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Observational evidence for travelling wave modes bearing distance proportional shifts

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Observational evidence for travelling wave modes bearing distance proportional shifts

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Abstract – Discrepancies of range between the Space Surveillance Network radars and the Deep Space Network in tracking the 1998 Earth flyby of NEAR, and between ESA’s Doppler and range data in Rosetta’s 2009 flyby, reveal a consistent excess delay, or lag, equal to instantaneous one-way travel time in the telemetry signals. These lags readily explain all details of the flyby anomaly, and are shown to be symptoms of chirp d’Alembertian travelling wave solutions, relating to traditional sinusoidal waves by a rotation of the spectral decomposition due to the clock acceleration caused by the Doppler rates during the flybys. The lags thus relate to special relativity, but yield distance proportional shifts like those of cosmology at short range.

The fourth-power power law limits direct radar tracking, as provided by the Space Surveillance Network (SSN), to about the range of geostationary orbits (36000 km). For tracking spacecraft on deep space missions, NASA’s Deep Space Network (DSN) uses the telemetry signal returned by the phase-coherent onboard transponder for both range and Doppler measurements, using modulated range codes and the carrier, respectively, as detailed in [1], sect. III. Using spin-stabilized spacecraft, this approach achieves sufficient precision for tests of general relativity [2–4]. Over decades, this approach has led to four space anomalies [5], of which the best known, the Pioneer anomaly, has now been traced to an overlooked radiation reaction [6].

The present work fully explains the Earth flyby anomaly, without assuming dark matter (cf. [7]), or modifications to gravitation theory (cf. [8,9]). A broader result is a local mechanism that relates more closely to special relativity and propagation, yet yields distance proportional spectral shifts along with time dilations, which are thought to need an expanding space-time (cf. [10–13]).

The distance proportionality is given by large negative residuals of the SSN data [14], against the DSN-estimated trajectory, which, barring contrived hypotheses, can only mean either that the SSN radar echoes were superluminal specially during the flybys, or that the DSN Doppler and range data had an excess delay. These residuals have been omitted in later discussions [9,15–23], as they exceed the SSN resolutions, but radar cannot have less than two-way delay or large variations regardless of processing errors.

The excess delay equals light time for the instantaneous range, and the residuals match the radial distance that the spacecraft would travel in that time. Corresponding shifts in the telemetry spectra are implied by the consistency of the demodulated range codes with the delay in the carrier affecting the DSN Doppler. Both effects are traced to large radial Doppler rates not seen with orbiting satellites; their general absence beyond orbit range is also explained below by the spectral selection in the receiving process.

The core contribution, with the broadest significance, is the explanation of the delays and the shifts themselves as properties of travelling-wave chirp spectra, since they are impossible from traditional sinusoidal spectra. The chirps relate to sinusoidal wave spectra as rotations over the local frequency-time planes at the source and the receiver, the rotated frequency axes signifying phase accelerations, and equivalently clock accelerations. The shifts result due to causality and the finite speed of light, whose manifestation in the rotated view resembles an expansion of space.
The result finally reveals, and closes, a fine gap between d’Alembert’s general solutions and Bernoulli’s solution to the vibrating string problem as a series in sinusoidal waves [24,25], that has been thought complete because of Fourier theory, but makes sinusoidal transport look fundamental and special. The constancy of frequencies is often assumed as sinusoidal wave solutions (cf. sect. 1.3 in [26], sect. 10-8 in [27]), or obtained as eigenfunctions of time invariant Hamiltonians (cf. sects. 10-3, 10-4 in [27], sects. 28, 29 in [28]). However, the stationarity of source dynamics or constancy of carrier frequencies has no bearing on decomposition at a receiver, which is strictly computational and dictates the spectral components seen, and thus also lags in time-varying component properties, including frequency and wavelength in chirps, which must be travel invariant to satisfy d’Alembert’s equation.

The shifts then arise as chirp lags, but empirical proofs were needed for both the computational choice and reality of the lags, since the distance information is impossible by current theory. The computational aspect and availability of distance information in waves are specifically proved by the absence of the anomaly in the ESA Doppler analysis, which uses a Fourier transform [29], in the Rosetta 2009 flyby [30], while its presence in range data from the same signal, demodulated using a carrier reconstructed with the Doppler rate, required a false ephemeris correction [31].

