

Article

Deceptive Targets Generation Simulation Against Multichannel SAR

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Received: 2 March 2020; Accepted: 28 March 2020; Published: 31 March 2020



Abstract: Traditional synthetic aperture radar (SAR) deceptive jamming can effectively generate deceptive scenes or false targets in SAR images. However, these false targets or scenes can be easily distinguished or eliminated by the multichannel SAR system. To interfere with the multichannel SAR, we first analyzed the results of SAR deceptive jamming generated by one transponder and two transponders against three-channel SAR- ground moving target indication (GMTI). Then, we propose a new deceptive jamming method against three-channel SAR-GMTI by using three synergetic transponders. By modulating each transponder with a complex coefficient, three synergetic transponders can generate false moving targets with the controllable radial velocity and located azimuth position in three-channel SAR-GMTI. Besides, in this paper, we also introduce an algorithm to deploy three transponders reasonably by utilizing the minimum condition number. In the end, a general architecture of multiple transponders deceiving multichannel SAR is given. The proposed method can not only generate deceptive false targets against multichannel SAR-GMTI, but also guide the production of a deceptive digital elevation model (DEM) against multichannel interferometric SAR (InSAR). Simulations verify the effectiveness of the proposed method.

Keywords: Synthetic aperture radar (SAR); ground moving target indication (GMTI); interferometric SAR (InSAR); deceptive jamming; multichannel SAR; multiple transponders

1. Introduction

Synthetic aperture radar (SAR) is a microwave imaging radar, offering high-resolution images sustainably, regardless of the time and the weather [1]. Thus, it is a good supplement to light imaging, widely used in civilization and military fields. Especially the usage in military, such as searching for intelligence information and carrying out battlefield surveillance, are huge threats to national security [2]. Since the first SAR image was acquired, many advanced SAR working modes have been developed. For example, the interferometric SAR (InSAR), employs two or more receiving channels to retrieve the terrain digital elevation model (DEM) of the ground surface [3,4]. In addition, SAR-ground moving target indication (SAR-GMTI), another SAR working mode, also utilizes two or more receiving channels to detect and image the moving targets by canceling the clutter and stationary targets [5]. Both InSAR and SAR-GMTI are working with multiple receiving channels, which not only help to obtain extra information but also make the jamming against them more difficult than SAR [6]. Therefore, in order to prevent multichannel SAR from observing and detecting important targets and facilities, correspondingly, the jamming method should follow up in time [7–10].

Generally, the SAR interfering techniques can be divided into barrage jamming and deceptive jamming [11,12]. The barrage jamming prevents proper imaging by covering the real targets' signals with strong noise, which is easy to be implemented, but also requires strong power [13]. What's worse,

the barrage jamming signals could be suppressed easily because its features are different to those of the real SAR echoes. However, deceptive jamming has drawn more attention in the SAR electronic war (EW) because of its low power requirement and high hiding ability, which can confuse target recognition without arousing the awareness of enemy [14].

So far, there are many papers dealing with the deceptive jamming techniques against SAR. They primarily concentrate on transponder's theoretical model, fast implementation algorithm [15–19]. However, these deceptive jamming are usually created by a single transponder. When they are utilized against InSAR or SAR-GMTI, the jamming effect would be reduced, because the created false scene or targets can be eliminated or detected by two or more receiving channels cancellation processing [20–22]. In [21,23], the phase difference of the jamming signals generated by a single transponder in the image domain between the master antenna and the slave antenna for InSAR was analyzed, and with the phase compensation, the jamming was easily removed. In [24], the authors concluded that all false stationary and moving targets generated by a single transponder were relocated at the same azimuth position as the transponder, which were easily identified as false targets in SAR-GMTI image. Therefore, the previously mentioned jamming generated by a single transponder plays a limit role in combating the multichannel SAR, which is due to the number of transponders less than the number of SAR receiving channels.

To solve the aforementioned problem, some researchers employed two synergetic transponders to interfere dual-channel InSAR and SAR-GMTI system [25–29]. In [26,27], two synergetic transponders were used to generate a false three-dimension (3D) scene in InSAR image by modulating each transponder with complex modulation coefficients. Besides, in [28,29], a new method utilizing two synergetic transponders against dual-channel SAR-GMTI was proposed, which could generate false moving targets with high fidelity. These methods are effective in jamming dual-channel SAR, but unable to work in jamming multichannel SAR. This is because the freedom of SAR receiving channels is larger than that of the combination of transponders. To improve the jamming ability against multichannel SAR, the number of transponders should be added until no less than the number of SAR receiving channels. Without loss of generality, we only consider the jamming method for SAR-GMTI system in this paper. The jamming method for InSAR is the same. In the SAR-GMTI system, the displaced phase center antenna (DPCA) technique is utilized to detect moving targets, while the along-track interferometry (ATI) technique is used to estimate their velocities and correct their positions [30,31].

Inspired by the idea that two synergetic transponders can generate effective deceptive jamming against a dual-channel SAR system, we propose a new deceptive jamming method based on multiple transponders against multichannel SAR system. In this method, each transponder is modulated with complex modulation coefficients when generating the jamming signals. The synthetic jamming signals can resist multichannel DPCA cancellation processing. As long as the number of transponders is more than the number of SAR channels, this proposed method is efficient. More specifically, the major contributions of this paper can be summarized as follows:

- Point out that to generate false targets and scenes against multichannel SAR, the number of transponders must be more than that of SAR receiving channels.
- Propose a new jamming method for jointly employing three transponders against three-channel SAR-GMTI.
- Give a general scheme of multiple transponders interfering multichannel SAR, which is applicable to multichannel InSAR and SAR-GMTI systems.
- Introduce a numerical optimization algorithm utilizing the minimum condition number to deploy multiple transponders excellently.
- Carry out comparative experiments on the jamming performance against three-channel SAR-GMTI between using three transponders and using a single transponder or two transponders.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we analyze the performance of a single transponder against dual-channel SAR-GMTI. Then, in Section 3, we introduce an effective jamming

method for utilizing two transponders against dual-channel SAR-GMTI and analyze the reason that two transponders fail to deceive three-channel SAR-GMTI. Section 4 presents a new method for using three transponders jam the three-channel SAR-GMTI system and gives a numerical optimization algorithm about the layout of multiple transponders. In Section 5, the scheme of multiple transponders against multichannel SAR is given. Simulations are presented in Section 6. Section 7 concludes this paper.

2. Analysis of a Single Transponder Against Dual-Channel SAR-GMTI Processing

2.1. A Real Moving Target

As shown in Figure 1, SAR-GMTI works at the broad-side mode with three receiving channels, which is mounted on an airplane moving at a constant velocity V_a parallel to the positive X-axis direction at an altitude of H . The distance between two neighboring channels is d , satisfying DCPA condition, namely $d = 2lV_aT$. T is the pulse repetition period and l is a positive integer. Points A_1 , A_2 and A_3 denote three receiving channels, respectively, and their coordinates are shown by $(V_a t_a - d, 0, H)$, $(V_a t_a, 0, H)$ and $(V_a t_a + d, 0, H)$ varying with slow time t_a , respectively. The middle channel A_2 serves as the transmitter, and all channels receive the echoes simultaneously. At time $t_a = 0$, a moving target p is placed at $(x_p, y_p, 0)$ with a constant cross-track velocity v_r .

