



# VMscatter

## A Versatile MIMO Backscatter

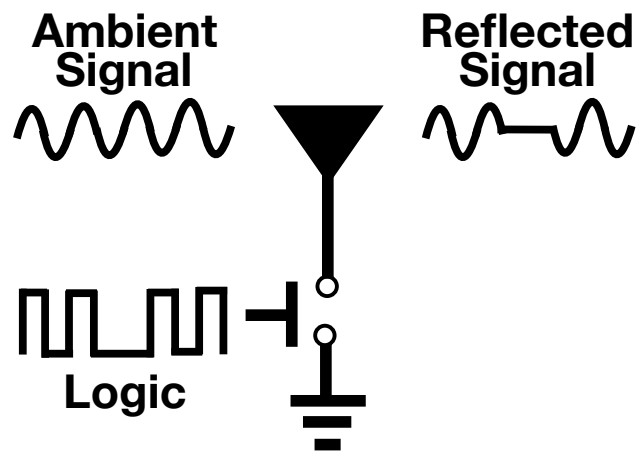
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University of Maryland, Baltimore County

<sup>\*</sup> Co-primary Student Authors

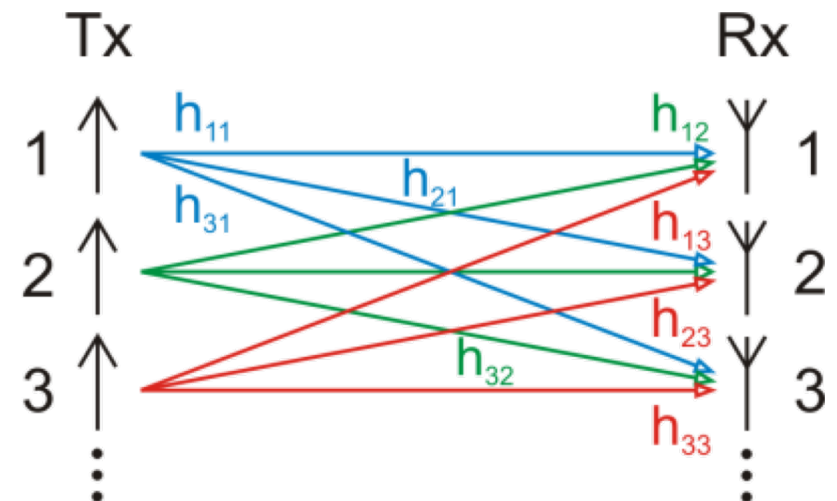


# Backscatter & MIMO

- Backscatter
  - Consume little energy
  - Enable lots of IOT applications



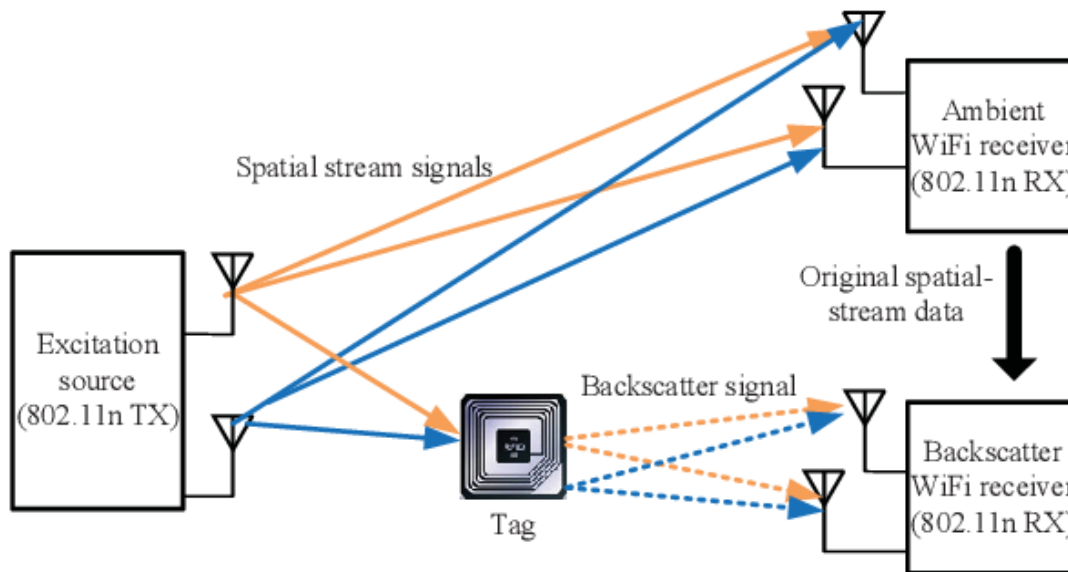
- MIMO
  - Widely used
  - More reliable and faster





# Backscatter X MIMO

- Related work (MOXcatter [Mobisys'18])
  - Reflect MIMO signals
  - Conventional backscatter techniques

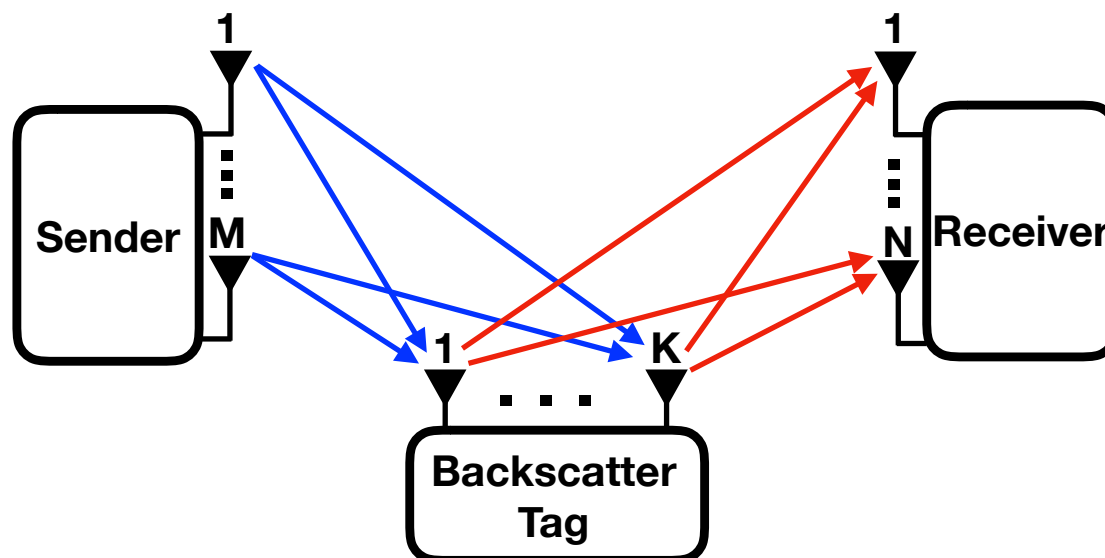


System	FreeRider	MOXcatter
	Non-MIMO	MIMO
BER	0.002	0.0095



# VMscatter

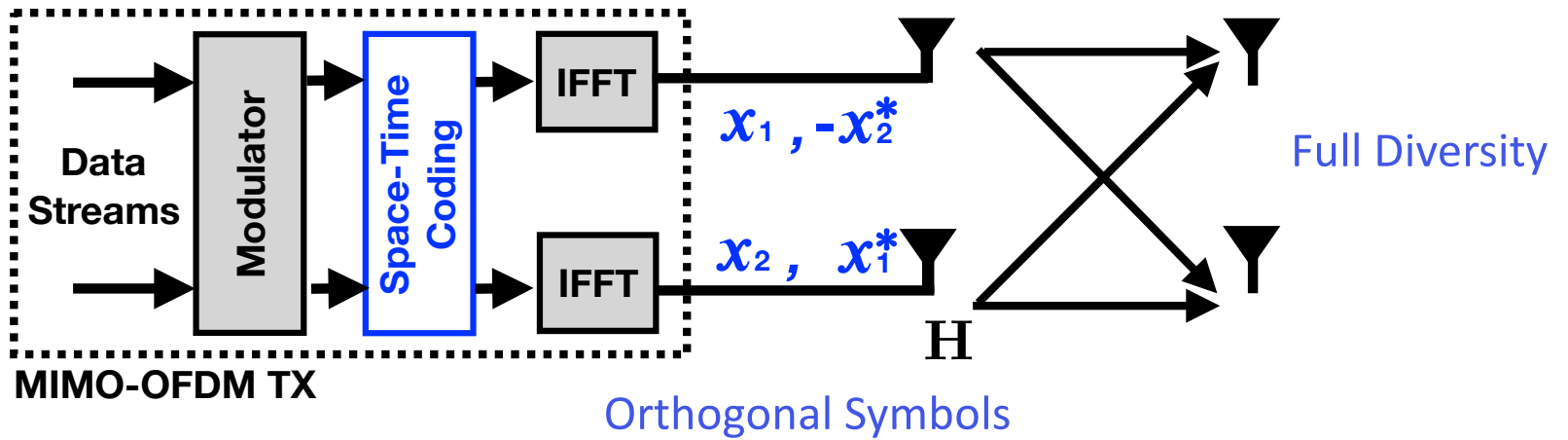
- A versatile MIMO backscatter
  - Leverage MIMO technique on backscatter tags
  - Support space-time coding, spatial diversity, and generic design
  - Dramatically decrease BER (862x) and increase throughput





