



# GNSS in Urban Areas – Benefits and Limits of Collaborative Positioning

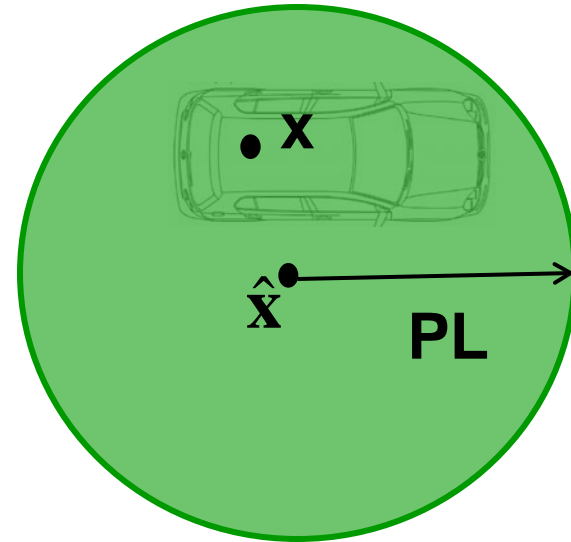
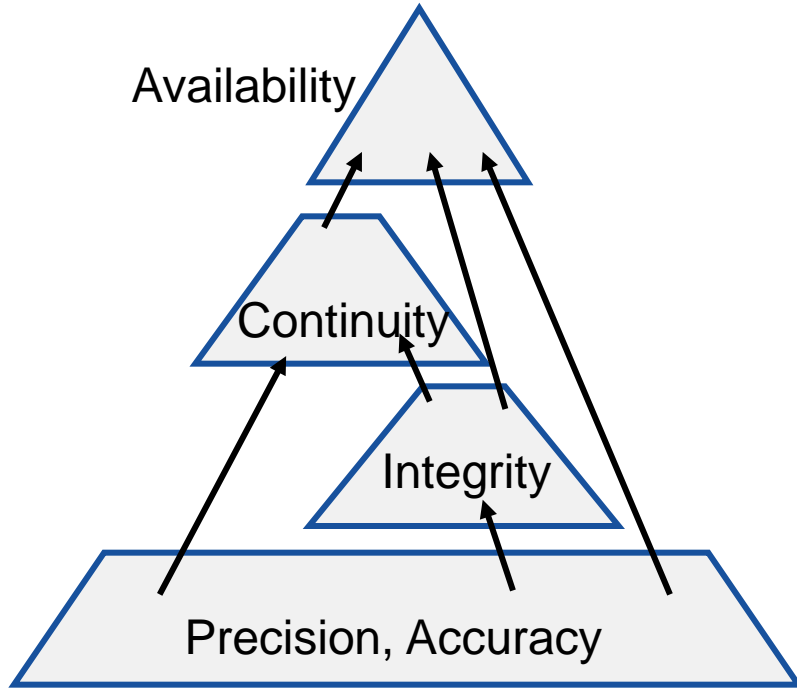
**Steffen Schön**  
Institut für Erdmessung, Leibniz Universität Hannover

# Demanding Navigation Applications



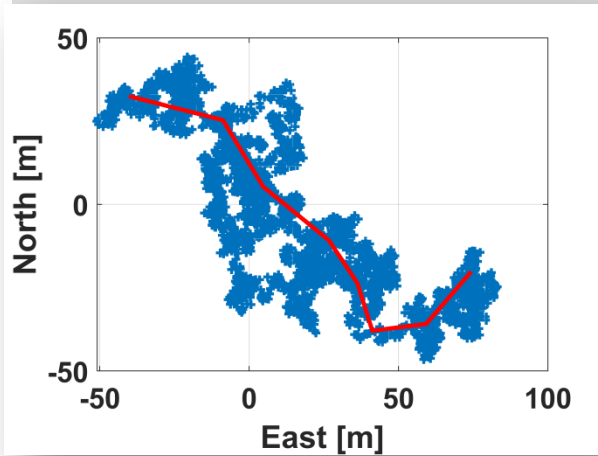
EP1603781B1; Google, telematics magazine, P.Birnes Pexels, E.Rames, Pexels

# Navigation Performance Parameters

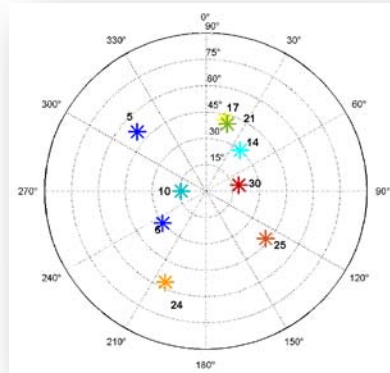


Need to trust the navigation solution

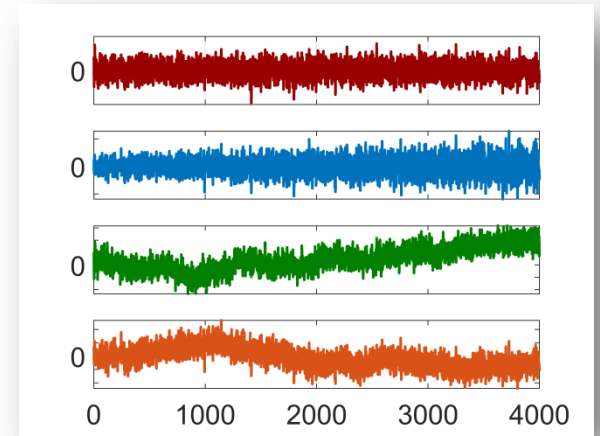
# Quality of Positioning



Quality of positioning



Navigation Geometry (DOP)