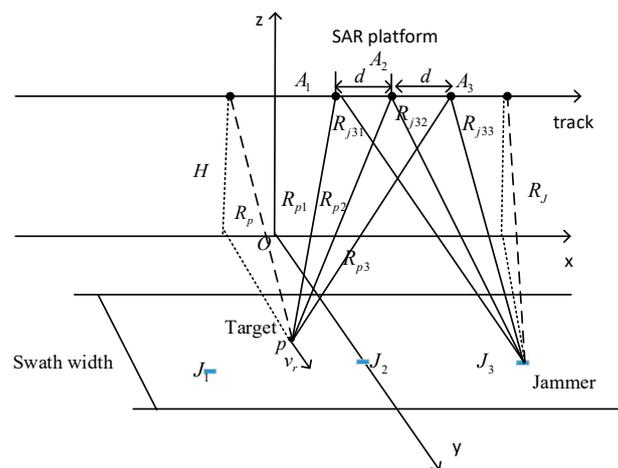


Figure 1. Geometry of three-channel SAR-GMTI.

$R_{pn}(t_a)$ denotes the instantaneous slant-range from the receiving channel A_n to the moving target p as described in Figure 1, where $n \in (1, 2, 3)$ serves as the index for each receiving channel and thus, $R_{pn}(t_a)$ can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned}
 R_{pn}(t_a) &= \sqrt{(x_p - V_a t_a - (n-2)d)^2 + (y_p + v_r t_a)^2 + H^2} \\
 &\approx R_p - \frac{x_p V_a - y_p v_r}{R_p} t_a + \frac{V_a^2}{2R_p} t_a^2 + \frac{(n-2)^2 d^2 - 2(n-2)d x_p}{2R_p} + \frac{V_a(n-2)d}{R_p} t_a
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{1}$$

where $R_p = \sqrt{y_p^2 + H^2}$ denotes the shortest distance between the moving target p and the flying track.

As is well known, SAR usually transmits linear frequency-modulation (LFM) signal to acquire high range resolution. Thus, SAR transmitting signal can be expressed as

$$s_t(t_r, t_a) = w_r\left(\frac{t_r}{T_p}\right) \exp(j\pi(2f_0 t_r + K t_r^2))
 \tag{2}$$

where $w_r(\cdot)$ is the range window function, t_r is the fast time, T_p is the pulse width, K denotes the frequency modulation slope, and f_0 denotes the carrier frequency.

Correspondingly, after in-phase/quadrature (I/Q) demodulation, the receiving echo from the moving target p for the channel A_n can be described as

$$s_{pn}(t_r, t_a) = \sigma(x_p, y_p)w_r\left(\frac{t_r - r_{pn}(t_a)/c}{T_p}\right)w_a\left(\frac{t_a - x_p/V_a}{T_L}\right)\exp(j\pi K(t_r - \frac{r_{pn}(t_a)}{c})^2)\exp(-j\frac{2\pi r_{pn}(t_a)}{\lambda}) \quad (3)$$

With

$$r_{pn}(t_a) = R_{pn}(t_a) + R_{p2}(t_a) \quad (4)$$

where $w_a(\cdot)$ is the azimuth window function, T_L is the synthetic aperture time, λ is the transmitting signal wavelength, c is the speed of light, and $\sigma(x_p, y_p)$ is the back-scattering coefficient of the moving target p .

Then, after range doppler (RD) image processing and co-registration, the imaging output of the channel A_n can be expressed as

$$I_n(t_r, t_a) = U \sin c[B(t_r - \frac{2R_p}{c})] \sin c[B_a(t_a - \frac{x_p}{V_a} + \frac{v_r R_p}{V_a^2})] \exp[j2\pi(n-2)\frac{dv_r}{\lambda V_a}] \quad (5)$$

where U is the complex amplitude of the target p in the image domain, B is the bandwidth of radar signal, and B_a is the Doppler bandwidth.

2.2. A False Target Generated by a Single Transponder

Suppose only one transponder J_3 located at $(x_{j3}, y_j, 0)$ is utilized to generate false target like p , and the transponder can be considered as a stationary point. Thus, the instantaneous slant-range $R_{j3n}(t_a)$ from the transponder J_3 to the channel A_n can be written as

$$R_{j3n}(t_a) = \sqrt{(x_{j3} - V_a t_a - (n-2)d)^2 + y_j^2 + H^2} \approx R_J - \frac{x_{j3}V_a}{R_J}t_a + \frac{V_a^2}{2R_J}t_a^2 + \frac{(n-2)^2d^2 - 2(n-2)dx_{j3}}{2R_J} + \frac{V_a(n-2)d}{R_J}t_a \quad (6)$$

where $R_J = \sqrt{y_j^2 + H^2}$ denotes the shortest distance between the moving target p and the flying track.

Considering a dual-channel SAR-GMTI system, supposing $n = 2, 3$, then the channel A_n receiving jamming signals can be written as

$$s_{j3n}(t_r, t_a) = \sigma(x_{j3}, y_j)w_r\left(\frac{t_r - r_{j3n}(t_a)/c}{T_p}\right)w_a\left(\frac{t_a - x_{j3}/V_a}{T_L}\right)\exp(j\pi K(t_r - \frac{r_{j3n}(t_a)}{c})^2)\exp(-j\frac{2\pi r_{j3n}(t_a)}{\lambda}) \quad (7)$$

with

$$r_{j3n}(t_a) = R_{j3n}(t_a) + R_{j32}(t_a) \quad (8)$$

where $\sigma(x_{j3}, y_j)$ is the amplitude modulation coefficient of the false target p .

To obtain the jamming signals of the false moving target p , the intercepted SAR signal has to be with a time-delay and a doppler modulation relative to ΔR , which is the difference of the propagation distance from the transponder and the false target to the receiving channel. Then, $\Delta R(t_a)$ can be calculated by

$$\Delta R(t_a) = 2(R_{p2}(t_a) - R_{j32}(t_a)) \quad (9)$$

Substituting Equations (4) and (8) into (9), considering $R_p \approx R_J, V_a \gg v_r, \Delta R(t_a)$ can approximate as

$$\Delta R(t_a) = 2R_J - 2R_p + 2\frac{(x_{j3} - x_p)}{R_p}V_a t_a + 2\frac{y_p v_r}{R_p}t_a \quad (10)$$

Thus, the range history of the deceptive jamming signal for the receiving channel A_n can be described as

$$r_{j3n}'(t_a) = R_{j3n}(t_a) + R_{j32}(t_a) + \Delta R \tag{11}$$

Correspondingly, the jamming signals that channel A_n receive can be expressed as

$$s_{j3n}'(t_r, t_a) = \sigma(x_{j3}, y_j) w_r\left(\frac{t_r - r_{j3n}'(t_a)/c}{T_p}\right) w_a\left(\frac{t_a - x_{j3}/V_a}{T_L}\right) \times \exp(j\pi K(t_r - \frac{r_{j3n}'(t_a)}{c})^2) \exp(-j\frac{2\pi r_{j3n}'(t_a)}{\lambda}) \tag{12}$$

Then, carrying out RD imaging for the jamming signals, and after image co-registration, the imaging output for channel A_n can be written as

$$I_{j3n}(t_r, t_a) = U_{3n} G \exp[j2\pi(n-2)\frac{dv_r}{\lambda V_a}] \exp[-j2\pi(n-2)\frac{d(x_p - x_{j3})}{R_J}] \tag{13}$$

$$G = \sin c[B(t_r - \frac{2R_p}{c})] \sin c[B_a(t_a - \frac{x_p}{V_a} + \frac{v_r R_p}{V_a^2})] \tag{14}$$

where U_{3n} denote the complex amplitude of the false target p generated by transponder J_3 in SAR image of channel A_n and G is the envelop function of the imaging result of the false target p .