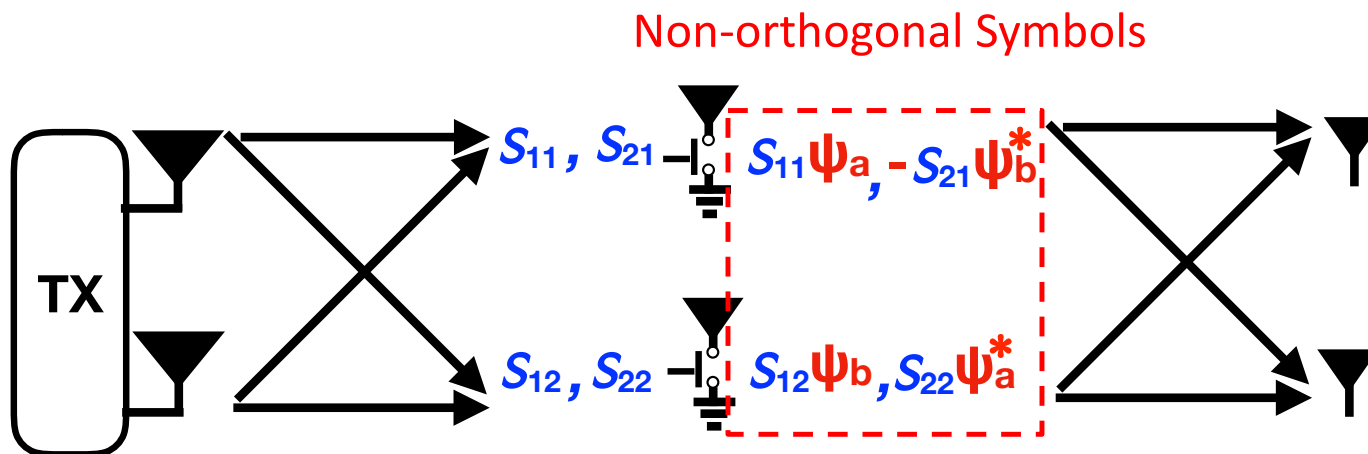
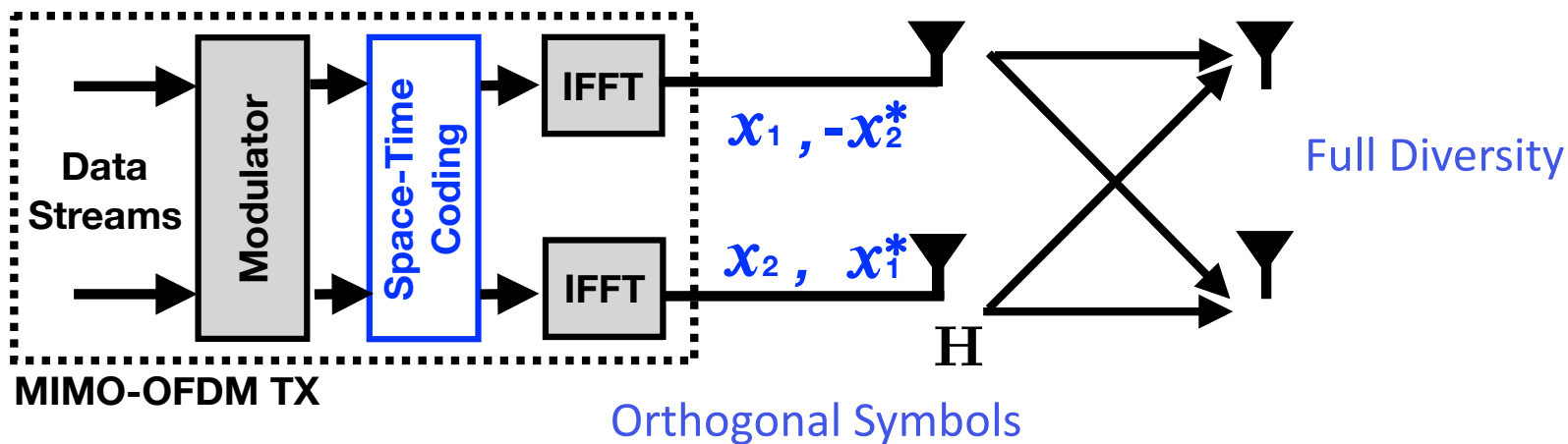


# Why VMscatter



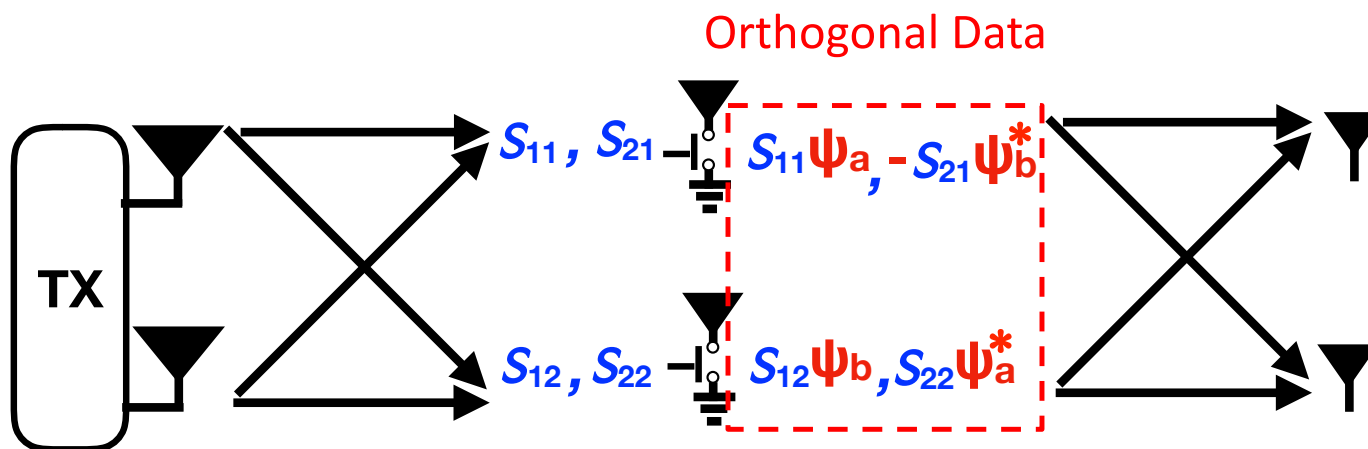
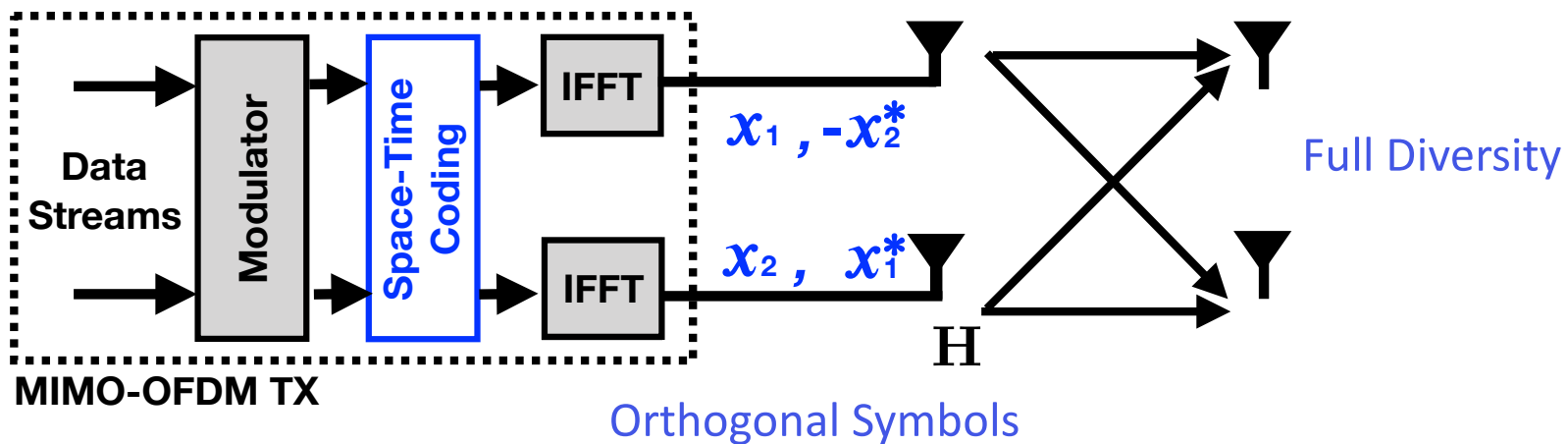


# Why VMscatter



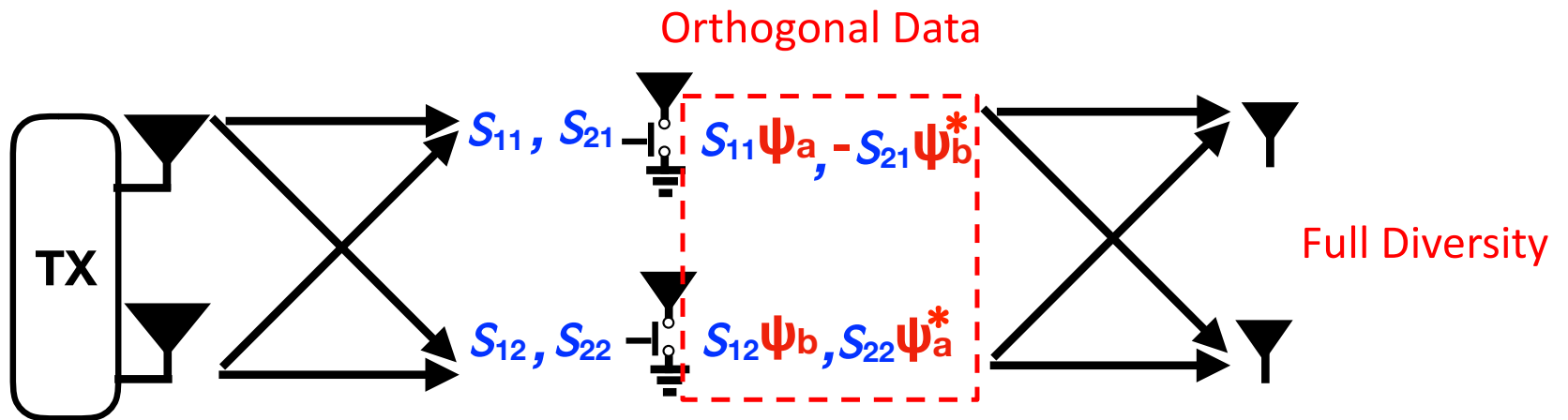
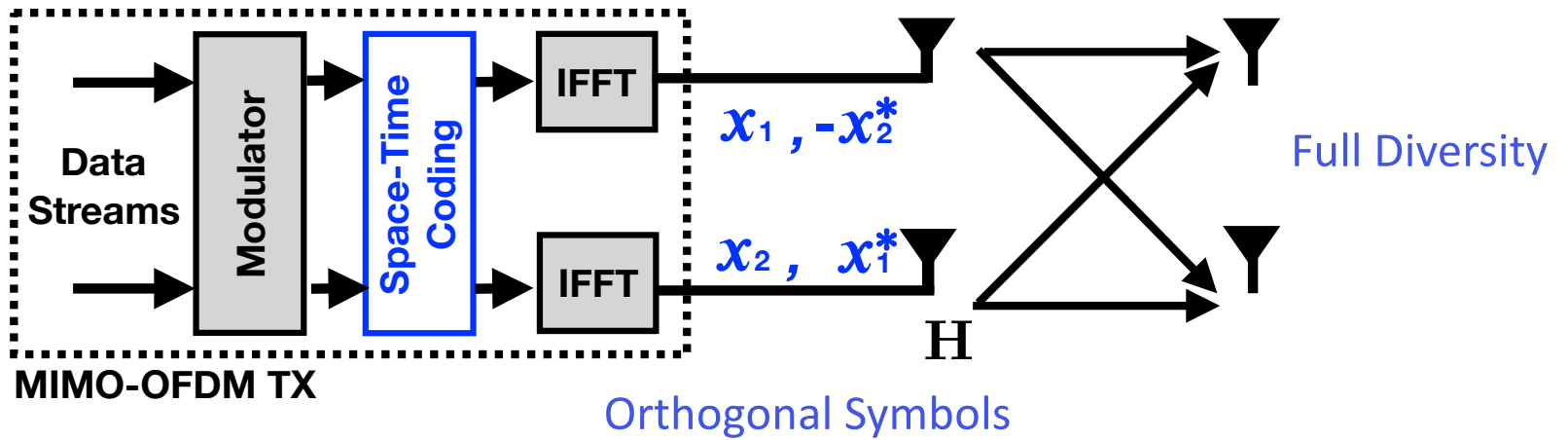


