean Absolute Error (MAE)
- **Precision**: Standard Deviation ( $\sigma$ )

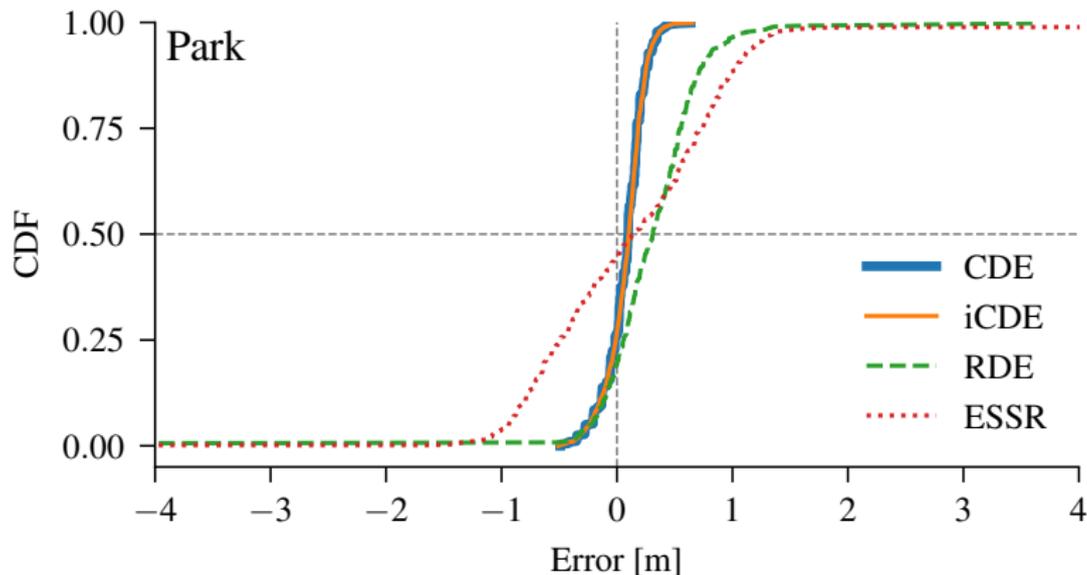
# Evaluation Setup

- Phase-based data from **4 scenarios**
- Comparison of regular CDE with **interpolated version (iCDE)**
- Comparison with **two other algorithms**
  - **RDE**: Real-valued Distance Estimation
  - **ESSR**: Efficient Slope Sampling Ranging by Oshiga et al.
- **Accuracy**: Mean Absolute Error (MAE)
- **Precision**: Standard Deviation ( $\sigma$ )
- **All algorithms use the exact same data set**

# Park Scenario

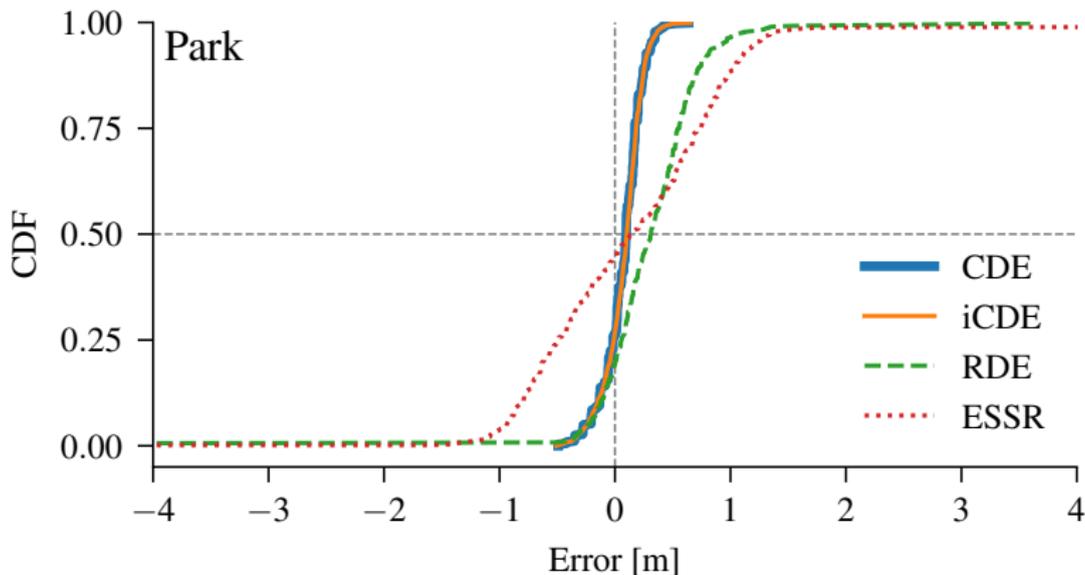


# Park Scenario



- Interpolation has **no influence** on the result

# Park Scenario



- Interpolation has **no influence** on the result
- RDE and ESSR are accurate but **not precise**