The SSN range residuals in the 1998 NEAR flyby and the ephemeris discrepancy in the Rosetta 2009 flyby thus bear a fundamental significance complementing relativity, of distinguishing a spectral reference frame from physical space-time. The distinction decouples the wavelengths of reception or observation from the source spectrum, since the received spectrum can be arbitrarily shifted by a suitable choice of chirp frequency rates for any source distance, so that tera-hertz or X-ray images can now be obtained under visible illumination, for example. In communication, the capacity of a channel is similarly defined by the sinusoidal assumption [32], but signals of arbitrary wavelengths could be received simultaneously as chirp modes, by using shifts to place them in the transmission band of the same optical fibre, whose capacity would be then unlimited [33,34].

The SSN residuals and their implication of excess delay in DSN and ESA data, are explained in the next section. The theory of chirp travelling-wave spectra is given next, followed by quantitative analyses of the SSN residuals and the flyby anomaly, substantiating the above.

**Indication of the excess delay in DSN data.** – To an observer using an accelerating clock, a sinusoidal wave should appear as a chirp having the reverse rate of change of frequency, and chirps with the same frequency rate, as sinusoids. Chirps waves necessarily exhibit frequency lags of frequency, and chirps with the same frequency rate, should appear as a chirp having the reverse rate of change of frequency. An observer using an accelerating clock, a sinusoidal wave solution is given next, followed by quantitative analyses of the SSN residuals and the flyby anomaly, substantiating the above.

The delays are also too large to blame radar processing. Coherent radars perform phase-correlated integration only to extract weak echoes over noise. The radar use of echoes for round trip timing eliminates ambiguities of modulated range codes, which get repeated and are periodic, but are the source of DSN and ESA range data. The SSN datasets thus denote true round trip times, and large errors solely during flybys would be in any case unlikely. Occam’s razor dictates, given the negative sign, that the DSN signal had an excess delay impossible by current ideas, but consistent with chirping due to acceleration, as follows.

Denoting the instantaneous range errors as $\Delta r$, and the radial speed as $v_r$, the lag times in the figure are given by $\Delta t = \Delta r / v_r$, and the one-way ranges, by $r = c \Delta t - r_e \approx c \Delta r / v_r - r_e$, where $r_e \equiv 6.371$ km, the Earth’s radius. The slope of the residuals thus signifies proportionality of the range error to travel time as $\Delta r = v \Delta t$. The consistency of the DSN Doppler and differenced range data [9,14] implies the same error affected the DSN Doppler.

The nonrelativistic two-way Doppler is given by $\Delta v = 2 v \nu / c$ at frequency $\nu$ for a velocity $v \equiv dr / dt$, so the DSN phase counters yielded smaller shifts $\Delta \nu' = 2 v' \nu / c < \Delta \nu$. The observed travel time proportionality more specifically implies velocity error $d(\Delta r) / dt \equiv \Delta v = d(\nu \Delta t) / dt \equiv a \Delta t$, where $a$ is the approach acceleration. A Doppler lag can be
only significant during a Doppler rate \(d(\Delta \nu)/dt = 2\nu a/c\), whose lag \(d(\Delta \nu)/dt \times \Delta t\) would be therefore of frequency.

The uplink frequency was ramped to keep the downlink steady during the flyby [31], so the delay and lags occurred in the uplink, and were carried into the downlink by the phase-synchronous transponders onboard (cf. [1], sect. III-A).

The DSN carrier loop is designed to track the downlink carrier frequency continuously even when its Doppler shift is changing (cf. [35] and [1], sect. III), hence the DSN phase counts are of cycles of changing periods, whereas Doppler theory was formulated for change in sinusoidal wave periods [36]. The ESA extracts the Doppler using a Fourier transform [29], and thereby conforms to the sinusoidal definition even during accelerations, since each output “bin” of a Fourier transform is a count of cycles around a single frequency. The bounds of 4 \(\mu\)m s\(^{-1}\) \pm 44 \(\mu\)m s\(^{-1}\)(1\(\sigma\)) stated against the anomaly in Rosetta’s 2009 flyby [30] are just the resolution and phase noise in the ESA’s Fourier transform.

The reconstructed carrier used for demodulation had to have been again a chirp, however, given the Doppler rate. As Rosetta approached the Earth along its orbital motion from behind for gravitational boost (see [37] for all three flyby trajectory diagrams), the Earth would have receded over the excess delay in the range data. The 13.34 km s\(^{-1}\) perigee velocity and 2483 km altitude suggest 8 ms excess delay, and 110.5 m range error as the magnitude of ESA’s erroneous ephemeris correction.