# Why VMscatter





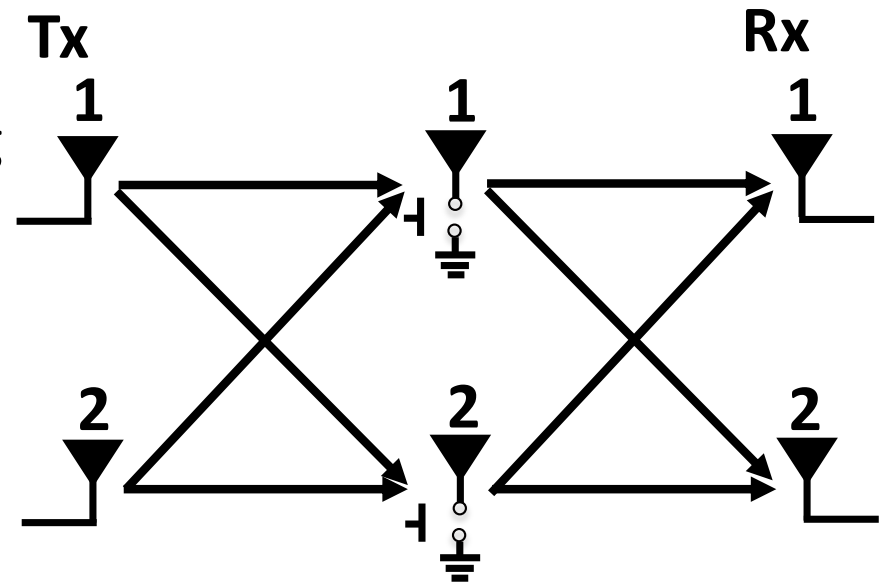
# Why VMscatter





# Challenges

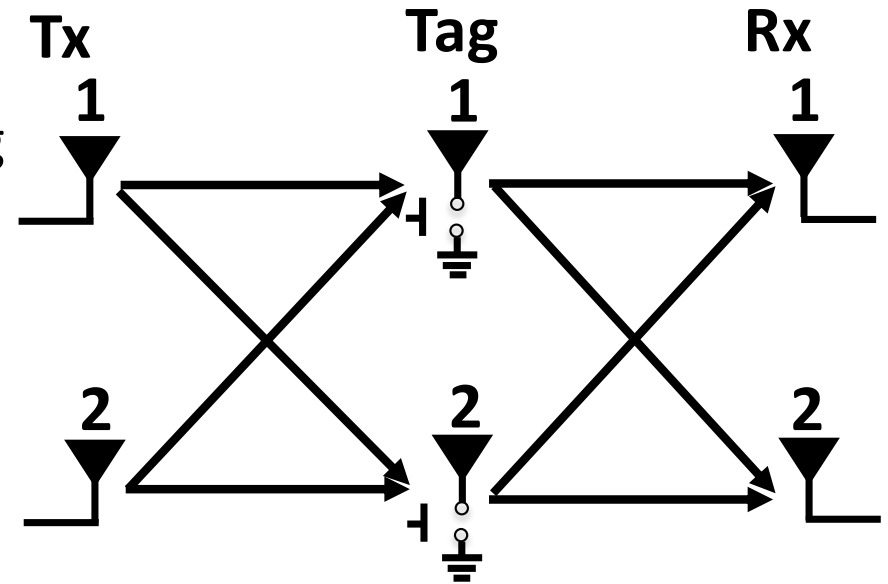
- C1: Modulation
  - How to implement space-time coding by only turning on/off switches





# Challenges

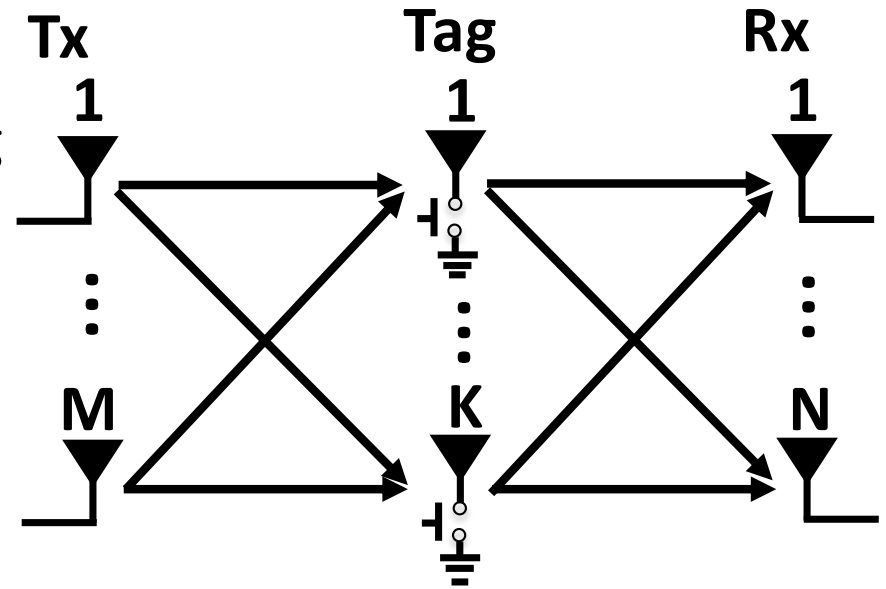
- C1: Modulation
  - How to implement space-time coding by only turning on/off switches
- C2: Demodulation
  - How to deal with pre-scatter channels and post-scatter channels





# Challenges

- **C1: Modulation**
  - How to implement space-time coding by only turning on/off switches
- **C2: Demodulation**
  - How to deal with pre-scatter channels and post-scatter channels
- **C3: Extend to  $M \times K \times N$** 
  - How to support any number of antennas on sender, tag, and receiver