Based on the ATI technique, the phase difference $\hat{\phi}$ between two co-registration images at the moving target position can be estimated as

$$\hat{\phi} = \arg(I_{j32} I_{j33}^*) = -2\pi \frac{dv_r}{\lambda V_a} + 2\pi \frac{d(x_p - x_{j3})}{R_J} \tag{15}$$

Correspondingly, according to the estimated phase difference $\hat{\phi}$, the velocity \hat{v}_r can be estimated as

$$\hat{v}_r = -\frac{\lambda V_a}{2\pi d} \hat{\phi} = v_r - \frac{x_p - x_{j3}}{R_J} V_a \tag{16}$$

Once the moving target has a velocity component in range direction, the position of the moving target will shift along the azimuth direction. Therefore, according to the estimated velocity, the azimuth position of false moving target p can be relocated at

$$x' = \hat{x}_p + R_J \frac{\hat{v}_r}{V_a} = x_p - R_p \frac{v_r}{V_a} + R_J \frac{v_r}{V_a} - x_p + x_{j3} = x_{j3} \tag{17}$$

where $\hat{x}_p \approx x_p - R_p \frac{v_r}{V_a}$ is the detected azimuth position of the deceptive target.

Apparently, the false moving target p is relocated at the same azimuth position as the transponder, thus it can be distinguished easily. According to (16), we also know, when the false target is stationary, if its azimuth is not the same as or near the transponder, it would be detected as a moving target instead of being eliminated by DPCA operation. Therefore, the false stationary target can also be relocated the same azimuth position as the transponder and also be easily identified. Therefore, the deceptive jamming generated by a single transponder plays a limit role against dual-channel SAR-GMTI.

3. Synergetic Jamming with Two Transponders

In this section, first, we introduce the principle of the existing effective jamming method based on two synergetic transponders against dual-channel SAR-GMTI. Then, we analyze the shortcomings of the two transponders jamming three-channel SAR-GMTI. In the end, we conclude that to generate false targets against multichannel SAR- GMTI, the number of transponders must be greater than the number of SAR channels.

3.1. The Effectiveness of two Transponders Against Dual-Channel SAR-GMTI

As mentioned before, the deceptive jamming method using only one transponder has a limited effect when it is utilized to jam the dual-channel SAR-GMTI. In order to explore the further reason that the jamming is invalid against dual-channel SAR-GMTI, we can make a comparison between Equations (5) and (13). It is clear that if $n = 2$, the two equations are absolutely the same, and namely the false target seems real in the SAR image of channel A_2 . However, for the channel A_3 , Equation (13) is attached with an additional phase term related to the azimuth distance from the transponder to the false targets. It is the additional phase that makes the false target unlike a real one. Therefore, to obtain the false targets with high fidelity, the additional phase term should be removed. A single transponder is difficult to remove the additional phase, and the phase can be easily eliminated by using two synergetic transponders.

Considering the range from the transponder to radar sensors make no difference in the additional phase of imaging output of the jamming signals, thus we add another transponder J_2 located at $(x_{j2}, y_j, 0)$ with the same ground range coordinate y_j as J_3 . Then, the imaging output of the jamming signals generated by transponder J_2 can be written as

$$I_{j2n}(t_r, t_a) = U_{2n}G \exp[j2\pi(n - 2) \frac{dv_r}{\lambda V_a}] \exp[-j2\pi(n - 2) \frac{d(x_p - x_{j2})}{R_j}] \tag{18}$$

where U_{2n} denote the complex amplitude of the false target p generated by transponder J_2 in SAR image of channel A_n . Supposing the two transponders are completely the same, then the final amplitude of the false target U_{1n} and U_{2n} can be seen as the same too and. Without of loss generality, we assume it as U_0 . If the signal intercepted by two transponders is modulated with a complex modulation coefficient, then the imaging output of the composite jamming signals for channel A_n can be described as

$$I_n(t_r, t_a) = I_{j2n}(t_r, t_a) + I_{j3n}(t_r, t_a) = U_0G \exp[j2\pi(n - 2) \frac{dv_r}{\lambda V_a}] g_n(\vec{Q}_m) \tag{19}$$

with

$$g_n(\vec{Q}_m) = \sum_{m=2,3} Q_m \exp[-j2\pi(n - 2) \frac{d(x_p - x_{jm})}{R_j}] \tag{20}$$

where m serves as the index for each transponder and Q_m represents the complex modulation coefficient modulated in the transponder J_m .

Then, if Equation (20) is equal to a constant for $n = 2, 3$, the additional phase in the channel A_3 can be ignored. For simplification, we assume the constant as 1. Then, the equation can be written as

$$\begin{cases} Q_2 + Q_3 = 1 \\ Q_2 \exp(-j2\pi \frac{d(x_p - x_{j2})}{R_j}) + Q_3 \exp(-j2\pi \frac{d(x_p - x_{j3})}{R_j}) = 1 \end{cases} \tag{21}$$

Rewrite it in matrix as $AQ = b$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} Q_0 \\ Q_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \tag{22}$$

where $a_{21} = \exp(-j \frac{2\pi d}{\lambda R_j} (x_p - x_{j2}))$, $a_{22} = \exp(-j \frac{2\pi d}{\lambda R_j} (x_p - x_{j3}))$.

Solving the Equation (22), the two complex modulation coefficients can be calculated. Then applying them in two transponders separately, a desired false moving target can be generated.

Based on the DPCA technique, using $I_2(t_r, t_a)$ subtract $I_3(t_r, t_a)$ shown in Equation (19), the subtracted image I_{23} can be expressed as

$$I_{23} = I_2(t_r, t_a) - I_3(t_r, t_a) = U_0G \exp(j\pi \frac{dv_r}{\lambda V_a}) (-2j) \sin(\pi \frac{dv_r}{\lambda V_a}) \tag{23}$$

According to Equation (23), if $v_r = 0$, then $I_{23} = 0$, namely the stationary targets can be eliminated like the clutter. However, for the false moving targets, the phase difference $\hat{\phi}$ becomes

$$\hat{\phi} = \arg(I_2 I_3^*) = -2\pi \frac{dv_r}{\lambda V_a} \tag{24}$$

Correspondingly, the estimated velocity \hat{v}_r becomes

$$\hat{v}_r = -\frac{\lambda V_a}{2\pi d} \hat{\phi} = v_r \tag{25}$$

Then, the azimuth position of the false moving targets can be relocated at x_p , which is the same as the setting value. Therefore, whether the false targets are moving or stationary, they can all satisfy the characteristic of the real targets. Therefore, synergetic jamming with two transponders against dual-channel SAR-GMTI is effective.

3.2. The Limitaion of Two Transponders Against Three-Channel SAR-GMTI

As stated in Section 3.1, two transponders can jam dual-channel SAR-GMTI. However, in most cases, SAR-GMTI is implemented with three receiving channels as illustrated in Figure 1. When the SAR works at three-channel mode, if continuing using two transponders, the jamming effect would be reduced.