# Errors of the Park Scenario

	min. [m]	max. [m]	median [m]	MAE [m]	$\sigma$ [m]
CDE	-0.493	0.638	0.131	<b>0.149</b>	<b>0.104</b>
iCDE	-0.507	0.652	0.139	0.151	0.103
RDE	<b>-69.187</b>	<b>3.648</b>	0.331	0.706	4.292
ESSR	<b>-40.668</b>	<b>282.824</b>	0.626	2.555	19.653

# Errors of the Park Scenario

	min. [m]	max. [m]	median [m]	MAE [m]	$\sigma$ [m]
CDE	-0.493	0.638	0.131	<b>0.149</b>	<b>0.104</b>
iCDE	-0.507	0.652	0.139	0.151	0.103
RDE	<b>-69.187</b>	<b>3.648</b>	0.331	0.706	4.292
ESSR	<b>-40.668</b>	<b>282.824</b>	0.626	2.555	19.653

- **High accuracy:** MAE = 0.149 m

# Errors of the Park Scenario

	min. [m]	max. [m]	median [m]	MAE [m]	$\sigma$ [m]
CDE	-0.493	0.638	0.131	<b>0.149</b>	<b>0.104</b>
iCDE	-0.507	0.652	0.139	0.151	0.103
RDE	<b>-69.187</b>	<b>3.648</b>	0.331	0.706	4.292
ESSR	<b>-40.668</b>	<b>282.824</b>	0.626	2.555	19.653

- **High accuracy:** MAE = 0.149 m
- **High precision:**  $\sigma = 0.104$  m

# Errors of the Park Scenario

	min. [m]	max. [m]	median [m]	MAE [m]	$\sigma$ [m]
CDE	-0.493	0.638	0.131	<b>0.149</b>	<b>0.104</b>
iCDE	-0.507	0.652	0.139	0.151	0.103
RDE	<b>-69.187</b>	<b>3.648</b>	0.331	0.706	4.292
ESSR	<b>-40.668</b>	<b>282.824</b>	0.626	2.555	19.653

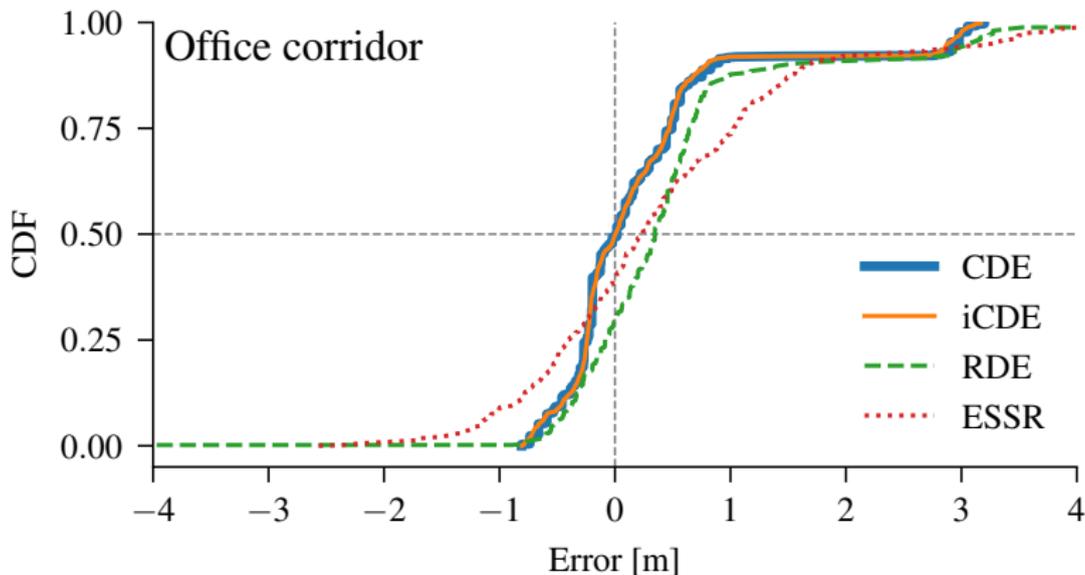
- **High accuracy:** MAE = 0.149 m
- **High precision:**  $\sigma = 0.104$  m
- CDE and iCDE perform almost **identical**