# Outline

1. Modulation
2. Demodulation
3. Extend to  $M \times K \times N$
4. Evaluation





# Outline

## 1. Modulation

1. Reducing BER
2. Improving Throughput

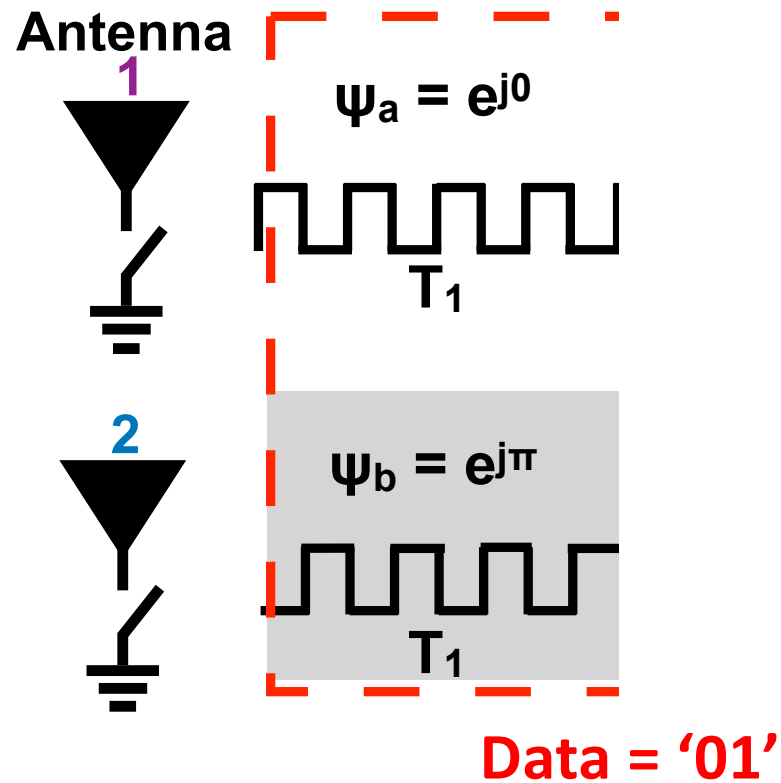
## 2. Demodulation

## 3. Extend to $M \times K \times N$

## 4. Evaluation



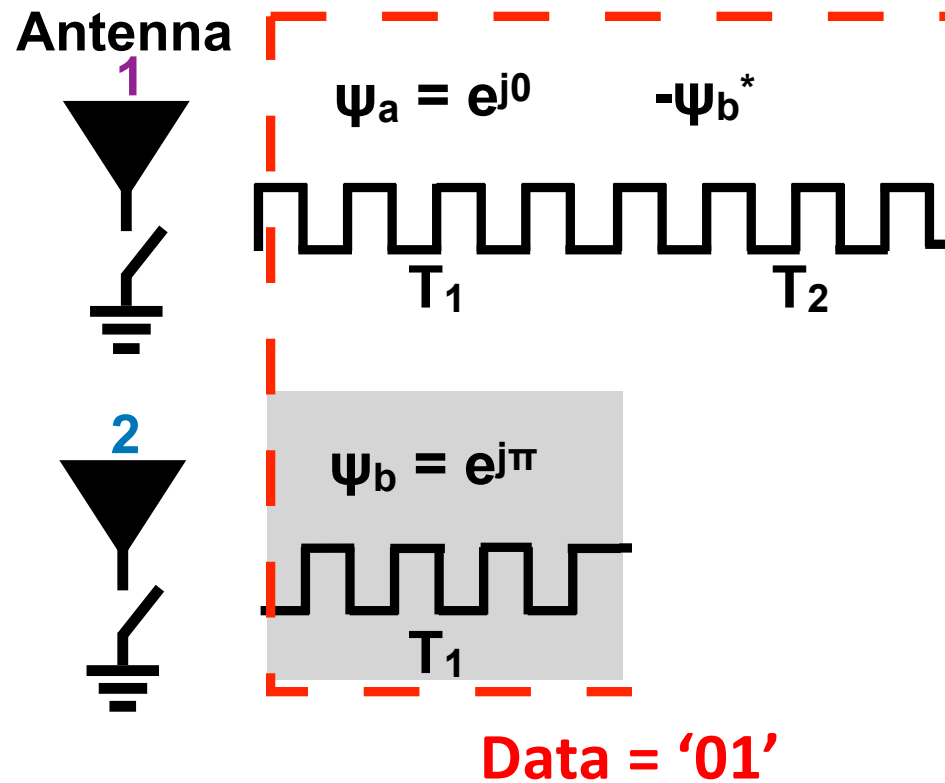
# Reducing BER



At  $T_1$ , we transmit  $e^{ja}$  from antenna 1 and  $e^{jb}$  from antenna 2



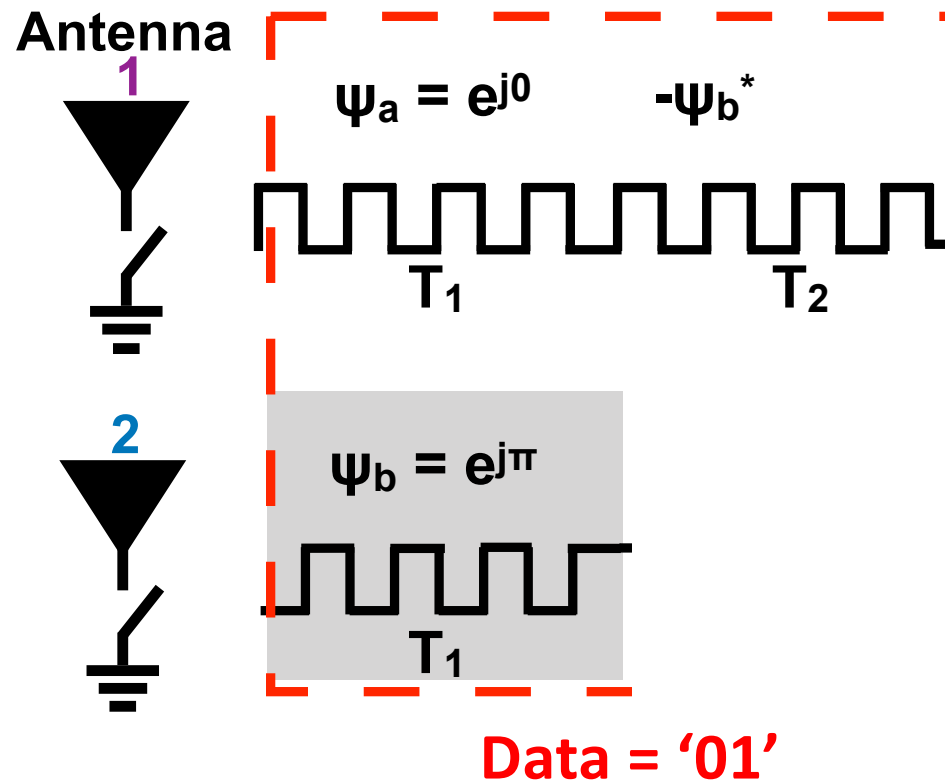
# Reducing BER



At  $T_2$ , we transmit  $-e^{-jb}$  from antenna 1 and  $e^{-ja}$  from antenna 2



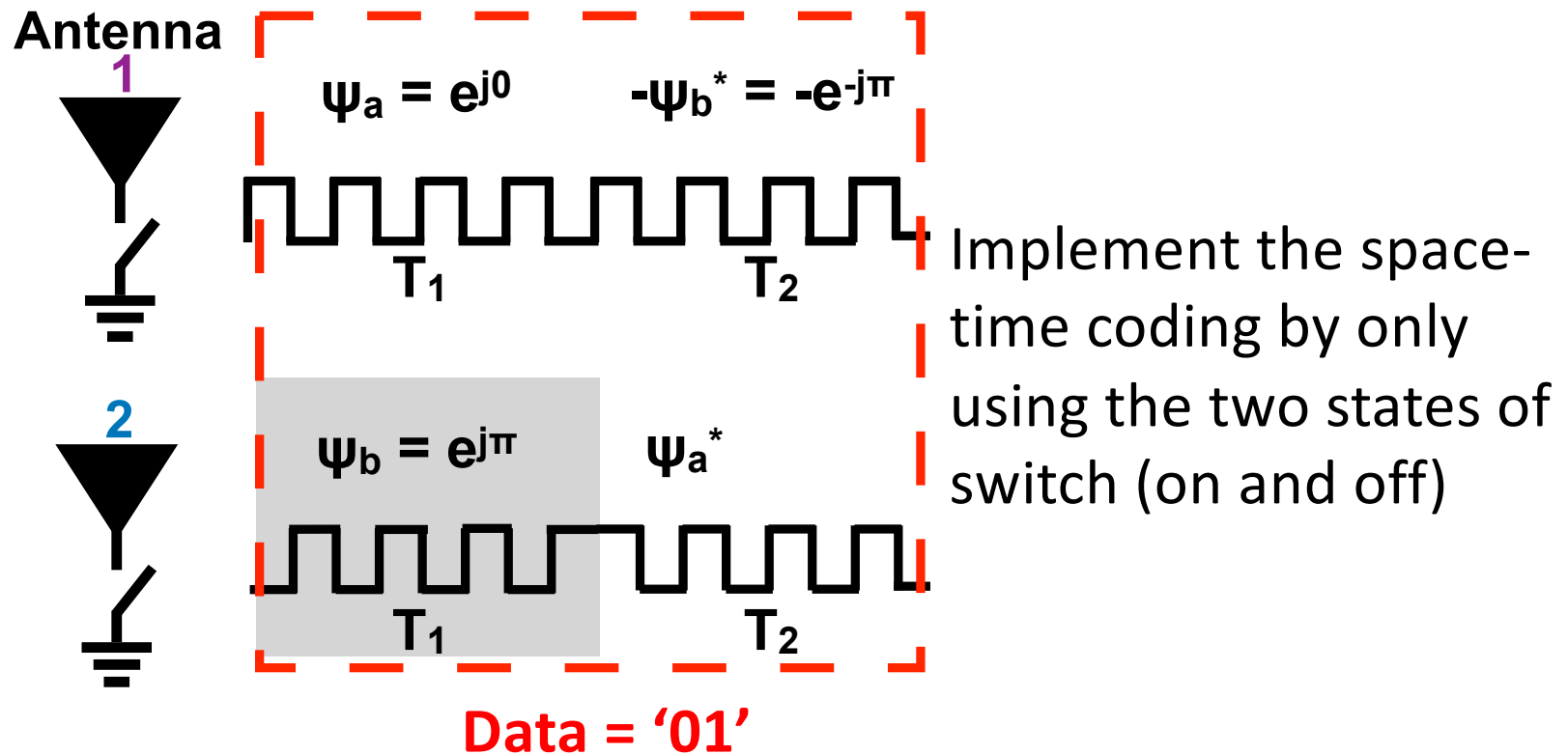
# Reducing BER



At  $T_2$ , we transmit  $-e^{-jb}$  from antenna 1 and  $e^{-ja}$  from antenna 2



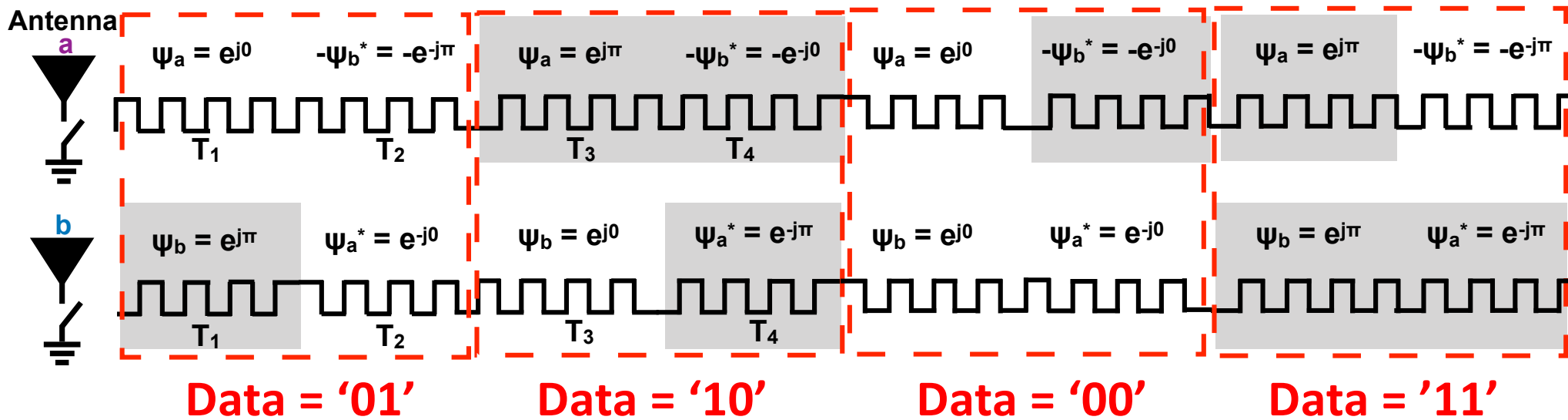
# Reducing BER



At  $T_2$ , we transmit  $-e^{-jb}$  from antenna 1 and  $e^{-ja}$  from antenna 2