Considering Equation (20), if the jamming is effective, it must satisfy a constant too for $n = 1$. Thus, the matrix $AQ = b$ becomes

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} Q_1 \\ Q_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \tag{26}$$

where $a_{31} = \exp\left(j\frac{2\pi d}{\lambda R_j}(x_p - x_{j2})\right)$, $a_{32} = \exp\left(j\frac{2\pi d}{\lambda R_j}(x_p - x_{j3})\right)$. It is obvious that $rank(A) \neq rank(A|b)$, thus, there is no solution of Equation (26). That's to say, no complex coefficients can be modulated in two transponders to create false targets against three-channel SAR-GMTI. Therefore, using two transponders to generate deceptive jamming against three-channel SAR-GMTI has a limited effect.

4. Synergetic Jamming with Three Transponders

The limitation of two transponders against three-channel SAR-GMTI has been analyzed above, which is because the phase terms of the synthetic jamming signals generated by two transponders for channel A_1 does not match the real target. Essentially, it is what we analyzed that the freedom of SAR receiving channels is larger than that of the combination of transponders. To generate false targets against three-channel SAR-GMTI, the number of transponders should not be less than three. Therefore, we propose a new deceptive jamming method against three-channel SAR-GMTI based on three synergetic transponders. Moreover, we also give a numerical optimization algorithm for the optimal layout of multiple transponders by utilizing the minimum condition number.

4.1. The Effectiveness of Three Transponders Against Three-Channel SAR-GMTI

Assume that three transponders J_1, J_2 and J_3 as shown in Figure 1 are used to generate jamming signals simultaneously, where J_1 is placed at $(x_{j1}, y_j, 0)$ with the same ground range coordinate y_j as J_2 and J_3 . Same as the previous analysis, then, the Equation (21) can be rewritten as

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} Q_1 \\ Q_2 \\ Q_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \tag{27}$$

where $a_{23} = \exp\left(-j\frac{2\pi d}{\lambda R_j}(x_p - x_{j1})\right)$, $a_{33} = \exp\left(j\frac{2\pi d}{\lambda R_j}(x_p - x_{j1})\right)$. Apparently, Equation (27) has a solution

$$Q = A^{-1}b \tag{28}$$

Then, by applying the complex modulation coefficients in three transponders, the difference between the two co-registered images for channel A_2 and A_3 is shown by Equation (23), and for channel A_1 and A_2 can be expressed as

$$I_{12} = I_2(t_r, t_a) - I_3(t_r, t_a) = U_0G \exp(-j\pi\frac{dv_r}{\lambda V_a})(2j) \sin(\pi\frac{dv_r}{\lambda V_a}) \tag{29}$$

According to Equation (29), we know, for the false stationary targets $v_r = 0$, $I_{12} = 0$, and namely, they are all eliminated as clutter by DPCA operation. Therefore, the false stationary targets can't be detected by channel A_1 and A_2 DPCA operation. Accordingly, the phase difference of moving targets in two subtracted images I_{12} and I_{23} can be expressed as

$$\hat{\phi} = \arg(I_{12}I_{23}^*) = -2\pi\frac{dv_r}{\lambda V_a} \tag{30}$$

Obviously, the phase difference of the false moving target matches the setting target radial velocity. Moreover, after relocation, these false moving targets would go back to its real position.

4.2. Layout optimization of Multiple Transponders

From the above analysis, we concluded that the coefficient vector Q determined whether the transponders could accurately generate false very similar targets at specified positions. If the matrix A and the vector b are disturbed, for example, the parameter R_j of radar system are estimated with error, whether the vector Q can keep stable will affect the accuracy of the false targets. As we all know, the condition number $cond(A)$ measures the sensitivity of the linear system $AQ = b$ and represents the quality of the matrix, which can be defined as

$$cond(A) = \|A\|_2\|A^{-1}\|_2 = \sqrt{\frac{\sigma_{\max}(A^H A)}{\sigma_{\min}(A^H A)}} \tag{31}$$

where $\|\cdot\|_2$ denotes the L2-norm, $\sigma_{\max}(A^H A)$ and $\sigma_{\min}(A^H A)$ are the maximal and minimal singular value of $A^H A$ respectively, and H is the Hermitian transpose operator. For any matrix A , the condition number $cond(A)$ satisfies $cond(A) \geq 1$. When $cond(A)$ is near 1, the matrix A is well-conditioned. The larger the $cond(A)$ is, the less accurate the solution is, which would reduce the performance of jamming. Therefore, realizing the optimal layout transponders is equivalent to minimizing the condition number of matrix A with constraints. Without loss of generality, suppose $x_{j1} < x_{j2} < x_{j3}$ and then the optimization equation can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} & \min cond(A) \\ \text{subject to } & \begin{cases} x_{j2} = x_c \\ u_2 = x_{j3} - x_{j2} \leq \frac{L_a}{2} - x_c \\ u_1 = x_{j2} - x_{j1} \leq \frac{L_a}{2} + x_c \end{cases} \end{aligned} \tag{32}$$

According to Equation (27), the coefficient matrix A is related to the azimuth coordinates of three transponders. Thus, it can change three transponders' azimuth coordinates to achieve the optimal layout of transponders. For this, first set J_2 at $x_c = C$, then change x_{j1} , x_{j3} to find the minimal $cond(A)$ [32,33]. The SAR parameters are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Parameters of three-channel SAR-GMTI.

Parameters	Value
Carrier frequency	10 GHz
Bandwidth	70 MHz
Beam width	0.5°
Platform velocity	250 m/s
Numbers of channel	3
PRF	1000 Hz
Center range	10,000 m
Baseline length	4 m

After using Newton’s method optimization processing, it can be found that when $cond(A)$ gets the minimization and is equal to 1, $cond(A)$ is only related to u_1 and u_2 with arbitrary x_{j2} . u_1 denotes the azimuth distance between transponders J_1 and J_2 , while u_2 denotes the azimuth distance between transponders J_2 and J_3 . Figure 2 gives the condition number varying with u_1 and u_2 when $x_{j2} = 0$. Figure 3a is the slice graph of Figure 2 in $u_2 = 25$, while Figure 3b is the slice graph of Figure 2 in $u_2 = 50$. According to Figure 3a,b, it can be seen that when u_1, u_2 satisfy $u_1 = u_2 = 25$ and $u_1 = u_2 = 50$, the condition number is equal to 1. Moreover, by searching other values of the condition number in Figure 2, we find only point A and point B satisfy $cond(A) = 1$. Considering the false moving targets are easy to diverge from the imaging areas, we choose $u_1 = u_2 = 25$ in the following simulations.

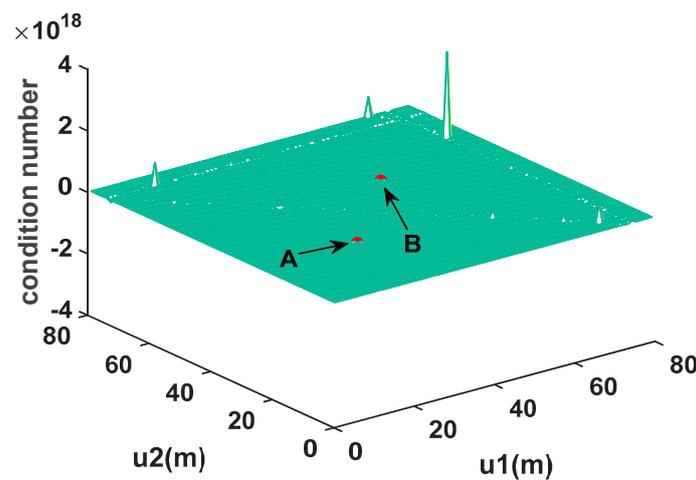


Figure 2. Surface Plot of condition number varying with u_1 and u_2 when $x_{j2} = 0$.

