

Toughening GPS Receivers Against Interference Ensuring Signal Reception in Spectrally Busy Environments

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Rockwell Collins GPS Heritage and Resilient PNT Context



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- Produced the First US DOD User Equipment
- Over 35 Years of Innovative Military and Commercial GPS Research & Development
- Over 900,000 Military GPS Receivers Delivered
 - At the forefront of SAASM GPS delivery across the entire military marketplace (>700k delivered)
 - Handhelds, embedded modules, high anti-jam (AJ) systems
- Leader in commercial aviation GPS
 - Multi-Mode Receiver for Air Transport certified for GBAS CAT-I
 - GPS/WAAS for Business and Regional
- Resilient PNT context
 - Military GPS UE have incorporated AJ capabilities from the earliest days ranging from low-end techniques to high-end adaptive antenna arrays
 - High AJ Digital Beam Former (DBF) GPS systems in high-volume production for military applications, especially for weapon systems

How can military AJ technology be applied to commercial uses and what are the impediments?

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Context of GPS Denial and Utility of Current Solutions

- Adaptive array technologies for vehicles & airborne
- Adaptive signal processing for low SWAP applications



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Military GPS Receivers & Anti-Jam Protection





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GPS AJ Solution Effectiveness & Relative Cost



Assumes 100W EIRP and free space propagation; actual performance depends on number and type of jammers

Effective against all jammer types

Effective against only specific jammer types

- Adaptive nulling does not require inertial attitude input, but may result in distorted measurements
- Digital Beam Forming techniques require inertial attitude for beam steering but are compatible with high accuracy positioning techniques
 - Spatial Adaptive Processing (SAP)
 - Space-Time Adaptive Processing (STAP)
 - Space-Frequency Adaptive Processing (SFAP)
- Also provides multipath mitigation
- Inertially-aided and vector tracking loops provide modest AJ but complement adaptive array techniques
- Digital Signal Processing (DSP) such as adaptive notch filters are highly effective against narrow band jammers
- Adaptive threshold A/D converter techniques are effective against narrowband interference and pulses

Adaptive antenna array techniques
provide most effective anti-jam



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Discussion

- Technology maturity
 - DBF AJ technology is proven and is compatible with high accuracy/integrity applications (e.g. as demonstrated by JPALS flight trials)
 - DBF technology could be of benefit to critical infrastructure (e.g., GBAS ground stations, timing, survey)
- Costs
 - Integration of adaptive arrays costs onto existing platforms dominate the costs
 - Unit cost of AJ is dropping, and may be a relatively small fraction of total PNT unit cost, so becomes particularly viable for new installations
- Roadblocks:
 - US ITAR restrictions-despite fact that adaptive array capabilities are now widely available (universities, etc.)
 - European Community has created an exception for AJ on civil aircraft
 - Users are unlikely to adopt absent some sort of mandate or clear economic rationale