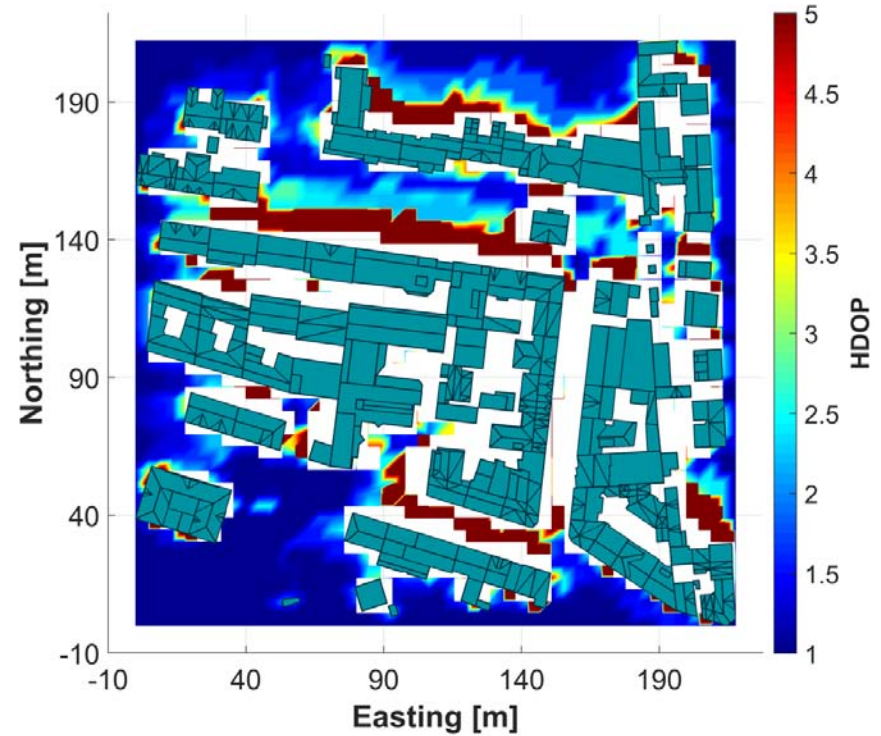
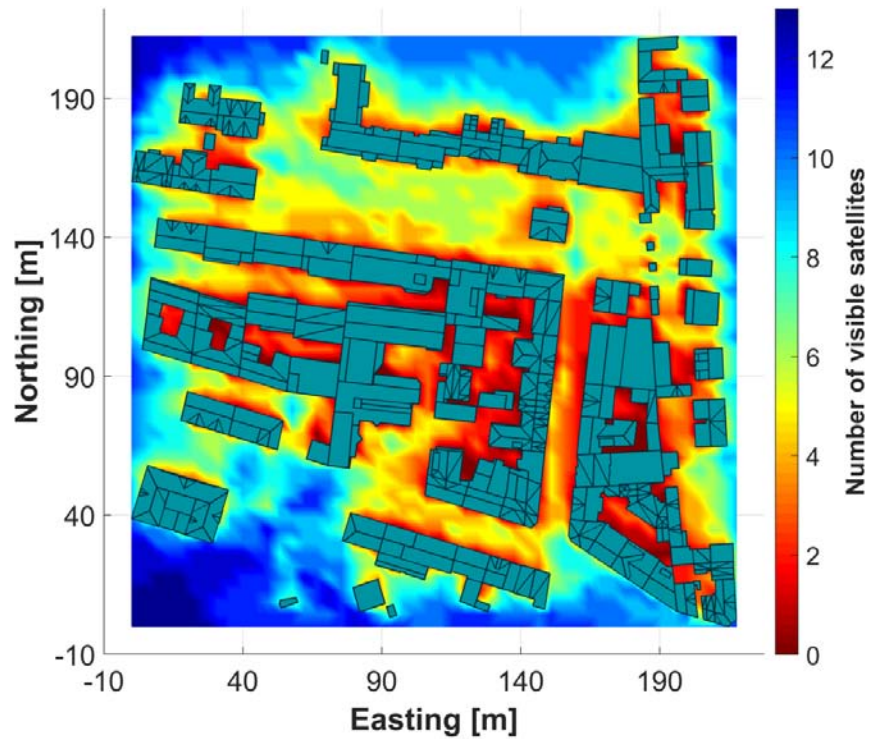


Quality of observations

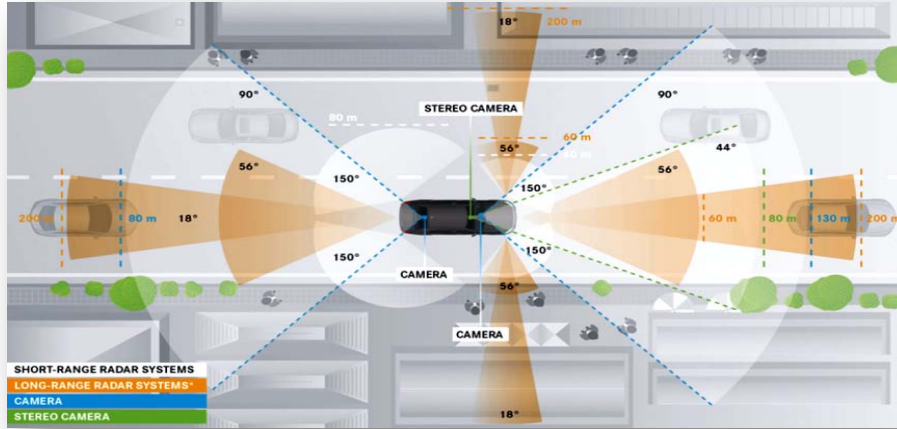
# Urban Area: Example Hannover



# GNSS in Urban Areas



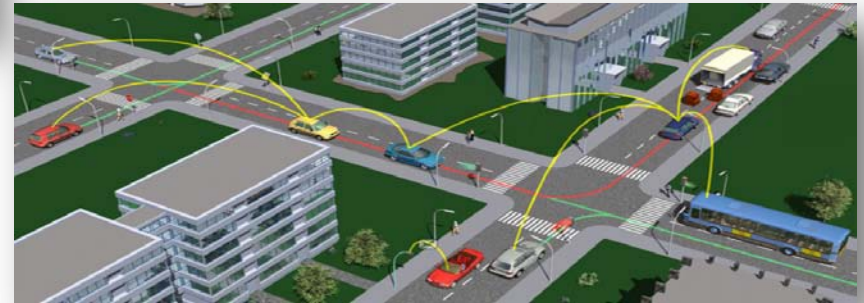
# Collaboration – A Solution ?



Combination of various sensors  
at one platform

IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Magazine,  
Vol. 6, No. 2, pp. 8-20, 2014; [www.car-2-car.org](http://www.car-2-car.org)

Fusion of various nodes into  
one dynamic network solution



# Possibilities of Improvement

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- Strengthening the geometry of navigation
- Reducing systematic errors (Integrity, outlier detection)