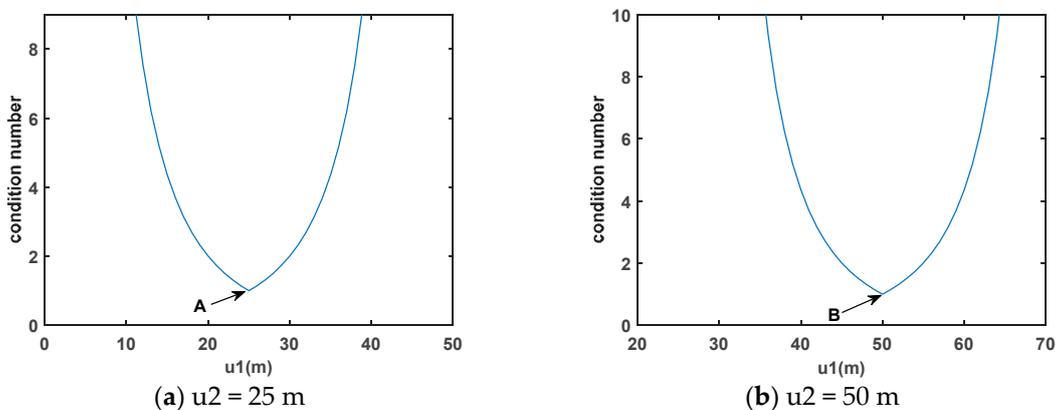


Figure 3. The slice graph of Figure 2.

In the optimization calculation, there are only three SAR parameters ‘Carrier frequency’, ‘Center range’ and ‘Baseline length’ in Table 1 are used. They correspond to λ , d and R_j shown by Equation (27), respectively. They all can be estimated by the electronic reconnaissance system. According to these estimated parameters, the complex modulation coefficients modulated in each transponder can be calculated. But in practice, the three parameters would be estimated with errors. If the transponders continue using the layout of the transponder obtained according to the error parameter to generating jamming signals, there is going to be $AQ \neq b$ for the receiving antennas, and namely, $b(2) = 1$, $b(1), b(3) \neq 1$. Therefore, the phase difference between $b(1)$ and $b(3)$ would decide the accuracy of the velocity of the false targets. Correspondingly, the layout of the transponder would affect the accuracy of the velocity. To quantitatively evaluate the influence on the velocity caused by the estimated parameters, we consider two kinds of layout of the transponders. Using the estimated baseline $d = 4.0$, we can calculate the layout of the transponders under different values of the condition number. We choose $cond(A) = 1$ and $cond(A) = 871.7$. For $cond(A) = 1$, three transponders azimuth position are -25 m, 0 m and 25 m, respectively, corresponding the optimal layout; For $cond(A) = 871.7$, three transponders azimuth positions are -16 m, 0 m, and 62 m. Assume the other two parameters λ and R_j are estimated accurately. Figure 4a gives the velocity error of the false target for the real baseline $d = 3.9$ of the three-channel SAR-GMTI, while Figure 4b gives that for $d = 4.1$. The false targets distribute from -60 m to 60 m along the azimuth direction. According to Figure 4a,b, it can be seen the dotted line corresponding to $cond(A) = 871.7$ is above the solid line corresponding to $cond(A) = 1$ whether the length of the baseline is estimated larger or smaller. Therefore, when the SAR parameters are estimated with errors, the jamming performance is more robust for the optimal layout of the transponders. As for the influence on the velocity caused by the estimated parameters λ and R_j , the results are the same as the d according to the characteristics of condition numbers.

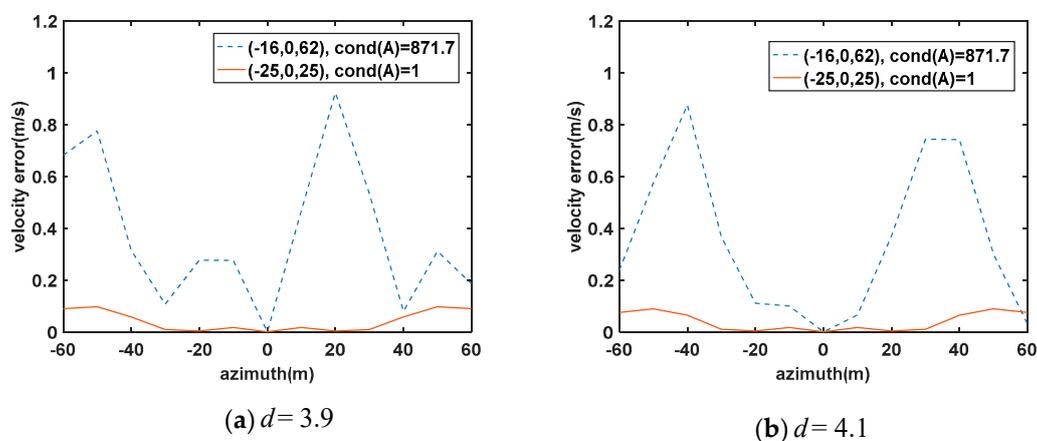


Figure 4. The influence on the velocity caused by the estimated baseline d .

5. Multiple Transponders Against Multi-Channel SAR

As described above, to obtain effective deceptive jamming against the multichannel SAR, the number of transponders should be the same as or more than the number of SAR channels. Only in this way can false targets be accurately generated without being discovered. Here, we give the general architecture of multiple transponders deceiving multichannel SAR. The deceptive jamming method against three-channel and dual-channel SAR is just a special case. According to the analysis of deceptive jamming against the three-channel SAR-GMTI, we extend it to more universal model for multichannel SAR. In this case, it is assumed that the SAR has N sensors arranged along the track

direction with M transponders on the ground parallel to the track. M must satisfy $M \geq N$. Then, the complex coefficient vector Q satisfies Equation (33) when the transponders works synergistically.

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & \cdots & a_{1M} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & \cdots & a_{2M} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & a_{ek} & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ a_{N1} & a_{N2} & \cdots & \cdots & a_{NM} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} Q_1 \\ Q_2 \\ \vdots \\ Q_e \\ \vdots \\ Q_M \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_e \\ \vdots \\ b_M \end{bmatrix} \tag{33}$$

where $a_{ek} = \exp[-j(e - W)\frac{2\pi d}{\lambda R_j}(x_p - x_{jk})]$, $b_1 = b_2 = \cdots = b_M = 1$, and W is the transmitting channel number, while e is the receiving channel number. For $M \geq N$, the Equation (32) must have more than one solution. Therefore, M transponders are able to deceive multichannel SAR-GMTI.

As for the multichannel InSAR, the distances among transponders must include component along the slant-range. So, for simplicity, the transponders are routed along the slant-range. Different from the SAR-GMTI, here, $a_{ek} = \exp[j\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}(R_{1k} + R_{ek})]$, $b_{e=1} = \exp(j0)$, $b_{e\neq 1} = \exp(j\Delta\phi_{pe})$, where R_{1k} denotes the shortest distance from the transmitting channel A_1 to the transponder, R_{ek} represents the distance between the receiving channel A_e and the transponder, and $\Delta\phi_{pe}$ is the phase difference between two co-registration images for channel A_1 and A_e at deceptive point position.