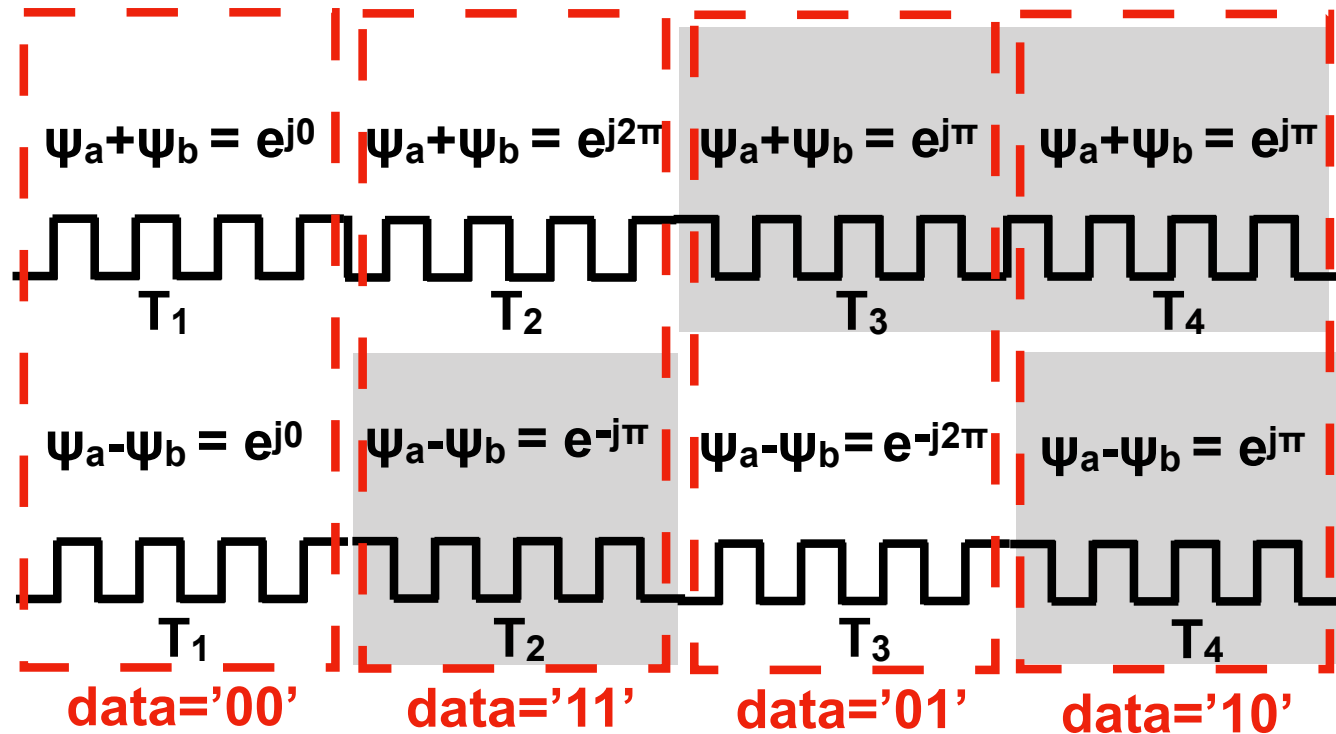
# Reducing BER





# Improving Throughput

Antenna



With two antennas, the throughput is **doubled**



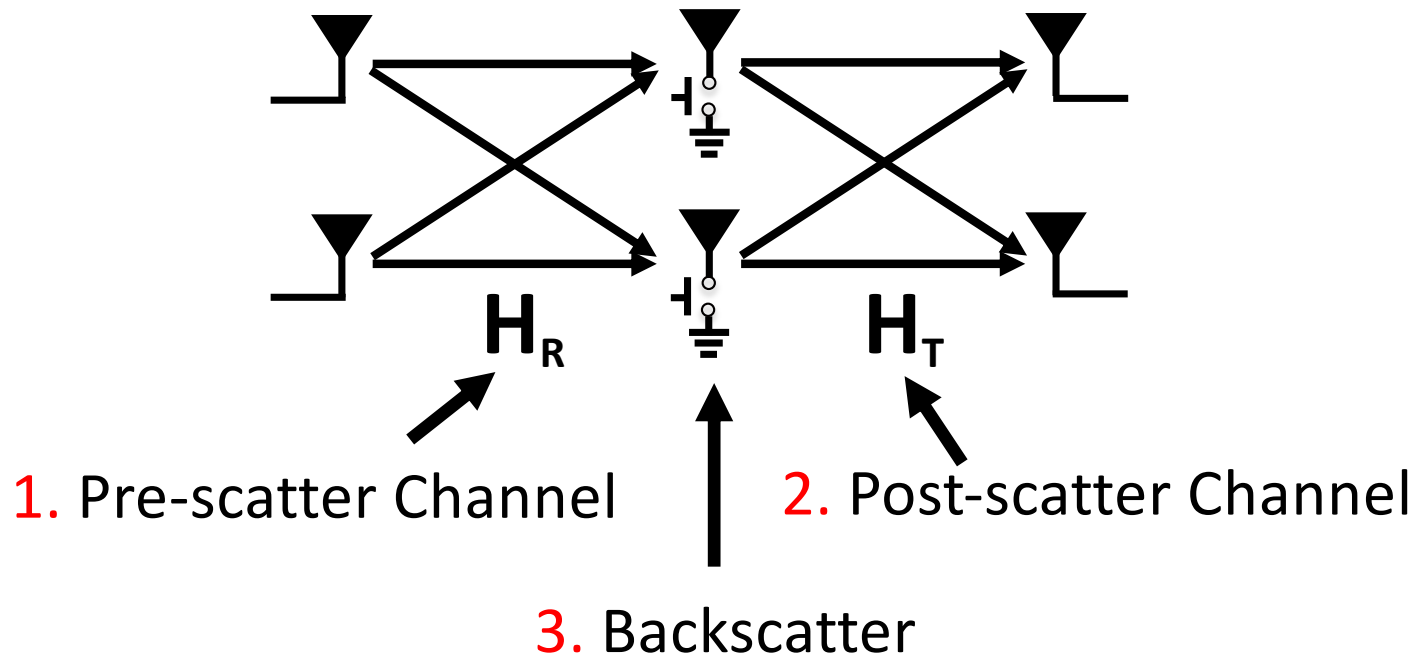
# Outline

1. Modulation
- 2. Demodulation**
3. Extend to  $M \times K \times N$
4. Evaluation



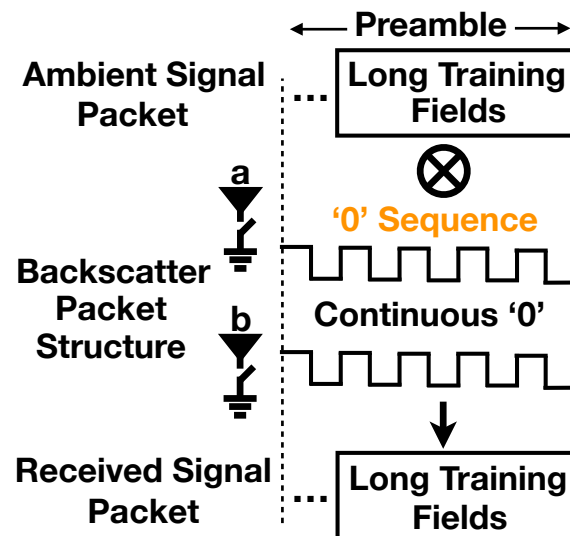
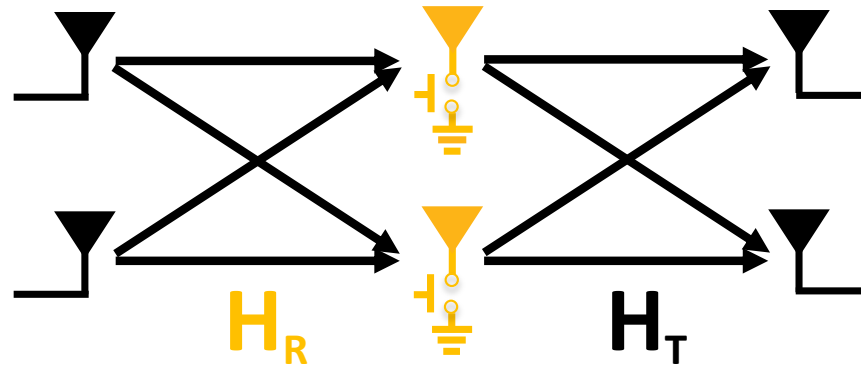


# Demodulation



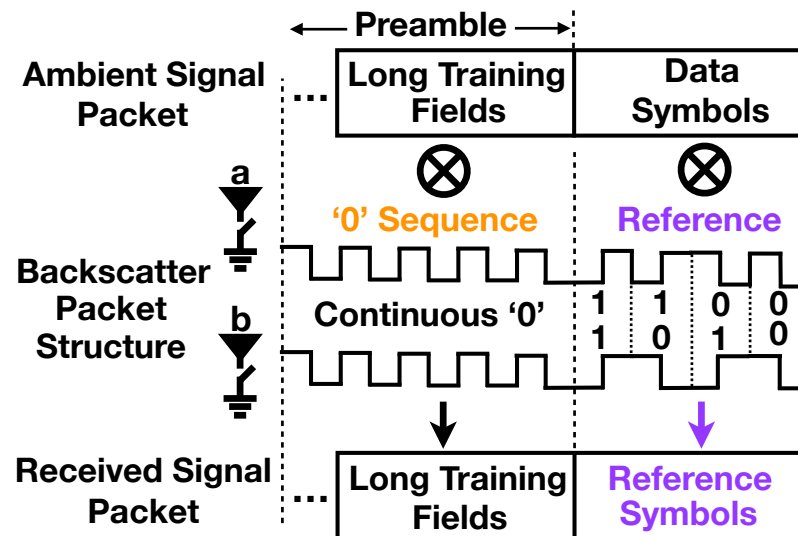
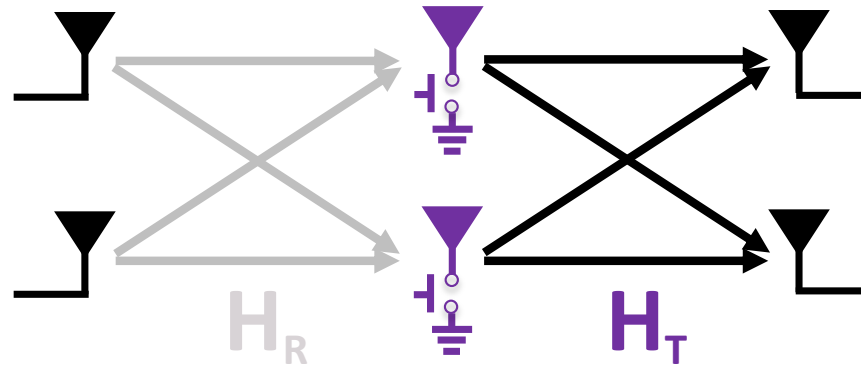
The MIMO backscatter contains **three** stages

# Eliminate Pre-scatter Channel



$H_R$  can be eliminated by the existing channel estimator

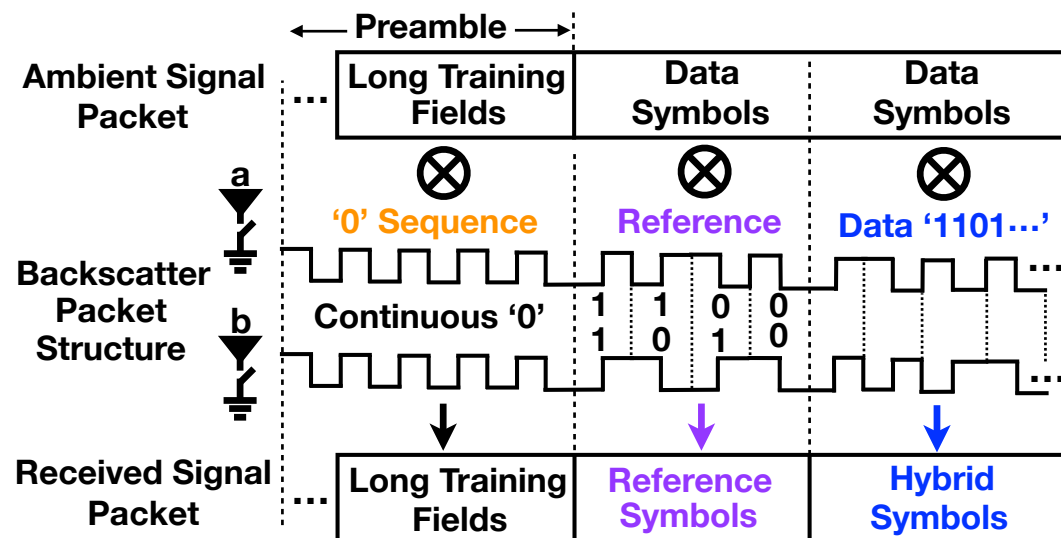
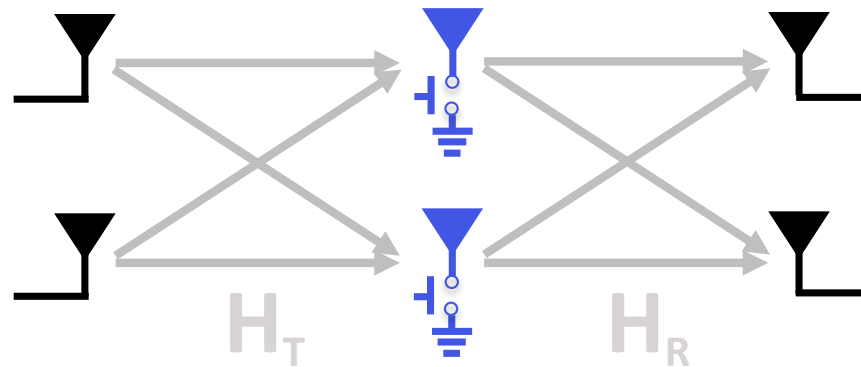
# Eliminate Post-scatter Channel