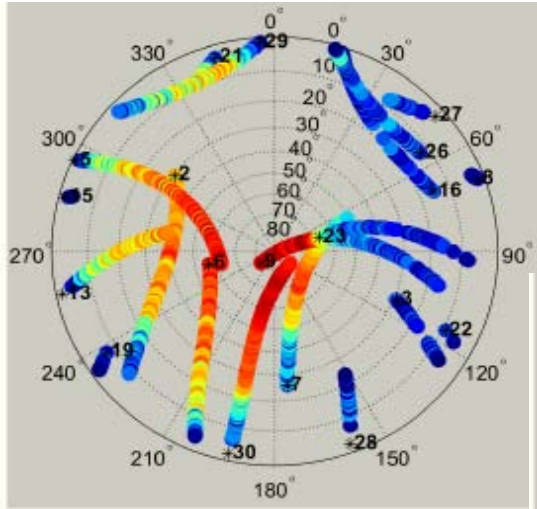
More  
satellites

Adequate  
sensors

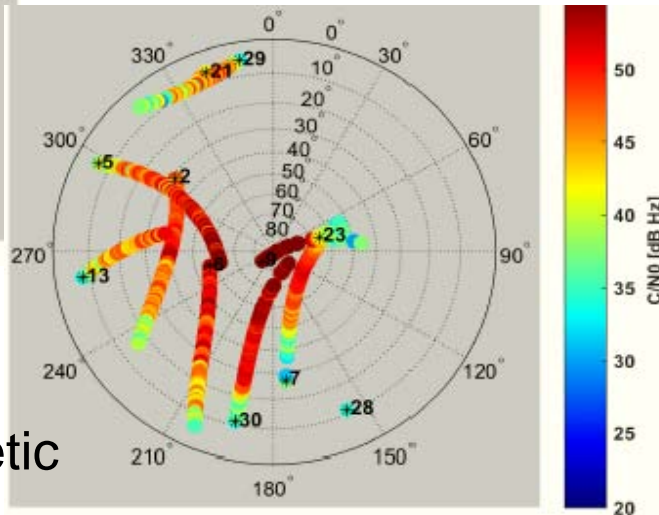
More  
observations

Dynamic  
network

# High Sensitivity GPS in Urban Areas



High sensitivity

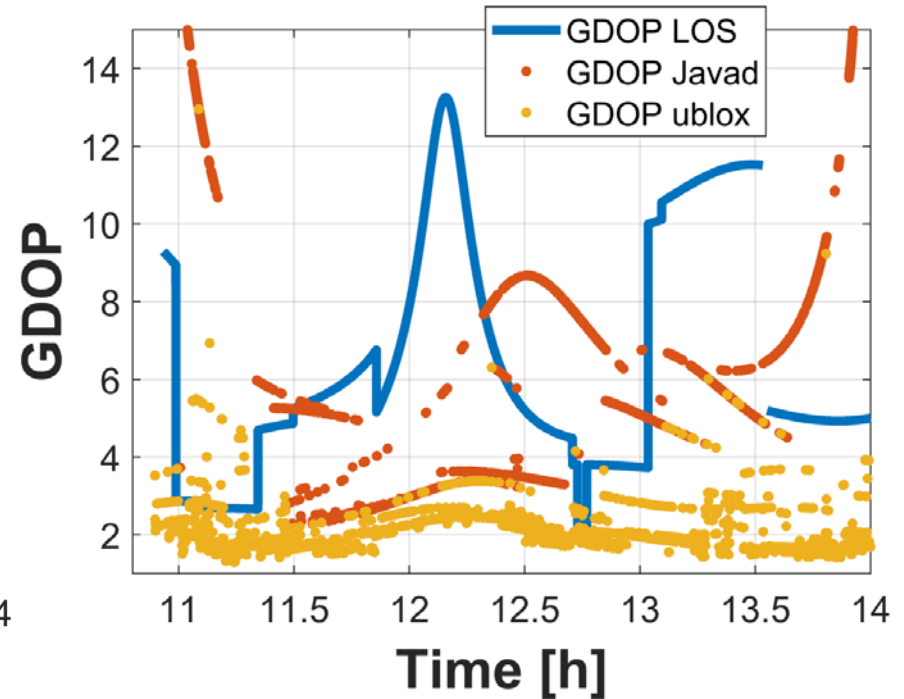
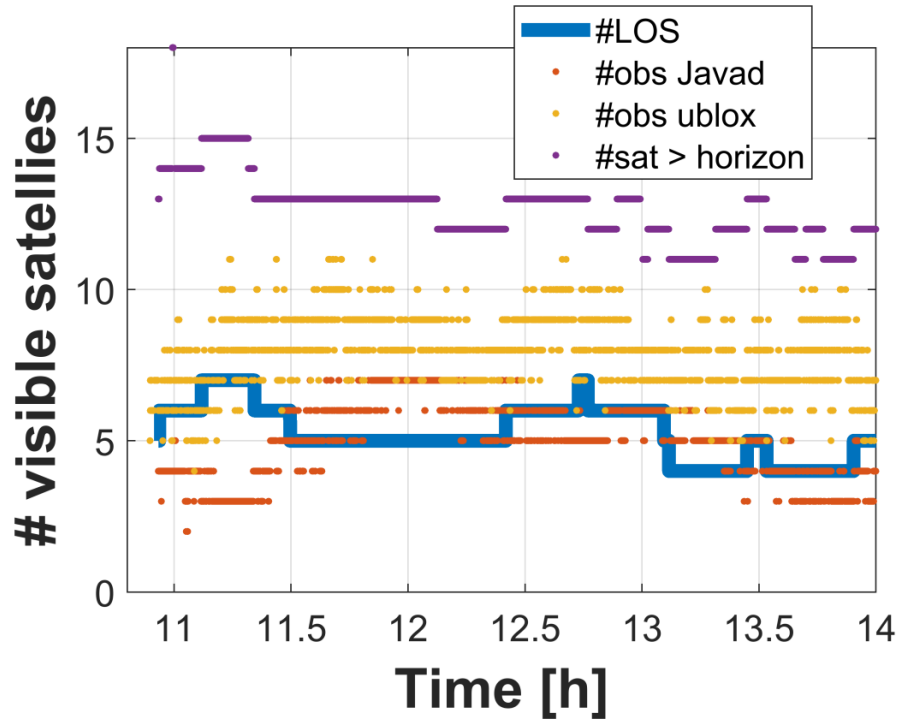


Geodetic



BA J. Hartmann  
Orthophoto Stadt Hannover

# High Sensitivity GPS in Urban Areas



Signals available but biased

# Possibilities of Improvement

---

- Strengthening the geometry of navigation
- Reducing systematic errors (Integrity, outlier detection)