In the practical EW, the transponder performs better when the number of transponders is more than the number of SAR channels [34,35]. On the one hand, the transponder transmitting power can be further cut down and the jamming signals are more difficult to be detected. On the other hand, if one transponder doesn't work, other transponders can continue generating deceptive jamming after being re-combined. Therefore, the robustness of the jamming system is stronger.

6. Simulations Results

The aforementioned sections have analyzed the dual-channel SAR-GMTI deceptive jamming effects and addressed procedures of generating very similar false targets against three-channel SAR-GMTI by using three synergetic transponders. In this section, to verify the effectiveness of the proposed method, simulations are provided based on a three-channel SAR-GMTI system. The system parameters have been shown in Table 1. The real image scene is an area of 200×200 m.

As shown in Figure 5, we set six false targets in the image scene, where the x -axis is the azimuth direction, whereas the r -axis is the range direction. They are denoted as p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4, p_5 and p_6 , whose initial coordinates and motion parameters are listed in Table 2. According to Table 2, it can be seen that p_3 and p_6 belongs to stationary targets, and the rest are moving. According to the optimal distribution of multiple transponders stated in Section 4.2, three transponders J_1, J_2 , and J_3 are located at the same range coordinate with a 25 m interval distribution along the azimuth direction. To prevent the false moving targets from deviating the imaging areas, the transponder J_2 is place at $(0, 10,000)$, and correspondingly, J_1 at $(-25, 10,000)$, J_3 at $(25, 10,000)$ as depicted in Figure 1. The corresponding complex modulation coefficients modulated in them are denoted as Q_1, Q_2 , and Q_3 . To better describe the performance of our proposed method, two comparative experiments are also carried out. In the following simulation results, the circle indicates the false moving target position before relocation, and the square indicates the re-located moving target position.

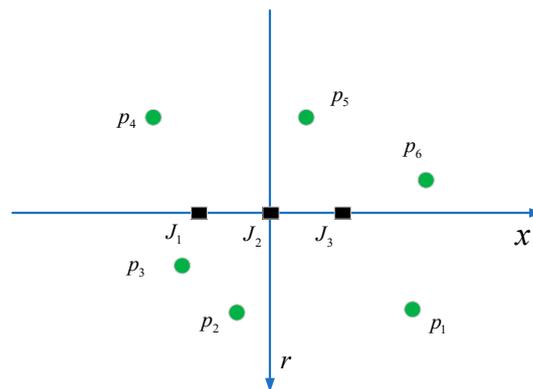


Figure 5. Distribution of false targets.

Table 2. The coordinates and velocity of the false point target.

Targets	p_1	p_2	p_3	p_4	p_5	p_6
Coordinates	(40, 10,040)	(-15, 10,040)	(-30, 10,020)	(-45, 9960)	(10, 9960)	(45, 9980)
v_r (m/s)	-0.5	0.7	0	0.4	-0.6	0

In the first comparative experiment, only a single transponder J_2 is used to generate the jamming signals. Figure 6a shows the SAR image of channel A_2 , and six false targets are all indicated. Figure 6b,c shows the results of two-channel DPCA operation, where Figure 6b shows the result of channel A_2 and A_3 DPCA operation, while Figure 6c shows the result of channel A_1 and A_2 . It is obvious that the false stationary targets are both detected as the moving targets instead of being eliminated in Figure 6b,c. Besides, the first six rows in Table 3 exhibit the estimated velocities and azimuth positions of false targets generated by a single transponder. Apparently, the velocity of stationary targets is not equal to zero, whereas the moving targets are unequal to its setting value. As for the azimuth displacements of all detected targets, they all satisfy $x_p = -\frac{\hat{v}_r}{V_a} R_0$. Undoubtedly, all false targets are relocated at the same azimuth position as transponder J_2 as shown in Figure 6d. Therefore, the deceptive jamming generated by one transponder is easy to be distinguished when against three-channel SAR-GMTI.

Table 3. Radial velocity and azimuth position of false targets with different combinations of transponders.

Index	Radial Velocity			Azimuth Position			
	Estimation \hat{v}_r (m/s)	Error (m/s)	Estimation \hat{x} (m)	Displacement $-R_0 \hat{v}_r / V_a$ (m)	Relocation (m)	Error (m)	
A single transponder	P_1	-1.5	-1	60.2	60	0.2	39.8
	P_2	1.075	0.375	-43	-43	0	-15
	P_3	0.75	0.75	-29.9	-30	0.1	-30.1
	P_4	1.525	1.125	-60.8	-61	0.2	-45.2
	P_5	-0.85	-0.25	34	34	0	10
	P_6	-1.125	-1.125	45.2	45	0.2	44.8
Two transponders	P_1	-0.3060	-0.1940	60.4	12	48.4	-8.4
	P_2	0.7770	0.0770	-43	-31.08	-11.92	-3.08
	P_3	0.8144	0.8144	-29.4	-32.38	2.98	-32.98
	P_4	0.2591	0.1409	-61.3	10.36	-50.94	5.94
	P_5	-0.8160	-0.2160	33.7	32.64	1.06	8.94
	P_6	-0.8132	-0.8132	45.6	32.53	13.17	31.83
Three transponders	P_1	-0.538	0.038	60.2	21.52	38.68	1.32
	P_2	0.7088	0.0088	-42.8	-28.35	-14.45	-0.55
	P_3	0.0135	0.0135	-29.9	-0.54	-29.36	-0.64
	P_4	0.3862	0.0138	-60.8	-15.45	-45.35	0.35
	P_5	-0.6314	-0.0314	33.7	25.26	8.44	1.56
	P_6	-0.0281	-0.0281	45.2	1.12	44.08	0.92