# Errors of the Park Scenario

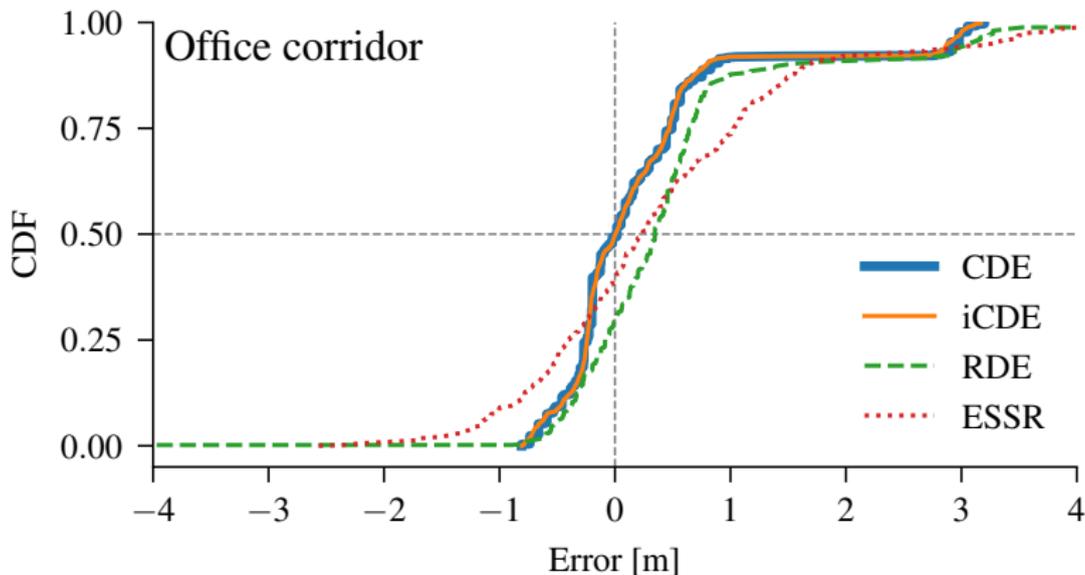
	min. [m]	max. [m]	median [m]	MAE [m]	$\sigma$ [m]
CDE	-0.493	0.638	0.131	<b>0.149</b>	<b>0.104</b>
iCDE	-0.507	0.652	0.139	0.151	0.103
RDE	<b>-69.187</b>	<b>3.648</b>	0.331	0.706	4.292
ESSR	<b>-40.668</b>	<b>282.824</b>	0.626	2.555	19.653

- **High accuracy:** MAE = 0.149 m
- **High precision:**  $\sigma = 0.104$  m
- CDE and iCDE perform almost **identical**
- Large outliers for RDE and ESSR