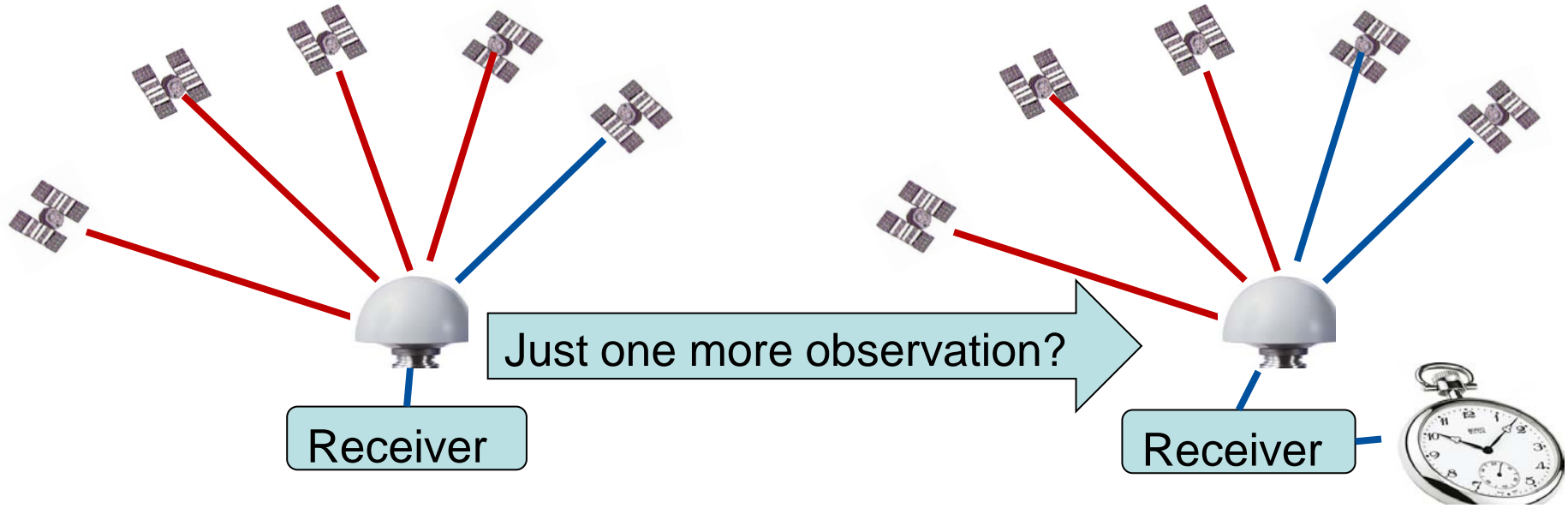
More  
satellites

Adequate  
sensors

More  
observations

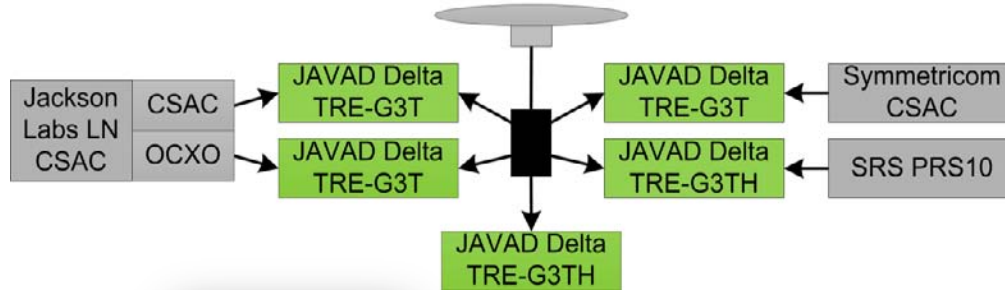
Dynamic  
network

# Fusing GNSS with Chip Scaled Atomic Clocks



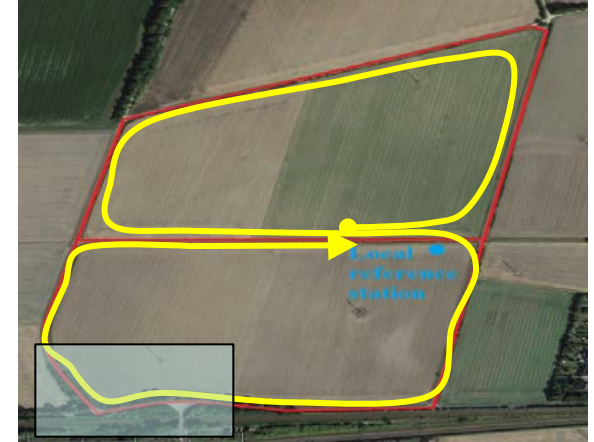
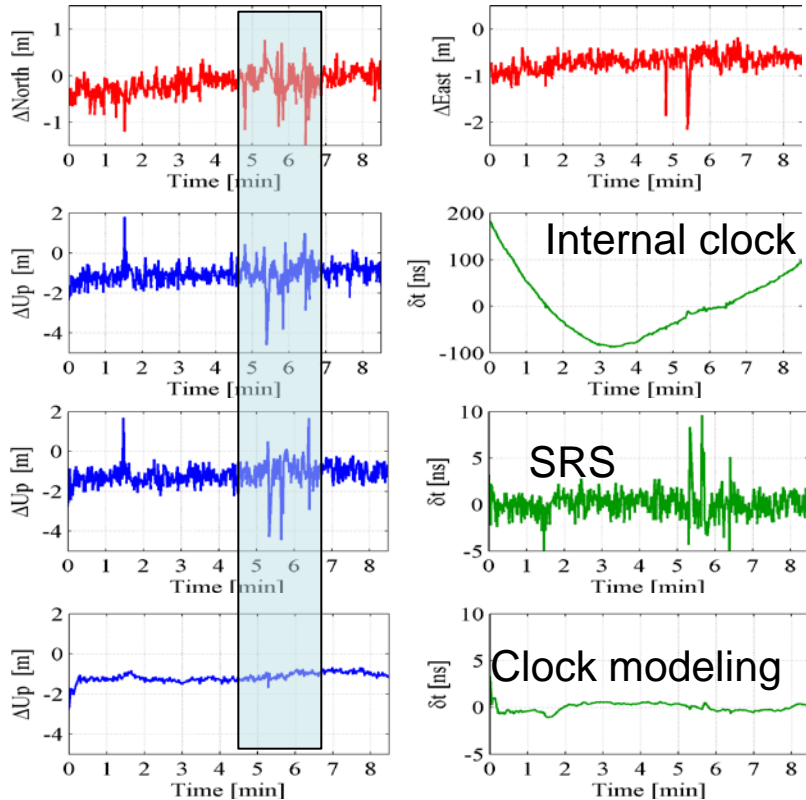
**Different geometry,  
Different temporal parameter resolution feasible**

# Collaboration GPS + Atomic Clock



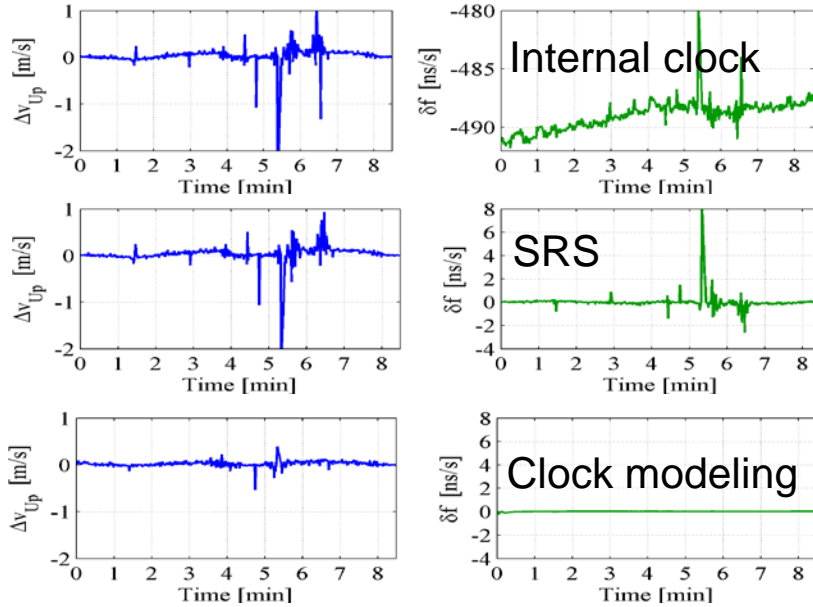
- Krawinkel/Schön (2014,2016) ION GNSS
- Krawinkel/Schön (2016) GPS Sol
- Krawinkel/Schön (2016) GPS World
- Krawinkel/Schön (2018) ION GNSS
- Krawinkel/Schön (2018) ESA Navitec
- Krawinkel (2018) PhD Dissertation

# Collaboration GPS + Atomic Clock: Position



- Smoother height coordinates (50% improvement)
- Reduction of outliers
- Remaining offsets due to orbit, ionosphere