$H_T$  can be eliminated by using reference symbols

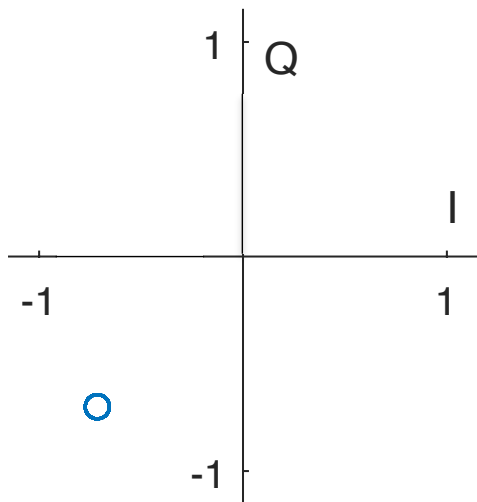


# Decode Backscatter Data



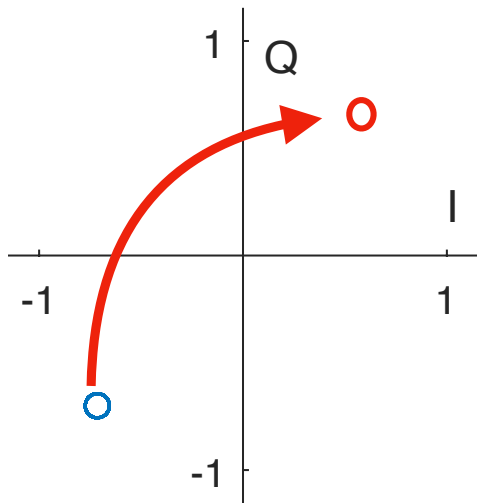
Decode by using maximum likelihood estimation

# Example of Demodulation Stages



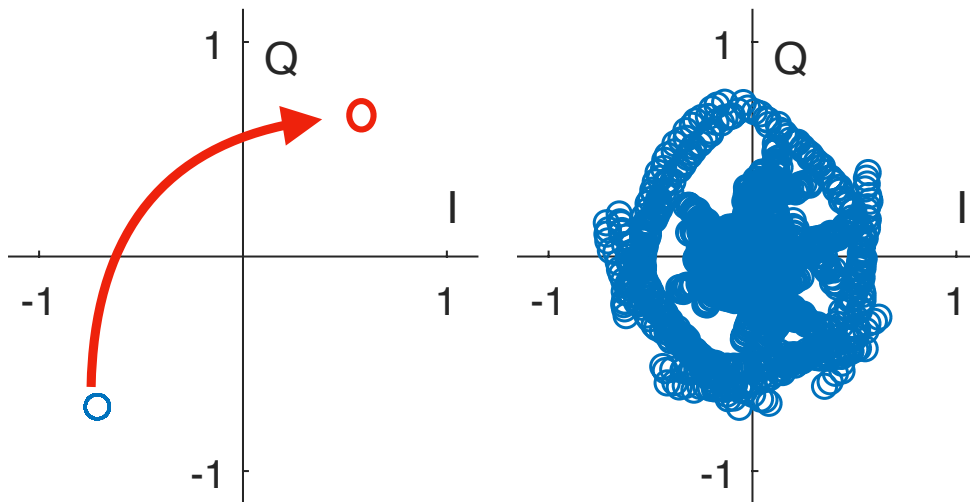
(a) Expected signal shifted by  $\pi$

# Example of Demodulation Stages



(a) Expected signal shifted by  $\pi$

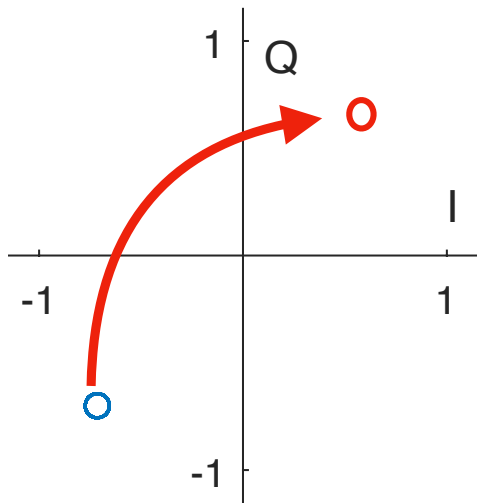
# Example of Demodulation Stages



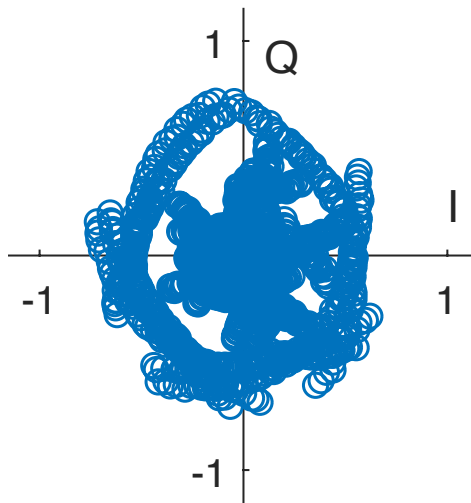
(a) Expected signal shifted by  $\pi$

(b) Received Signal

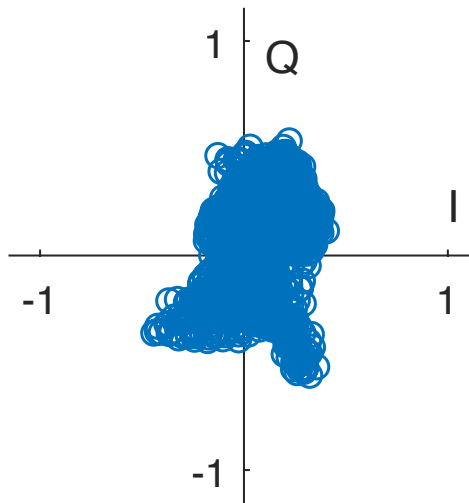
# Example of Demodulation Stages



(a) Expected signal shifted by  $\pi$



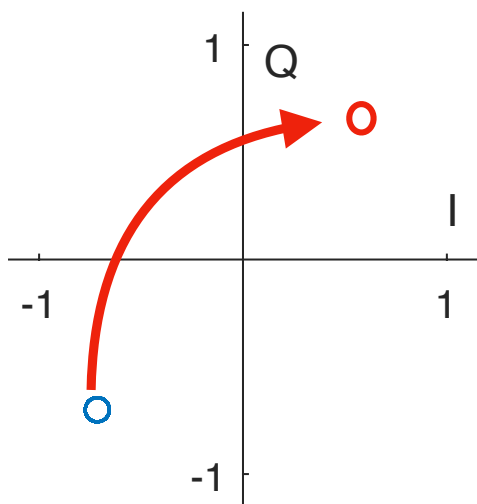
(b) Received Signal



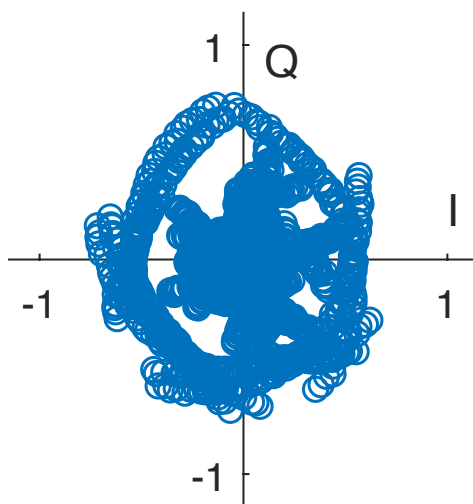
(c) Equalized Signal (H<sub>R</sub> Eliminated)