# Office corridor Scenario

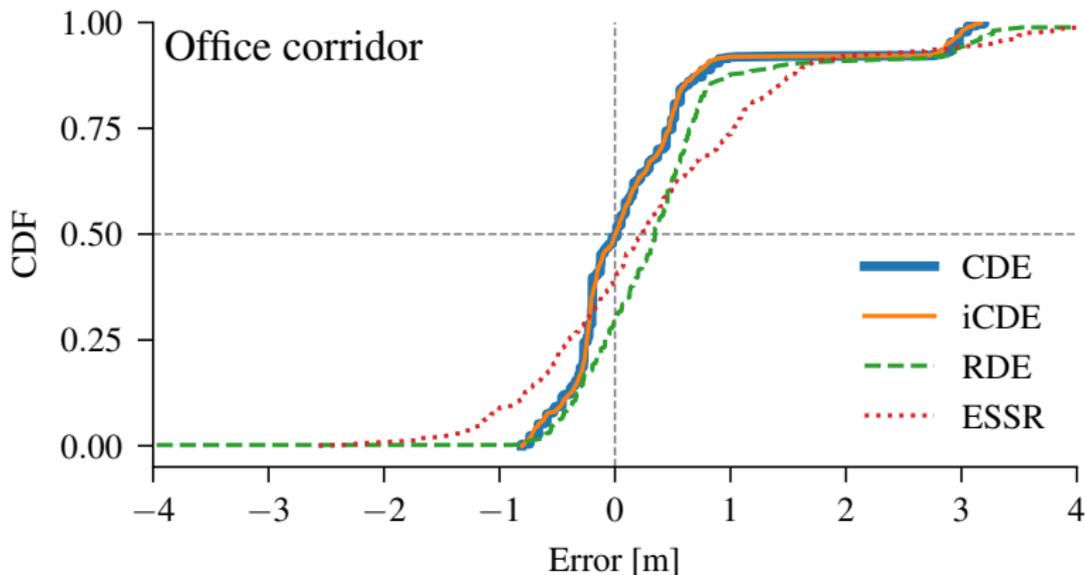


# Office corridor Scenario



- RDE and ESSR **overestimate** the distance

# Office corridor Scenario



- RDE and ESSR **overestimate** the distance
- **Multipath effects** likely lead to wrong measurements (plateaus)

# Errors of the Office corridor Scenario

	min. [m]	max. [m]	median [m]	MAE [m]	$\sigma$ [m]
CDE	-0.810	3.199	0.299	0.550	<b>0.738</b>
iCDE	-0.807	3.169	0.297	0.542	<b>0.730</b>
RDE	<b>-29.686</b>	<b>24.734</b>	0.453	0.850	2.218
ESSR	-2.567	<b>296.961</b>	0.660	1.468	13.012

# Errors of the Office corridor Scenario

	min. [m]	max. [m]	median [m]	MAE [m]	$\sigma$ [m]
CDE	-0.810	3.199	0.299	0.550	<b>0.738</b>
iCDE	-0.807	3.169	0.297	0.542	<b>0.730</b>
RDE	<b>-29.686</b>	<b>24.734</b>	0.453	0.850	2.218
ESSR	-2.567	<b>296.961</b>	0.660	1.468	13.012

- Scenario is more challenging

# Errors of the Office corridor Scenario

	min. [m]	max. [m]	median [m]	MAE [m]	$\sigma$ [m]
CDE	-0.810	3.199	0.299	0.550	<b>0.738</b>
iCDE	-0.807	3.169	0.297	0.542	<b>0.730</b>
RDE	<b>-29.686</b>	<b>24.734</b>	0.453	0.850	2.218
ESSR	-2.567	<b>296.961</b>	0.660	1.468	13.012

- Scenario is more challenging
- CDE/iCDE with **much higher precision** than RDE and ESSR

# Errors of the Office corridor Scenario

	min. [m]	max. [m]	median [m]	MAE [m]	$\sigma$ [m]
CDE	-0.810	3.199	0.299	0.550	<b>0.738</b>
iCDE	-0.807	3.169	0.297	0.542	<b>0.730</b>
RDE	<b>-29.686</b>	<b>24.734</b>	0.453	0.850	2.218
ESSR	-2.567	<b>296.961</b>	0.660	1.468	13.012

- Scenario is more challenging
- CDE/iCDE with **much higher precision** than RDE and ESSR
- Again large outliers for RDE and ESSR

# Conclusion

- **CDE algorithm** to compute distance from phase response

# Conclusion

- **CDE algorithm** to compute distance from phase response
- **Interpolation** to reduce number of FFT bins

# Conclusion

- **CDE algorithm** to compute distance from phase response
- **Interpolation** to reduce number of FFT bins
- **Comparison** to two other state-of-the-art algorithms

# Conclusion

- **CDE algorithm** to compute distance from phase response
- **Interpolation** to reduce number of FFT bins
- **Comparison** to two other state-of-the-art algorithms
- **Evaluation** in real-world environments

# Conclusion

- **CDE algorithm** to compute distance from phase response
- **Interpolation** to reduce number of FFT bins
- **Comparison** to two other state-of-the-art algorithms
- **Evaluation** in real-world environments
- **High accuracy:**  $MAE = 14.9$  cm

# Conclusion

- **CDE algorithm** to compute distance from phase response
- **Interpolation** to reduce number of FFT bins
- **Comparison** to two other state-of-the-art algorithms
- **Evaluation** in real-world environments
- **High accuracy:**  $MAE = 14.9$  cm
- **High precision:**  $\sigma = 10.4$  cm

# Conclusion

- **CDE algorithm** to compute distance from phase response
- **Interpolation** to reduce number of FFT bins
- **Comparison** to two other state-of-the-art algorithms
- **Evaluation** in real-world environments
- **High accuracy:** MAE = 14.9 cm
- **High precision:**  $\sigma = 10.4$  cm

Whats more in the paper?