# Velocity

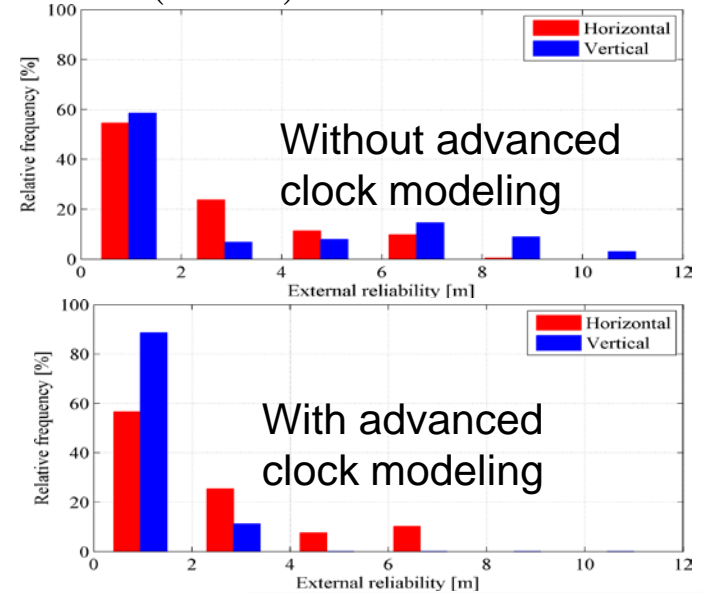


**Improved velocity  
(up to 60% in RMS, 60% in std)**

# Reliability

Impact of gross errors on parameters

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{x}_i} = (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{P} \mathbf{A})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{P} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{y}_i = \mathbf{K} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{y}_i$$



**Results more robust**



# Possibilities of Improvement

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- Strengthening the geometry of navigation
- Reducing systematic errors (Integrity, outlier detection)

More  
satellites

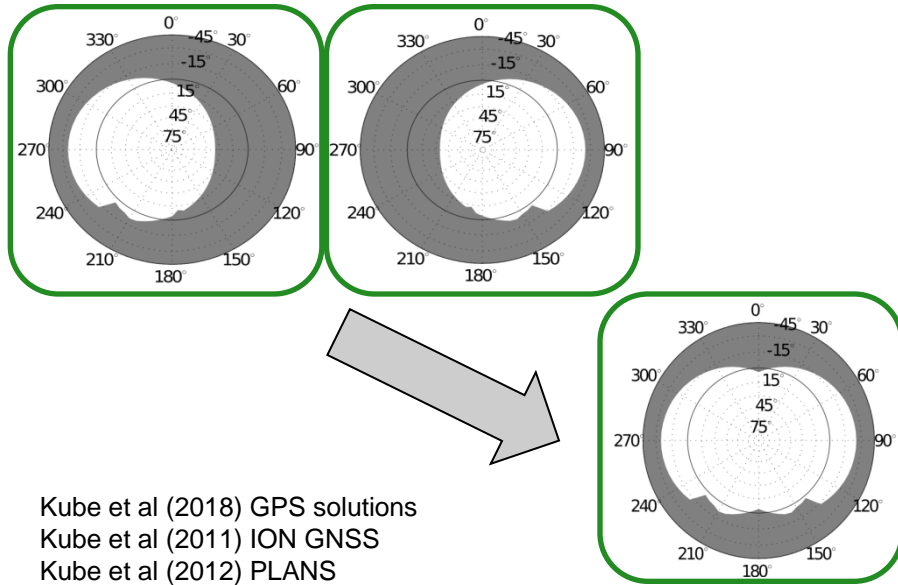
Adequate  
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More  
observations

Dynamic  
network

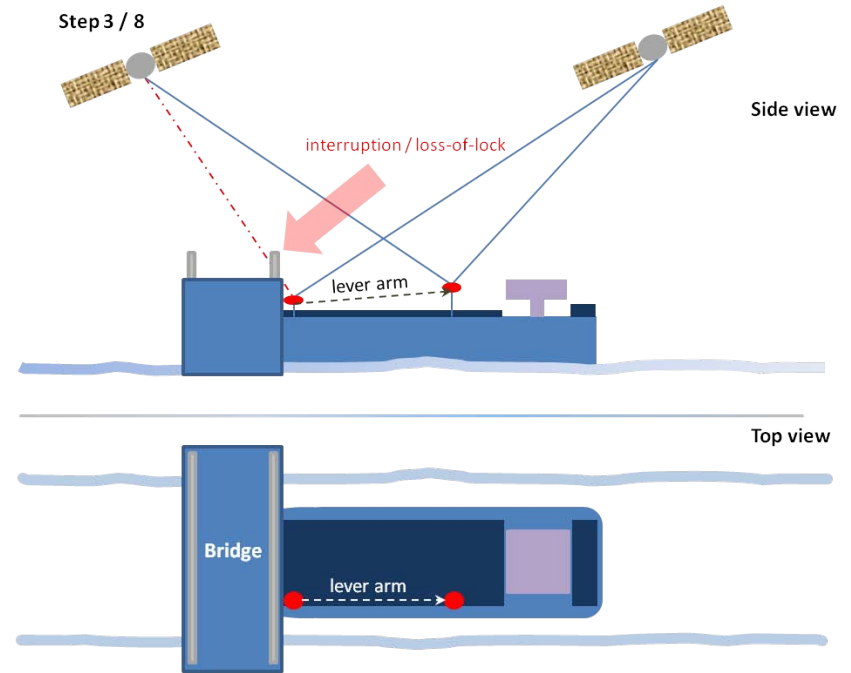
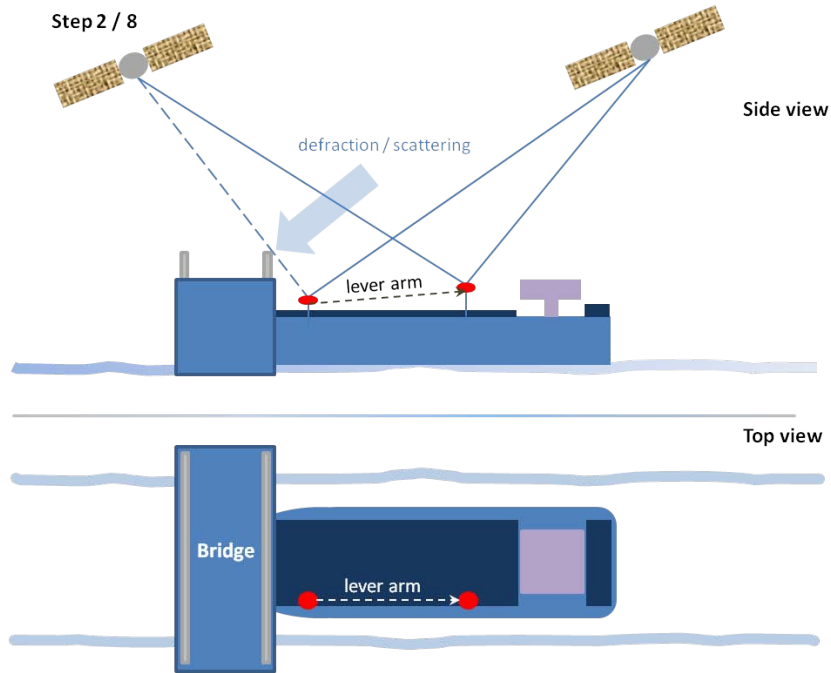
# Fusing Multiple GPS Antennas: Virtual Receiver

- Combining observations from optimally installed antennas in one platform solution