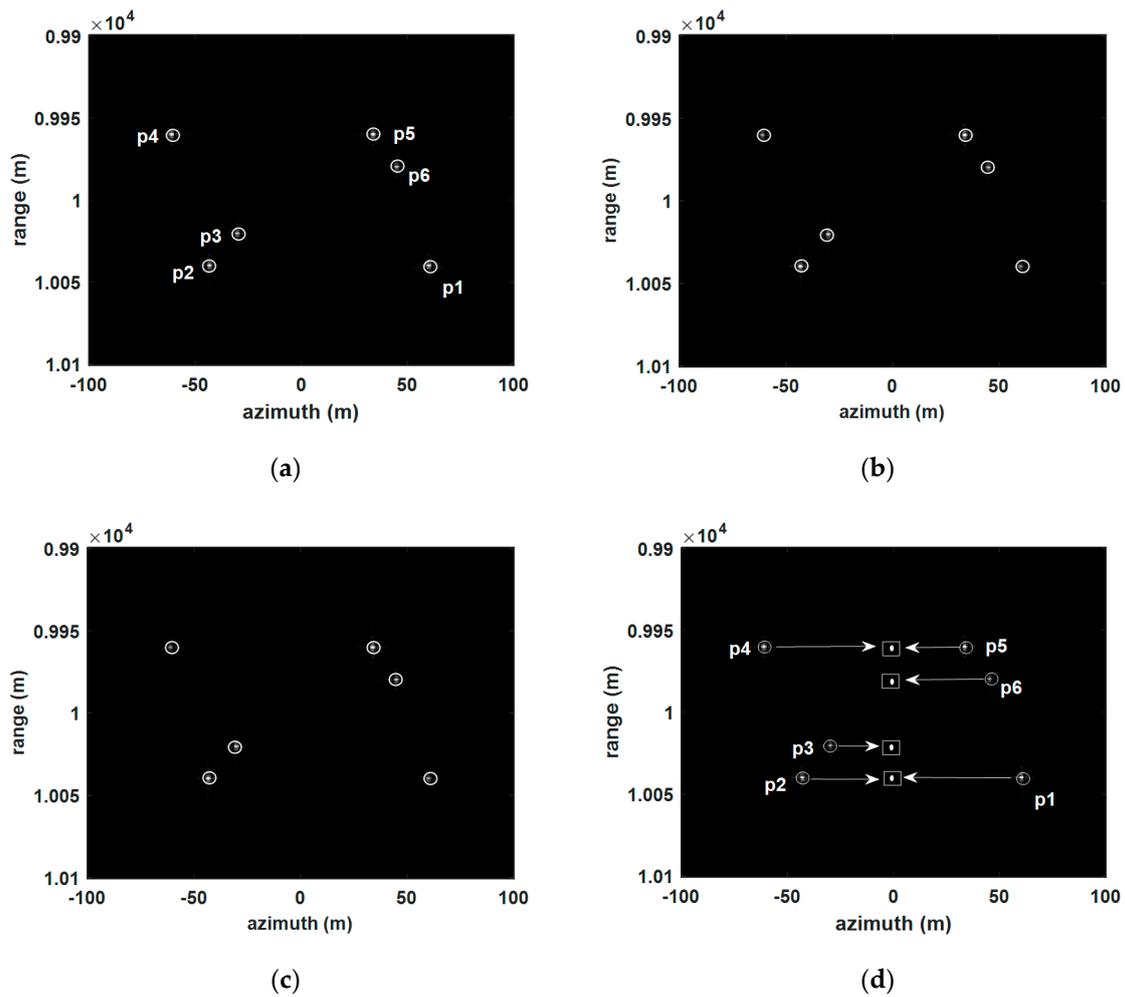


Figure 6. Simulations of false targets generated by one transponder. (a) is the SAR image of channel A₂; (b) is the result of the channel A₂ and A₃ DPCA operation; (c) is the result of the channel A₁ and A₂ DPCA operation; (d) is the relocation result.

In the second comparative experiment, two synergetic transponders J_2 and J_3 are utilized to create the deceptive jamming. According to Equation (22), the expected complex modulation coefficients Q_1 and Q_2 corresponding to two transponders J_2 and J_3 for each false target are first accurately calculated and listed in Table 4. Figure 7a shows the SAR image of channel A₂, which all false targets are indicated. Figure 7b is the result of the channel A₂ and A₃ DPCA operation, while Figure 7c is that of the channel A₁ and A₂. Obviously, the false stationary targets are eliminated like clutter in Figure 7b, yet not in Figure 7c, which demonstrates the previous analysis accurately that two transponders can only generate very similar targets against dual-channel SAR-GMTI. If the deceptive jamming is used against three-channel SAR-GMTI, the effects would be reduced. Besides, the second six rows in Table 3 shows the estimated velocities and azimuth positions of false targets generated by two synergetic transponders, which have large errors comparing with their setting values. Besides, their azimuth positions are also not relocated the same as any transponder. Figure 7d depicts the relocation of these false targets, which differs from the distribution of false targets shown by Figure 5. Therefore, it can be concluded that deceptive jamming generated by two synergetic transponders has a limited effect against three-channel SAR-GMTI.

Table 4. Complex coefficients of different false targets corresponding to two transponders.

Targets	P_1	P_2	P_3
Q_2	$0.0709 - 0.6750i$	$0.9291 - 0.6750i$	$0.2652 - 0.8161i$
Q_3	$0.9291 + 0.6750i$	$0.0709 + 0.6750i$	$0.7348 + 0.8161i$
Targets	P_4	P_5	P_6
Q_1	$-0.0742 - 0.2283i$	$0.6200 + 0.2761i$	$0.1606 + 0.1784i$
Q_2	$1.0742 + 0.2283i$	$0.3800 - 0.2761i$	$0.8394 - 0.1784i$

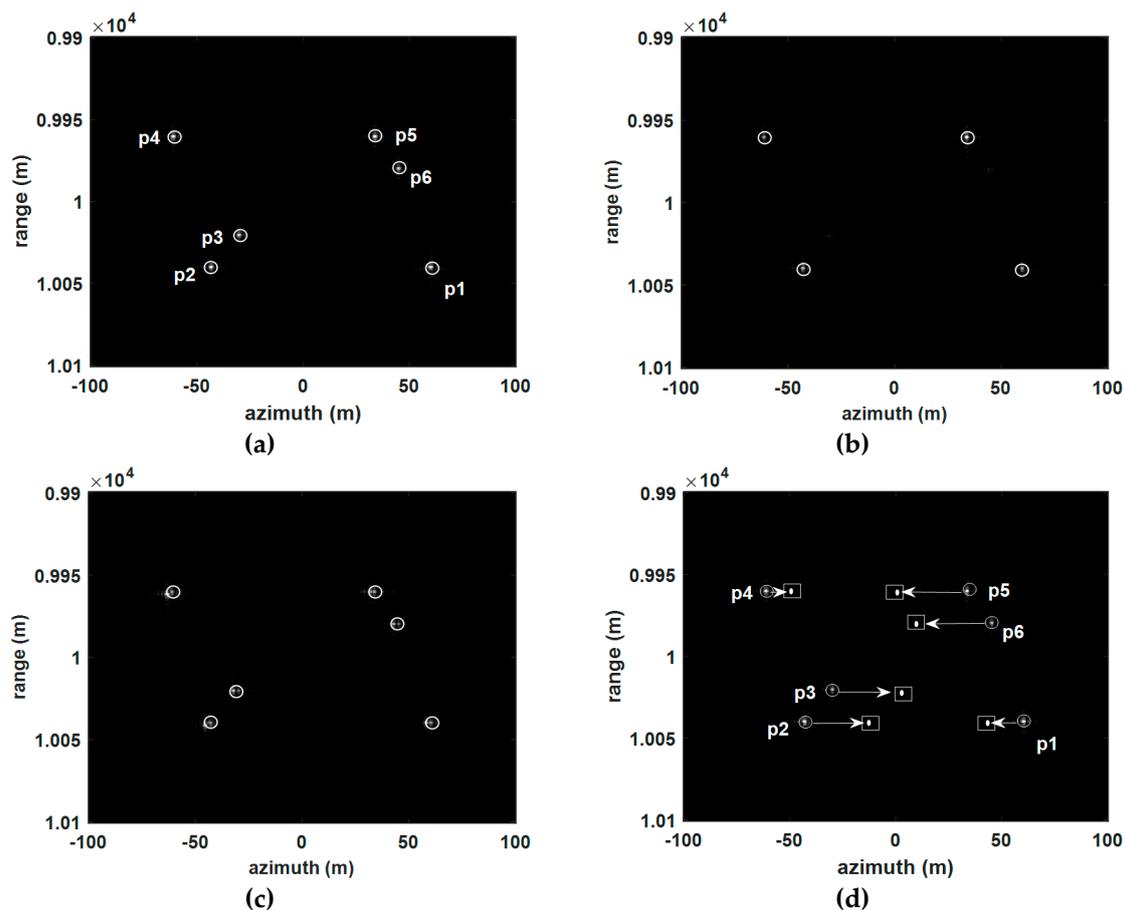


Figure 7. Simulations of false targets generated by two transponders. (a) is the SAR image of channel A_2 ; (b) is the result of the channel A_2 and A_3 DPCA operation; (c) is the result of the channel A_1 and A_2 DPCA operation; (d) is the relocation result.