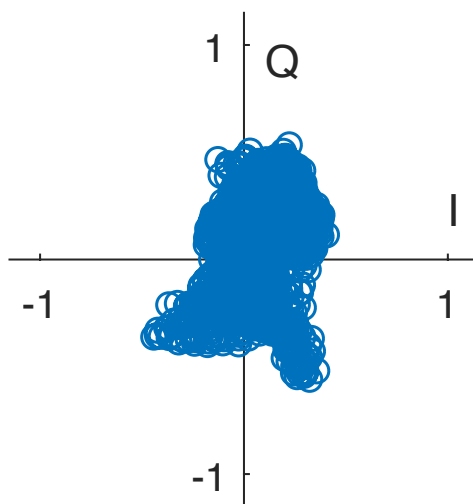
# Example of Demodulation Stages



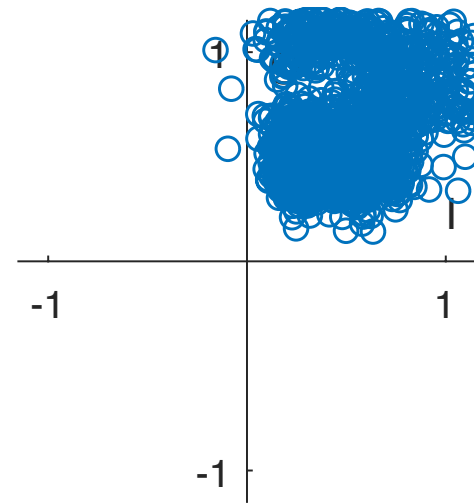
(a) Expected signal shifted by  $\pi$



(b) Received Signal

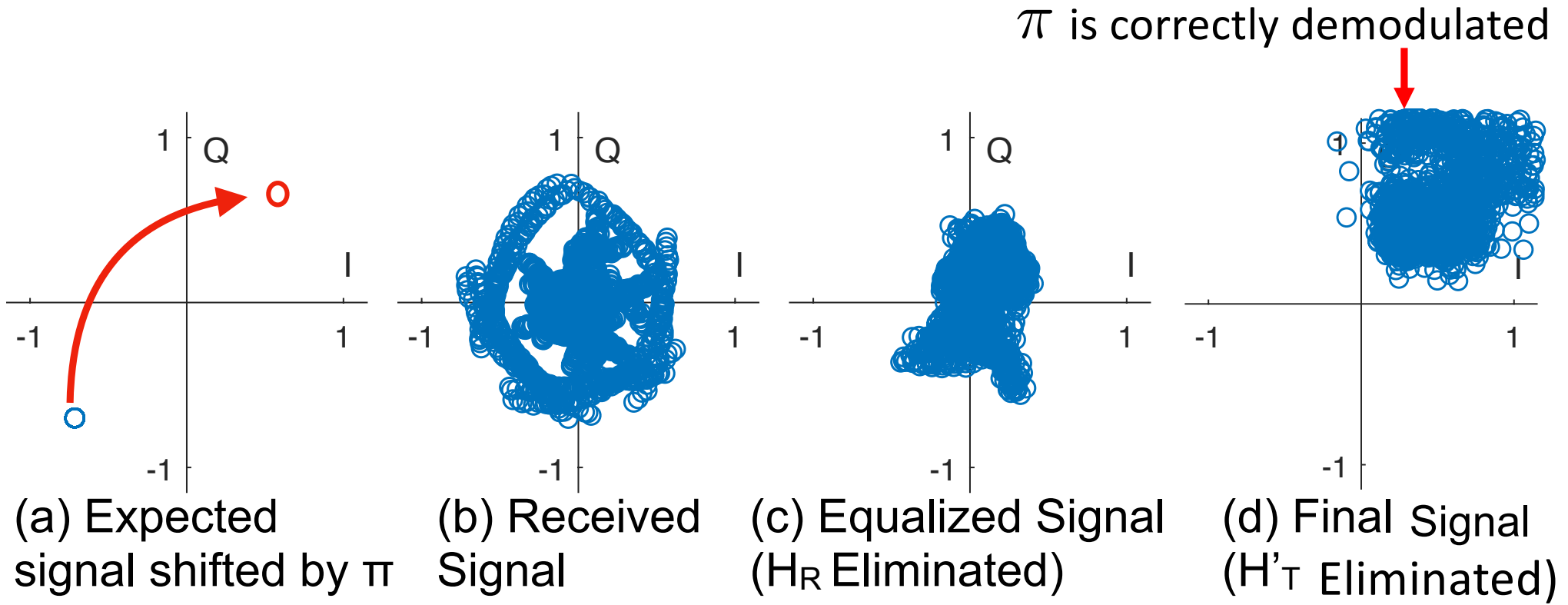


(c) Equalized Signal ( $H_R$  Eliminated)



(d) Final Signal ( $H'_T$  Eliminated)

# Example of Demodulation Stages





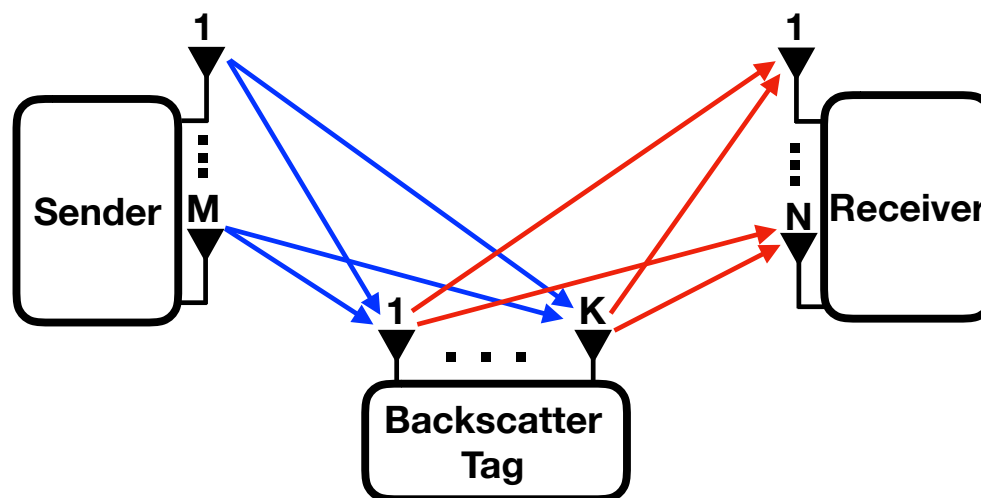
# Outline

1. Modulation
2. Demodulation
- 3. Extend to  $M \times K \times N$**
4. Evaluation



# Extend to $M \times K \times N$

$$K=2 \quad \Gamma(\theta_a, \theta_b) = \begin{bmatrix} e^{j\theta_a} & e^{j\theta_b} \\ -e^{-j\theta_b} & e^{-j\theta_a} \end{bmatrix}$$



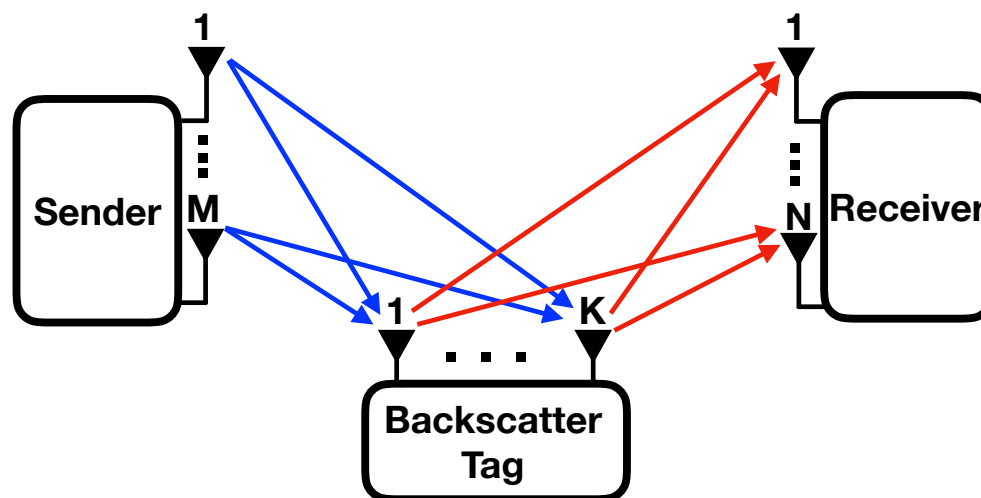


# Extend to $M \times K \times N$

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$$K=2^2 \quad \Gamma(\theta_a, \theta_b, \theta_c, \theta_d) = \begin{bmatrix} \Gamma(\theta_a, \theta_b) & \Gamma(\theta_c, \theta_d) \\ -\Gamma^*(\theta_c, \theta_d) & \Gamma^*(\theta_a, \theta_b) \end{bmatrix}$$





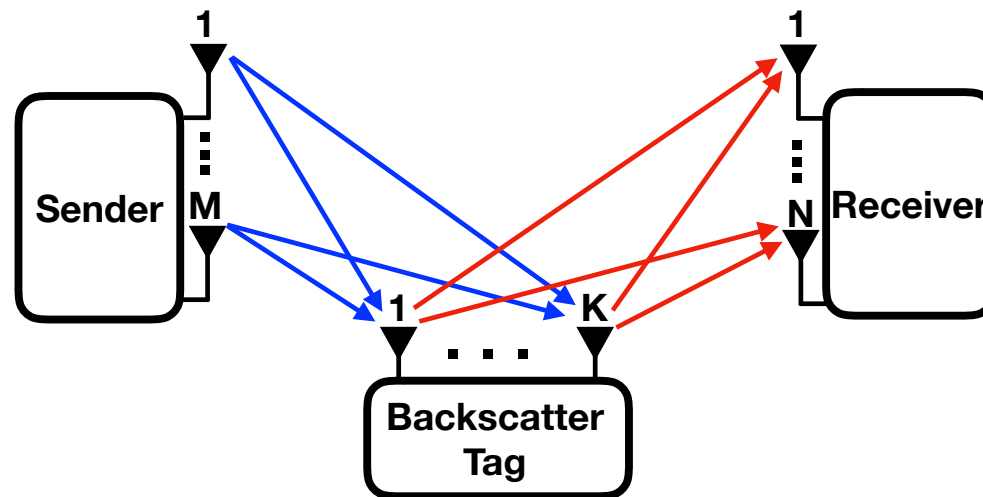
# Extend to $M \times K \times N$

$$K=2 \quad \Gamma(\theta_a, \theta_b) = \begin{bmatrix} e^{j\theta_a} & e^{j\theta_b} \\ -e^{-j\theta_b} & e^{-j\theta_a} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\downarrow$$
$$K=2^2 \quad \Gamma(\theta_a, \theta_b, \theta_c, \theta_d) = \begin{bmatrix} \Gamma(\theta_a, \theta_b) & \Gamma(\theta_c, \theta_d) \\ -\Gamma^*(\theta_c, \theta_d) & \Gamma^*(\theta_a, \theta_b) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\downarrow$$
$$K=2^n \quad \Gamma(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_K) = \begin{bmatrix} \Gamma(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_{\frac{K}{2}}) & \Gamma(\theta_{1+\frac{K}{2}}, \dots, \theta_K) \\ -\Gamma^*(\theta_{1+\frac{K}{2}}, \dots, \theta_K) & \Gamma^*(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_{\frac{K}{2}}) \end{bmatrix}$$

Our design is  
**generic**





# Outline

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# Experiment Setup

Sender: A B210 USRP + 2 Antennas

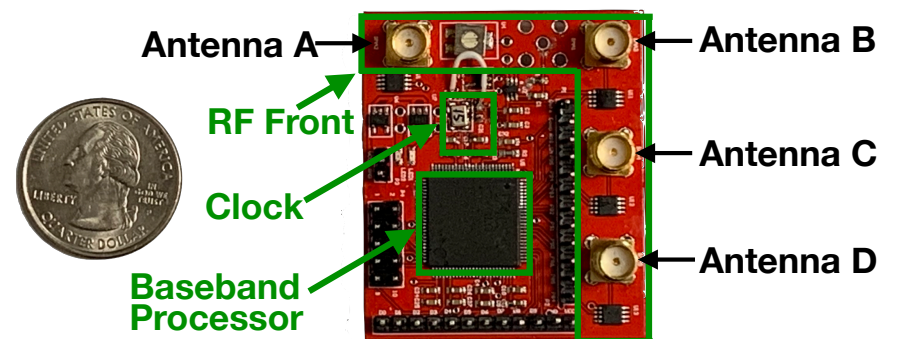
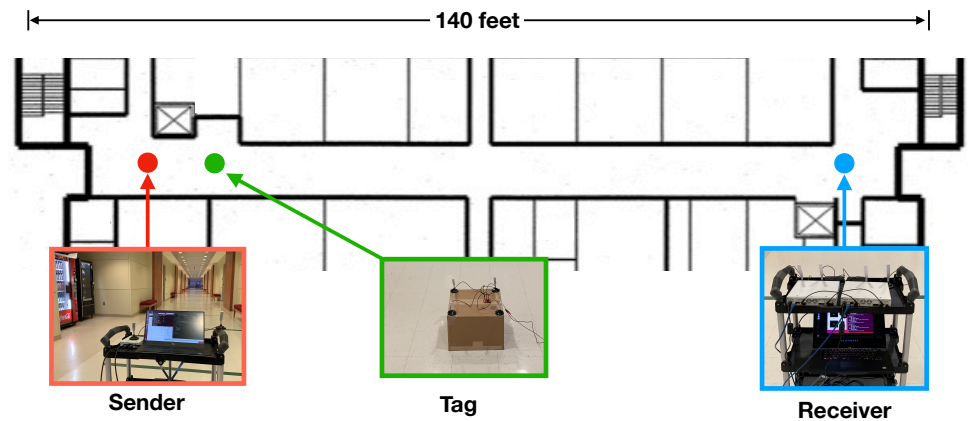
Receiver: Two X310 USRPs + 4 Antennas