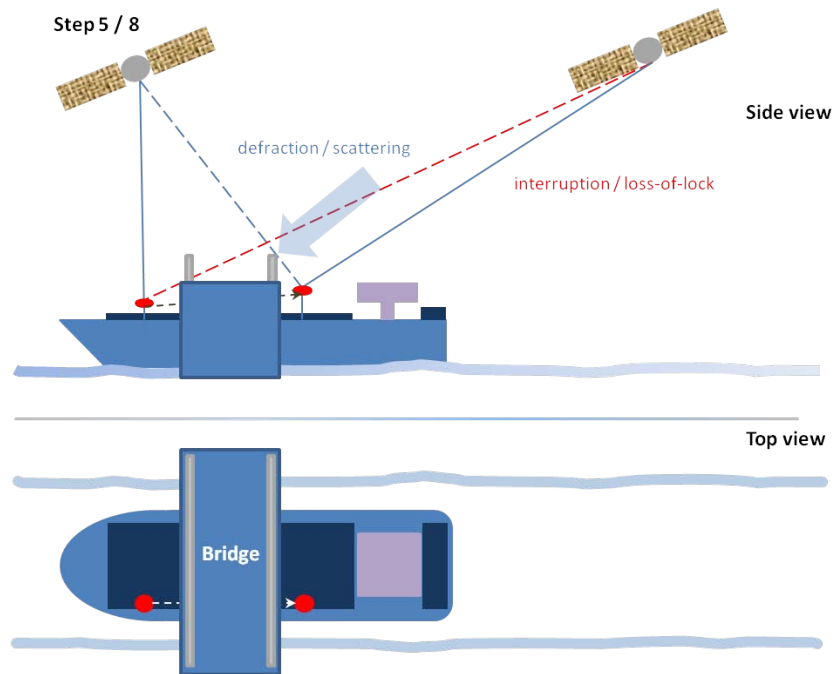
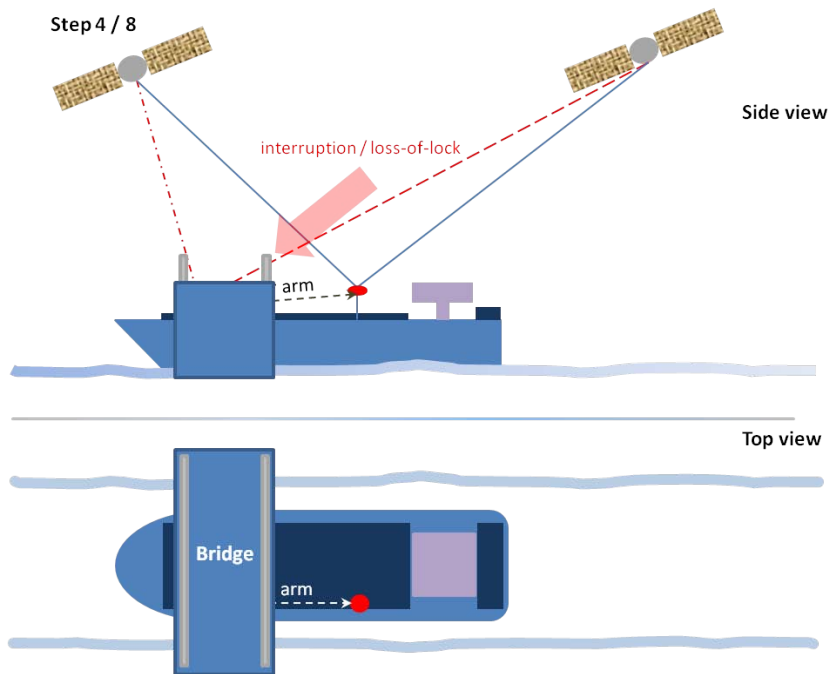
- Improved coverage
- But full attitude needed

# Virtual Receiver: Bridge Crossing



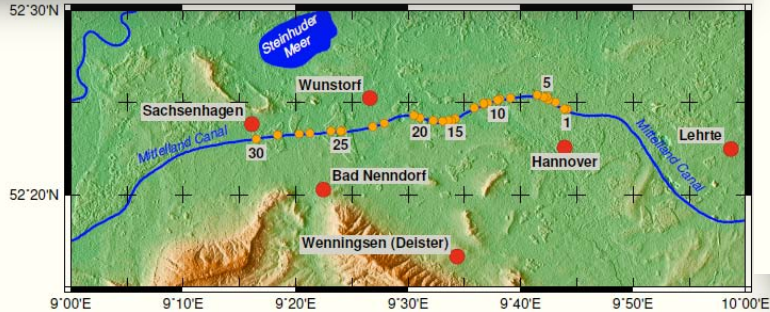
Kersten et al (2018) DGON PosNav  
Kersten et al (2018) ESA Navitec

# Virtual Receiver: Bridge Crossing



Kersten et al (2018) DGON PosNav  
Kersten et al (2018) ESA Navitec

# Virtual Receiver: Bridge Crossing

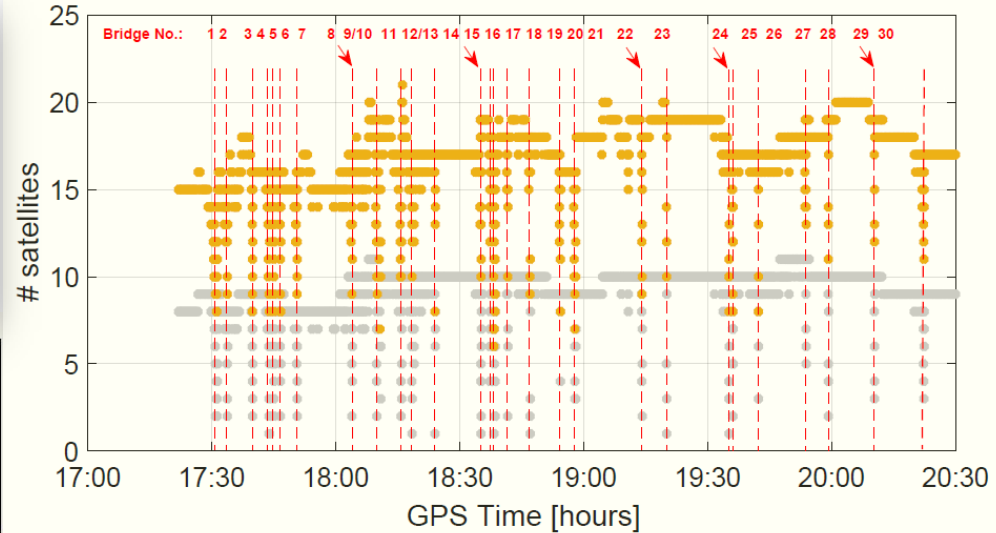


## Legend

- Cities and Villages
- Bridge over Canal



Kersten et al. (2018)

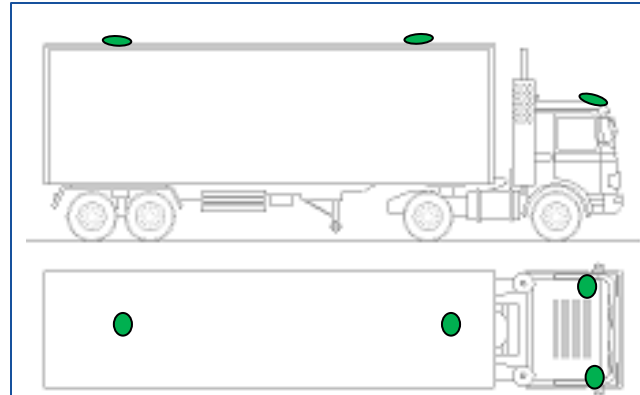
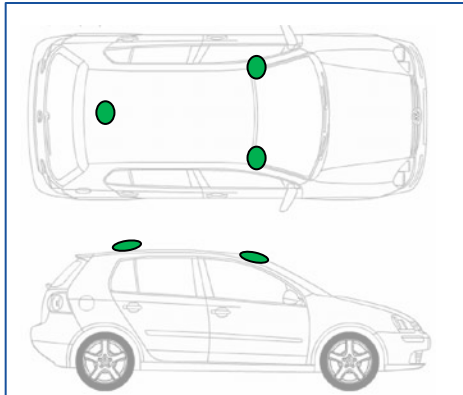