# Conclusion

- **CDE algorithm** to compute distance from phase response
- **Interpolation** to reduce number of FFT bins
- **Comparison** to two other state-of-the-art algorithms
- **Evaluation** in real-world environments
- **High accuracy:**  $MAE = 14.9$  cm
- **High precision:**  $\sigma = 10.4$  cm

## Whats more in the paper?

- Math

# Conclusion

- **CDE algorithm** to compute distance from phase response
- **Interpolation** to reduce number of FFT bins
- **Comparison** to two other state-of-the-art algorithms
- **Evaluation** in real-world environments
- **High accuracy:** MAE = 14.9 cm
- **High precision:**  $\sigma = 10.4$  cm

## Whats more in the paper?

- Math
- Filter bad measurements via Distance Quality Indicator

# Conclusion

- **CDE algorithm** to compute distance from phase response
- **Interpolation** to reduce number of FFT bins
- **Comparison** to two other state-of-the-art algorithms
- **Evaluation** in real-world environments
- **High accuracy:** MAE = 14.9 cm
- **High precision:**  $\sigma = 10.4$  cm

## Whats more in the paper?

- Math
- Filter bad measurements via Distance Quality Indicator
- Two more scenarios (Apartment, Basement)

# Conclusion

- **CDE algorithm** to compute distance from phase response
- **Interpolation** to reduce number of FFT bins
- **Comparison** to two other state-of-the-art algorithms
- **Evaluation** in real-world environments
- **High accuracy:** MAE = 14.9 cm
- **High precision:**  $\sigma = 10.4$  cm

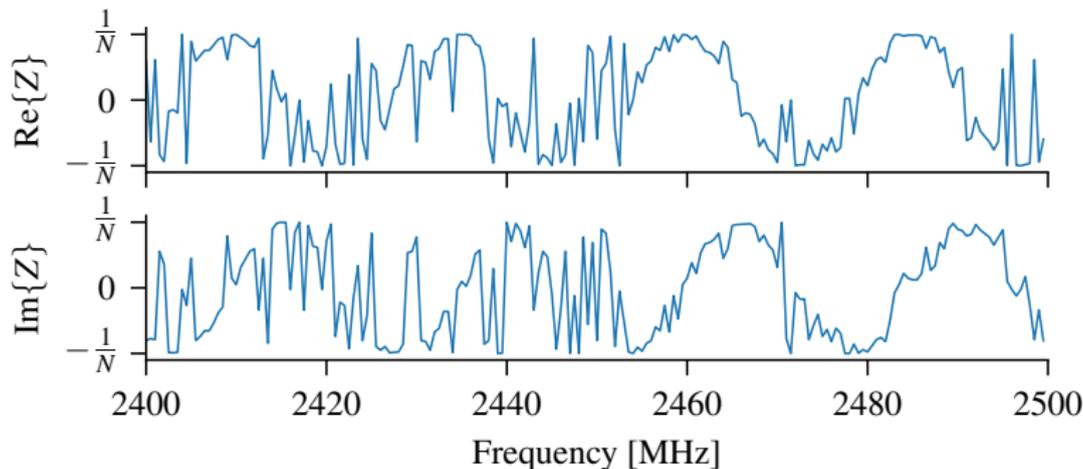
## Whats more in the paper?

- Math
- Filter bad measurements via Distance Quality Indicator
- Two more scenarios (Apartment, Basement)

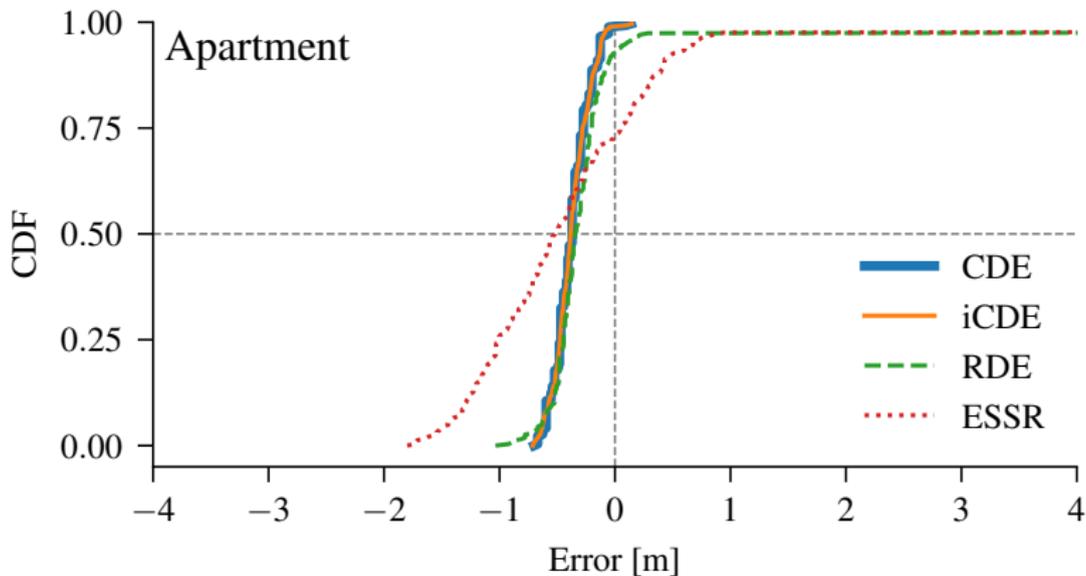
## Thank you for your attention!