Tag: Low power FPGA + 4 Antennas

Support  $2 \times 4 \times 4$  MIMO

Real-world scenarios:

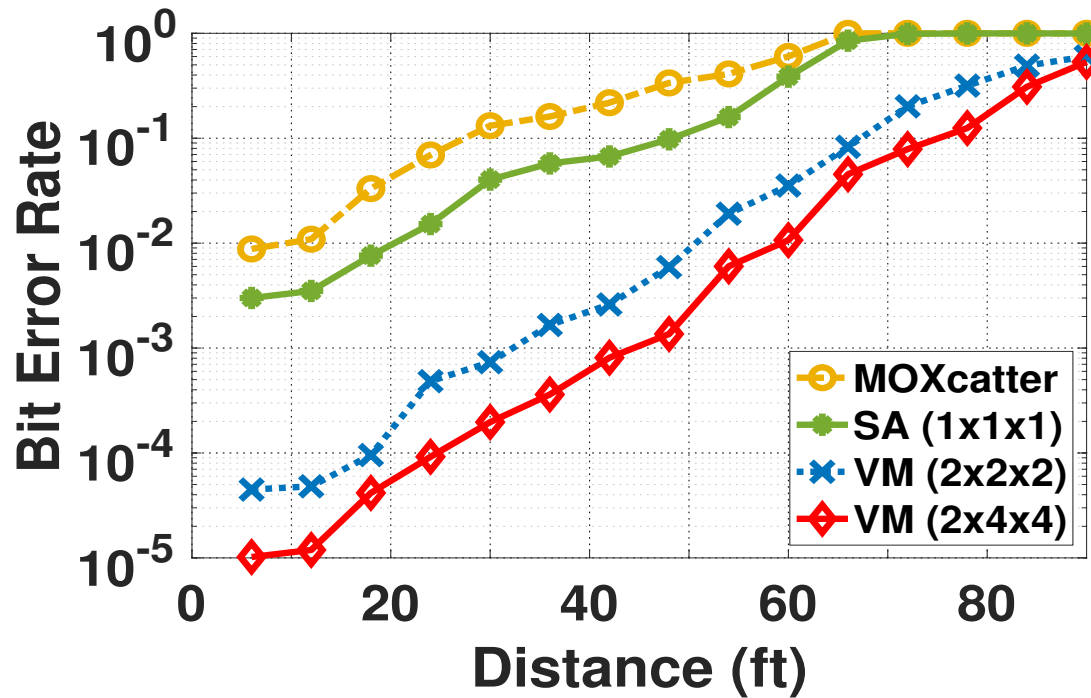
1. SIMO and MIMO
2. BER, PRR, and throughput
3. Sender-to-tag distance, tag-to-receiver distance, and sender-to-receiver distance
4. SNR, packet length, oscillator accuracy







# BER

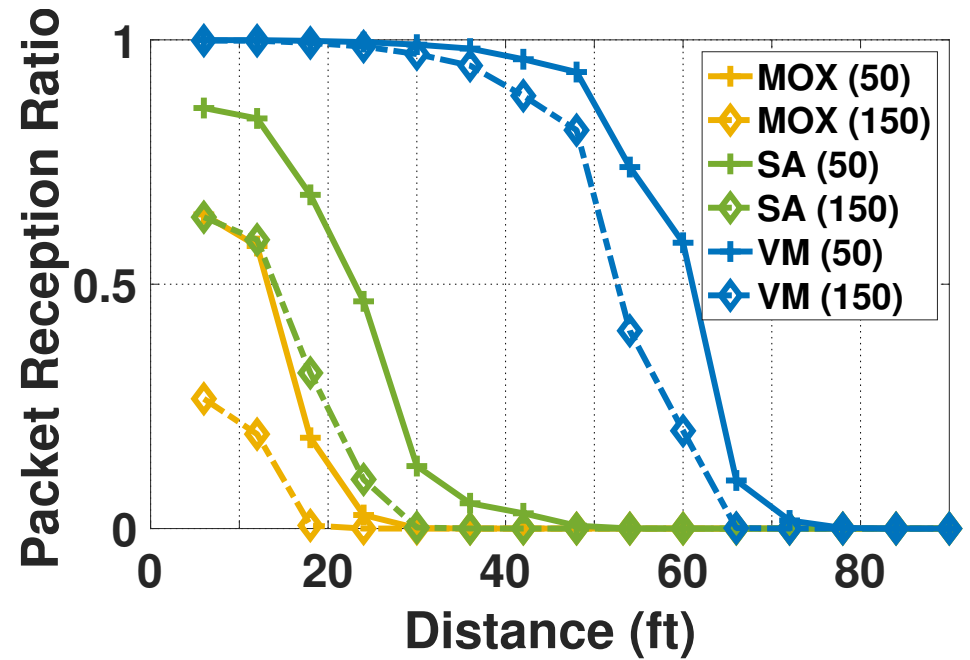
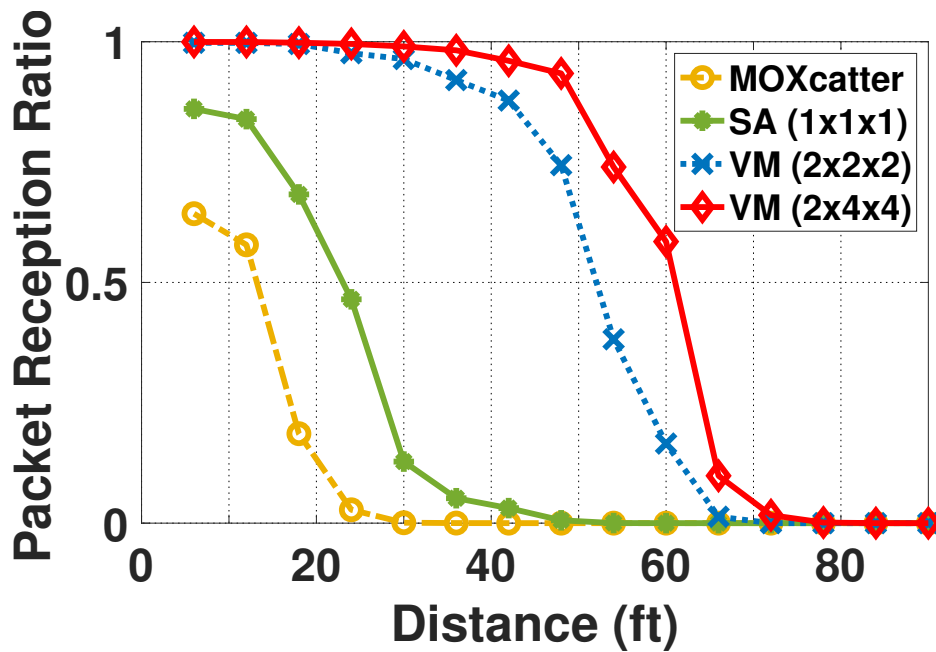


System	MOXcatter	VMscatter
	MIMO	MIMO
BER	0.0095	0.000011

BER is reduced by a factor of **862**



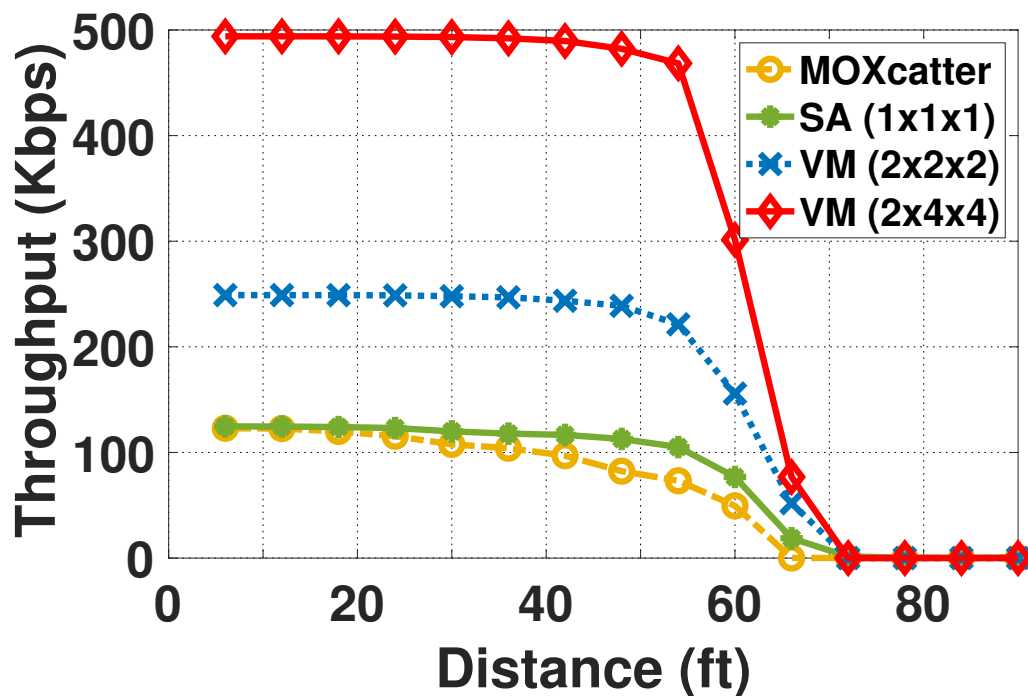
# Packet Reception Ratio



VMscatter is more **reliable**



# Throughput



The throughput of VMscatter with four antennas is around 4 times as high as that of related work



# Conclusion

- The first versatile MIMO backscatter system
- Address special design challenges
- A generic design
- Build a hardware platform
- Extensively evaluated under multiple real-world scenarios