● mean/min/max (SA): 9.3 / 1 / 11    ● mean/min/max (VR): 17.1 / 6 / 21

Kersten et al (2018) DGON PosNav  
Kersten et al (2018) ESA Navitec

# Virtual receiver in urban areas ?

- Extended field of view ?
- Variability w.r.t multipath (carrier phase)



**From theory: all navigation parameters are improved, except accuracy**  
**Open question: strengthened geometry vs more biases**

# Possibilities of Improvement

---

- Strengthening the geometry of navigation
- Reducing systematic errors (Integrity, outlier detection)

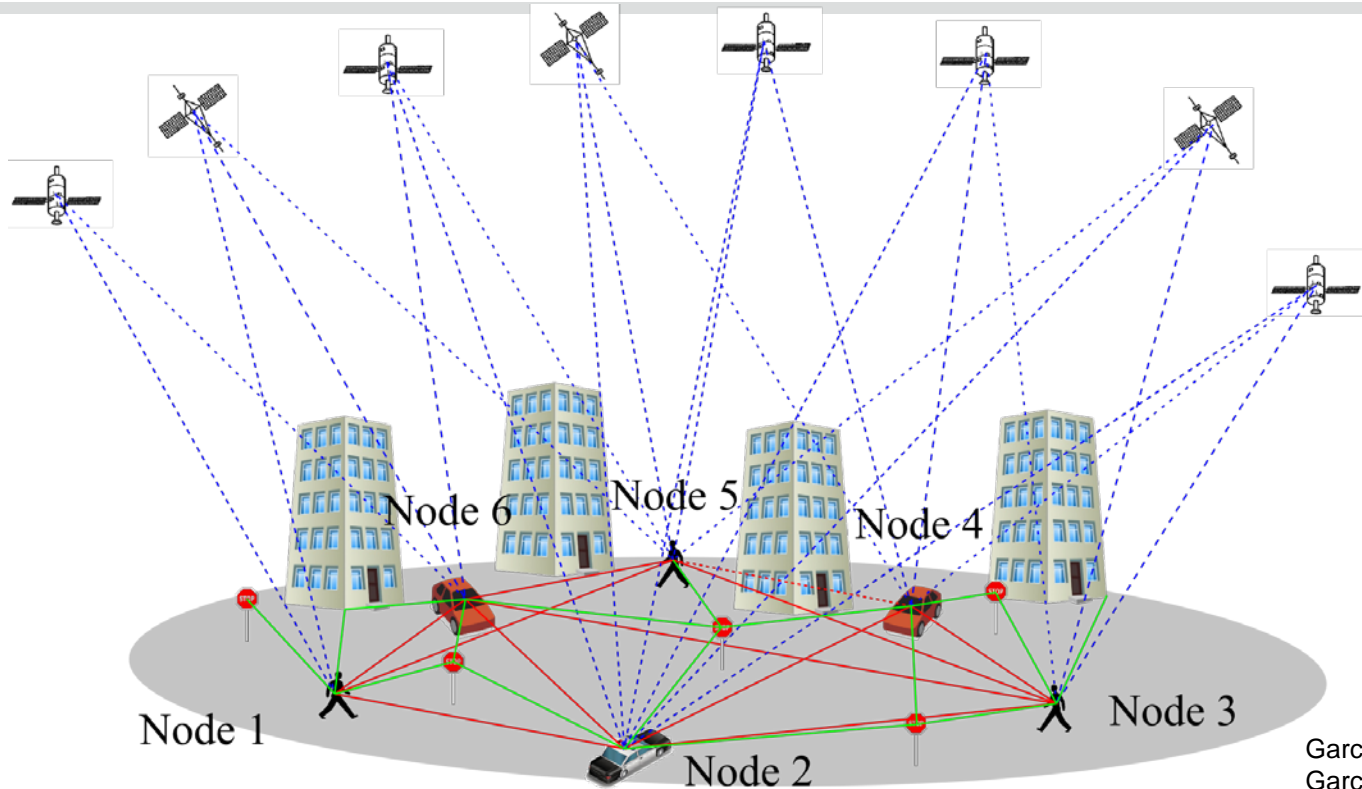
More  
satellites

Adequate  
sensors

More  
observations

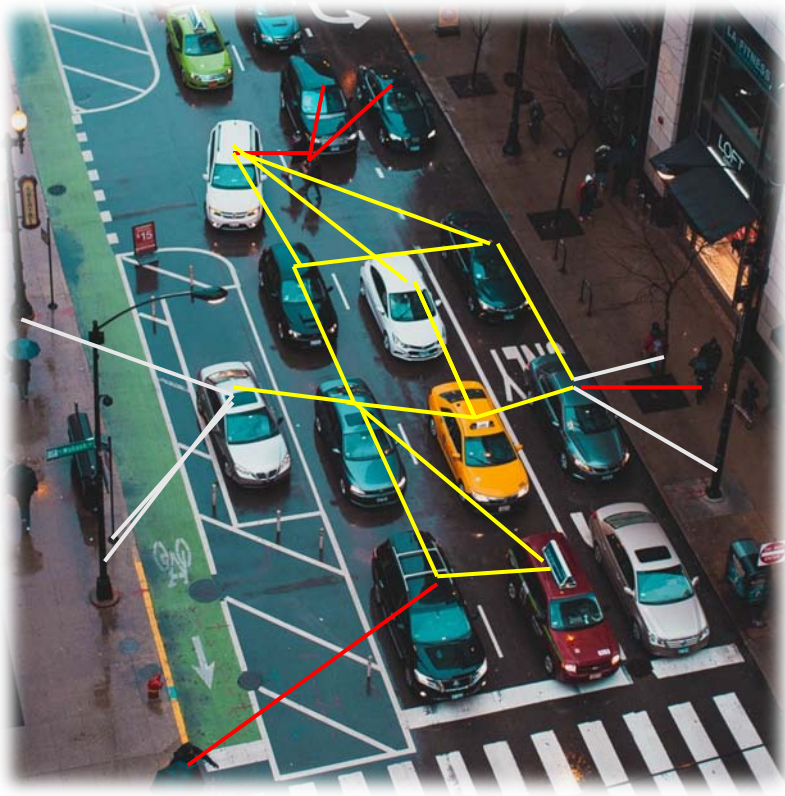
Dynamic  
network

# Collaboration in a Dynamic Network



Garcia-Fernandez/Schön (2017) WPNC  
Garcia-Fernandez/Schön (2018) PLANS  
Garcia-Fernandez/Schön (2019) ION