# Complex-valued Distance Estimation

- Compute **complex signal** from phase response
- Assume amplitudes as  $\frac{1}{N}$
- Exemplary complex signal for 5 meter distance:



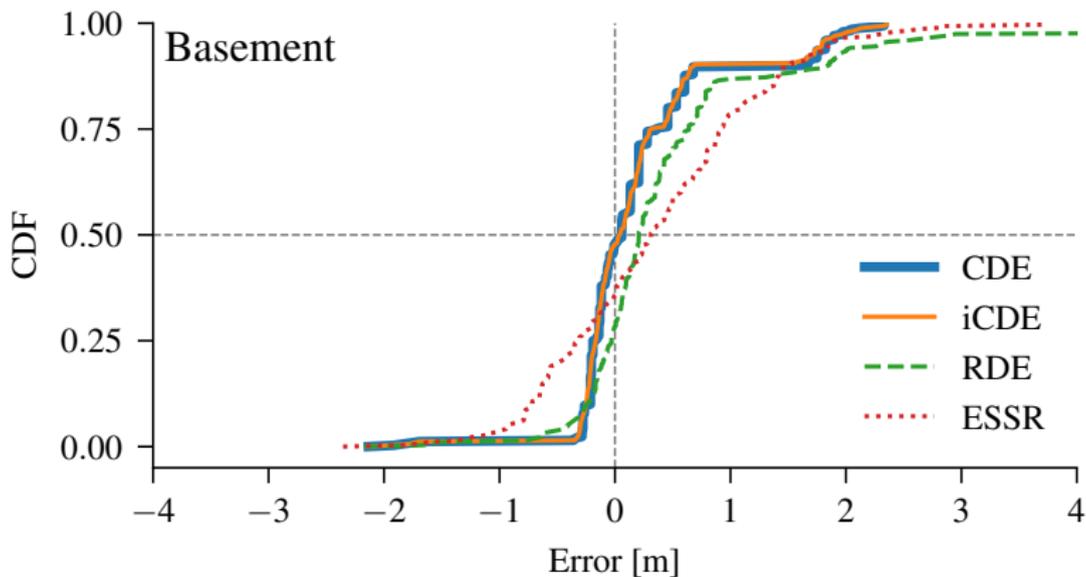
# Apartment Scenario



# Errors of the Apartment Scenario

	min. [m]	max. [m]	median [m]	MAE [m]	$\sigma$ [m]
CDE	<b>-0.701</b>	<b>0.140</b>	<b>0.372</b>	<b>0.376</b>	<b>0.146</b>
iCDE	-0.711	0.145	0.384	0.377	0.147
RDE	-1.035	41.818	0.346	0.862	3.794
ESSR	-1.799	294.078	0.615	3.313	26.353

# Basement Scenario



# Errors of the Basement Scenario

	min. [m]	max. [m]	median [m]	MAE [m]	$\sigma$ [m]
CDE	<b>-2.136</b>	<b>2.329</b>	<b>0.204</b>	0.414	0.548
iCDE	-2.144	2.350	0.216	<b>0.409</b>	<b>0.532</b>
RDE	-2.172	29.598	0.293	0.890	2.850
ESSR	-2.355	3.740	0.652	0.766	0.601

# Parameters of the Scenarios

	# meas.	min. dist. [m]	max. dist. [m]
Basement	350	0.5	20.0
Office corridor	650	0.5	49.0
Apartment	350	1.0	7.0
Park	950	0.5	100.0

# Interpolation without Noise