Last, the experiment is carried out by using our proposed method. Three transponders work synergistically. The corresponding complex modulation coefficients Q_1 , Q_2 , and Q_3 modulated in three transponders J_1 , J_2 and J_3 are calculated and listed in Table 5. In Figure 8a, the SAR image of channel A_2 , six false targets are also all indicated. Figure 8b,c shows that the false stationary targets are eliminated and only the false moving targets are reserved whether by the channel A_2 and A_3 DPCA operation or by the channel A_1 and A_2 . Besides, it is also can be seen that in the last six rows in Table 3, the estimated velocities and relocation azimuth position errors of false targets are all at the acceptable level. Figure 8d gives the imaging result of relocation, and apparently the azimuth positions of false targets coincide with the setting value comparing with Figure 5. Therefore, based on the above simulation analysis, it can be concluded that using three synergetic transponders can effectively create false targets against three-channel SAR-GMTI.

Table 5. Complex coefficients of different false targets corresponding to three transponders.

Targets	P_1	P_2	P_3
Q_1	$-0.3188 + 0.0000i$	$0.5393 + 0.0000i$	$-0.2060 - 0.0000i$
Q_2	$0.5393 + 0.0000i$	$-0.3188 + 0.0000i$	$0.2636 + 0.0000i$
Q_3	$0.7794 - 0.0000i$	$0.7794 - 0.0000i$	$0.9424 + 0.0000i$
Targets	P_4	P_5	P_6
Q_1	$-0.2060 - 0.0000i$	$0.7794 - 0.0000i$	$0.2636 + 0.0000i$
Q_2	$0.9424 + 0.0000i$	$0.5393 - 0.0000i$	$0.9424 - 0.0000i$
Q_3	$0.2636 - 0.0000i$	$-0.3188 + 0.0000i$	$-0.2060 - 0.0000i$

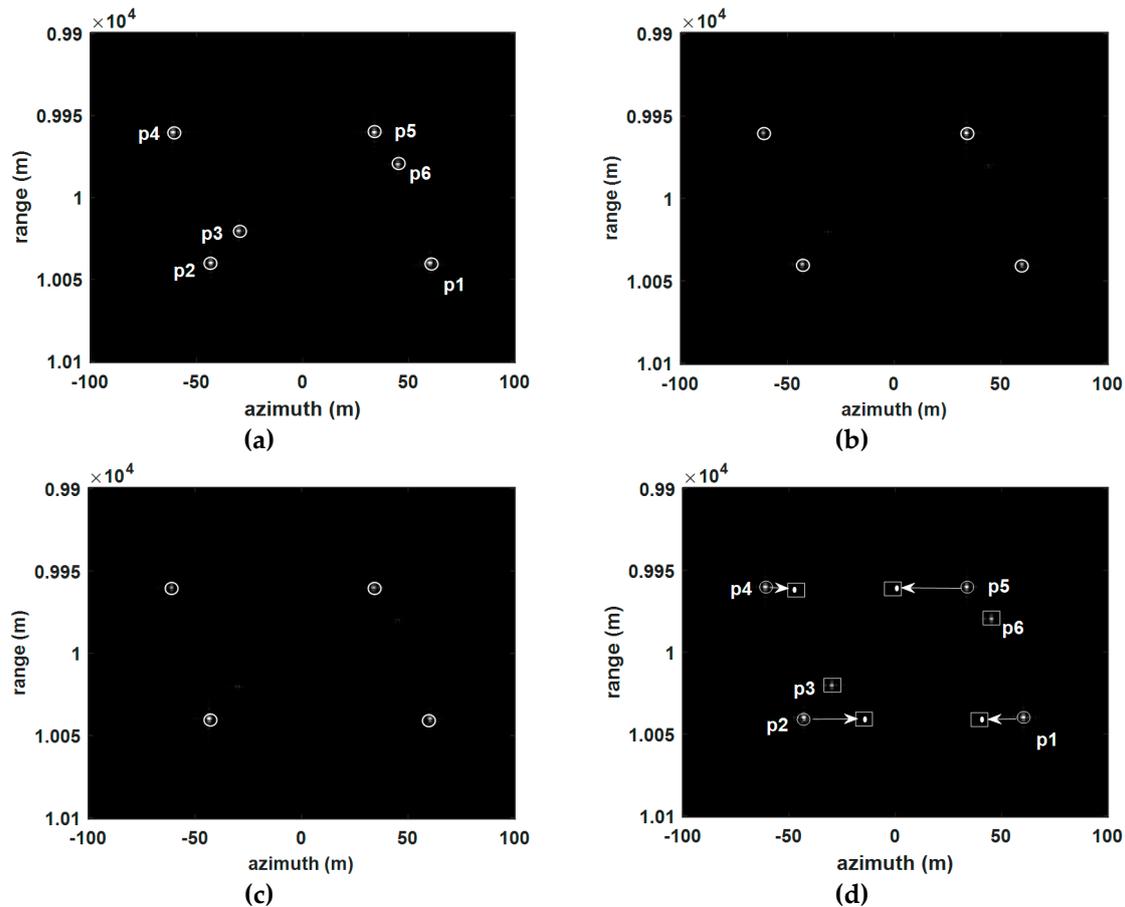


Figure 8. Simulations of false targets generated by three transponders. (a) is the SAR image of channel A_2 ; (b) is the result of the channel A_2 and A_3 DPCA operation; (c) is the result of the channel A_1 and A_2 DPCA operation; (d) is the relocation result.

7. Conclusions

In this paper, first, using different combinations of transponders to jam the three-channel SAR-GMTI is analyzed. On the basis, we propose an effective deceptive jamming method based on three synergetic transponders. In this proposed method, it only demands each transponder is modulated with a complex modulation coefficient when generating a false target. By using three synergetic transponders, very similar false targets can be effectively created against three-channel SAR-GMTI. Compared with a single transponder or two transponders, three transponders provide enough degree of freedom equal to that of the three-channel SAR-GMTI. Meanwhile, the optimal layout of three transponders makes this jamming method more robust. Simulations have verified that the jamming method with three transponders can generate false targets with high fidelity effectively in the three-channel SAR-GMTI system. More, we also conclude that to generate deceptive false targets

against multichannel SAR, the number of transponders must be greater than the number of SAR channels, including multichannel InSAR and SAR-GMTI system. Therefore, in the end of the paper, the general architecture of multiple transponders deceiving multichannel SAR is also given, which can guide the production of a deceptive digital elevation model (DEM) in multichannel InSAR as well as generate false targets against multichannel SAR-GMTI.

Author Contributions: P.J. and S.X. designed the algorithm; P.J. performed the algorithm with Matlab; D.D. and B.P. optimized the algorithm; P.J. and S.X. wrote the paper; X.W. read and revised the paper. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This research was funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 61901499, No.61625108, No.61490693).

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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