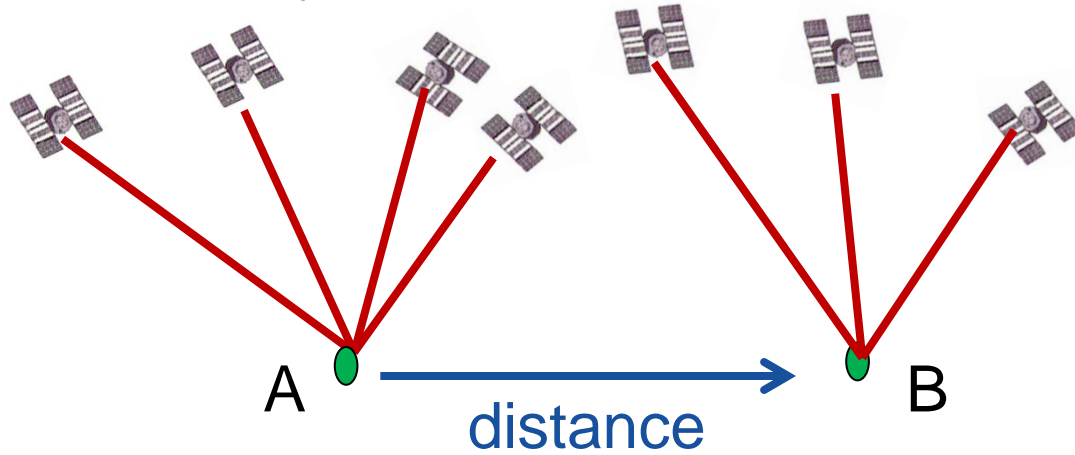
# Collaboration in a Dynamic Network



- Dynamic network
- High redundancy
- Improved positioning

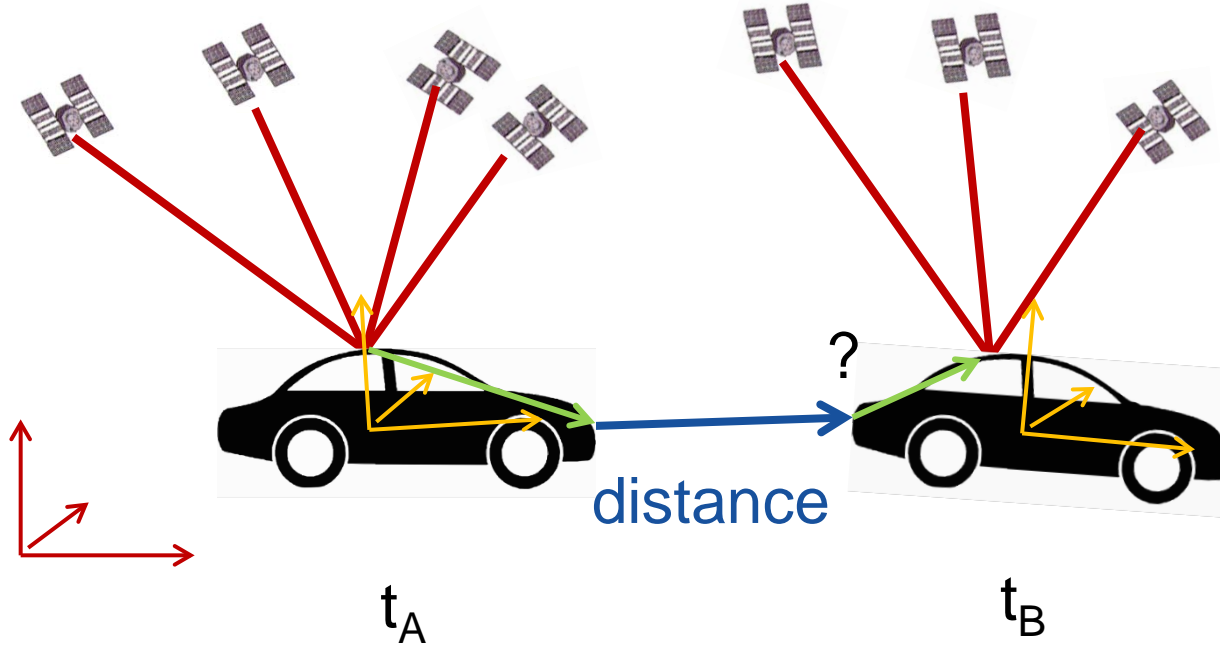
# Collaboration in a Dynamic Network

- Urban Canyon



# Collaboration in a Dynamic Network

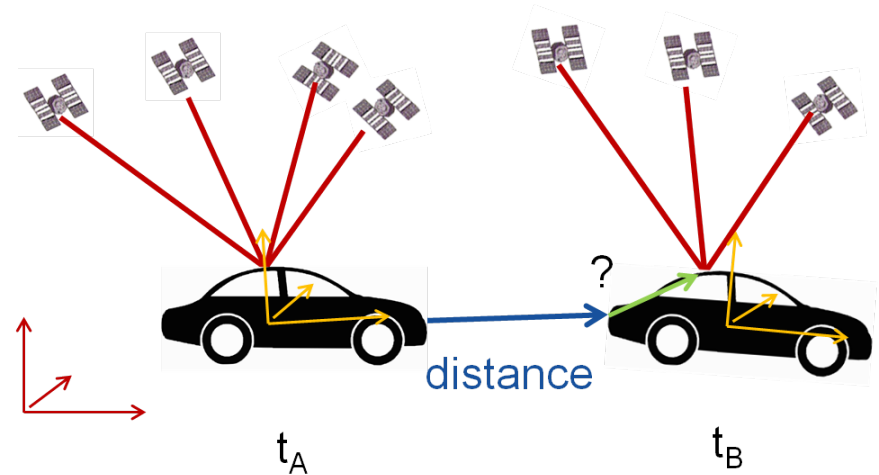
- Urban Canyon



Coenen (2018)

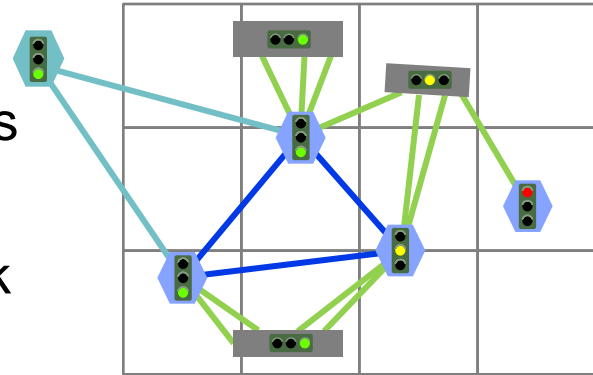
# Collaboration in a Dynamic Network

- Access to a common frame
- 3D pose needed
- Identification of target point
- Link in body frame
- Common observation epoch ?
- ...



# Conclusions

- Collaboration is beneficial
- Virtual receiver and combination with atomic clocks are alternative concepts of collaboration
- Lever arms, attitude and time synchronisation play key role in multi-sensor multi node systems
- Adding integrity to such systems is a future task





Schön S, Brenner C et al. (2018) Integrity and Collaboration in Dynamic Sensor Networks. *Sensors* (Basel, Switzerland). 2018;18(7):2400. doi:10.3390/s18072400.

**New openings:** DFG RTG 2159:

[www.icsens.uni-hannover.de/application.html?&L=1](http://www.icsens.uni-hannover.de/application.html?&L=1)