In CW-FM radar, the frequency lags yielding the range comprise cumulative changes of the transmitter frequency over the radar pulse round trips. Although the Doppler change was similarly continuous in both pre- and post-encounter tracking segments, and the modulated range codes yielded similar lags, the reception process represents a maximum integration time \(T\) shorter than a single bit in a modulated range code, so the implied lags and frequency rate of the modulation side-band spectrum, cannot have depended on integration through the round trip. That is, lags in a chirp spectrum depend only on the instantaneous rate, not on a cumulative change of frequency, unlike cosmological shifts.

The residuals are thus evidence for chirp spectra bearing lags exceeding the total carrier variation over the receiver integration times \(T\), and for realizability of fractional lags \(z \equiv \Delta \nu/\nu \approx \beta r/c \gg \beta T\), the variation of the receiver local oscillator (LO), which followed the Doppler rate.

**Chirp travelling-wave spectra.** – The general form of d’Alembertian solutions found \(f(r \pm ct)\) requires \(f\) invariant of the retarded time \((t - r/c)\). Invariance in \(t\) or \(r\) separately, generally assumed for separating space and time parts of dynamical equations, would be redundant for waves as the d’Alembertian solutions are already most general. Rather, as characteristic solutions defined by and for the constraint of constant frequencies, sinusoidal waves were never most general. The assumption of constancy avoided a problem, however, that any variation of frequencies with distance \(r\) or time \(t\) would make the received waves differ from those observable at the source, i.e., at \(t = r = 0\).

Yet, any travel-invariant property \(\xi\) of a travelling wave, hence other than amplitude or phase, should be allowed to vary over time locally at points on the wave path, and must then exhibit the lags \(\Delta \xi \equiv \xi(t) - \xi(t - r/c) = \xi(t) - \xi r/c + \xi (r/c)^2/2! - \cdots \equiv \xi(t)(1 - \beta r/c + \beta(1)(r/c)^2/2! - \cdots)\), where \(\beta \equiv \xi^{\prime}(t)/\Delta t, \beta(1) = \xi^{\prime}(t)\xi^{\prime\prime}(t)/\Delta t^2, \beta(2) = \xi^{\prime}(t)\xi^{\prime\prime\prime}(t)/\Delta t^3, \ldots\) are fractional derivatives of \(\xi\) by the receiver’s clock. This is unlike the Hubble shifts, which are characterized using proper time along the path in the current theory.

Figure 2 shows that such lags must occur in the wavelength of a chirp wave because its local value around each crest and trough moves with the wave. The lag \(\Delta \lambda \equiv (\lambda_3 - \lambda_1)\) at time \(t_2\) at receiver \(R\) must occur, in a locally measurable sense explained ahead, as the waveform stays unchanged by travel. The fractional shifts \(z \approx 1 - \beta r/c\) additionally imply time dilations, via the Fourier inverse

\[
\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(\omega[1 + z])e^{i\omega t}d\omega = \frac{1}{1 + z^2} f \left( \frac{t}{1 + z} \right),
\]

the amplitude factor denoting stretching of the energy over a dilated interval. Equation (1) governs all uniform shifts, including both Hubble shifts and Doppler, as highlighted recently by the Cassini-Huygens link failure as the signal dilation was overlooked [38]. Dilations were not considered in Dirichlet’s conditions, which assured the completeness of Fourier theory [24,25]. As a receiver’s local oscillators can be independently varied at arbitrary fractional rates \(\beta\), and would yield the corresponding chirp spectra as proved ahead, the reconstructed waveforms would differ from the arriving waves by arbitrary time dilations, which further depend on the distances of the individual sources!

As a prediction in a differential form from radar imaging [33,34], this had made no sense and seemed causally flawed [39]. It is finally explained by the computational character of a chirp spectrum in fig. 3, as a rotation of the receiver’s local frequency \((RR)\) and time \((-RR)\) axes, denoting the local evolution of the spectral components in time by the receiver’s clock. The constant frequency of a sinusoidal component would be represented by vertical lines like \(BC\). The inclined lines \(GC, HF\) denote chirp components with frequencies increasing over time. The spectrum at present time \(t_2\) is represented by the same coefficient values on the frequency axis \(RR\) regardless of the inclination.
With the inclination, however, excess one-way delays are incurred, just as in the DSN Doppler, that result in shifts exactly equal to cumulative change from an earlier state at the source, so the distance information bears the penalty of excess delay. Each chirp line, projected indefinitely, not only attains every possible frequency at some instant, but is identical to every other chirp of the same inclination by a simple displacement in time. This equivalence leads to the excess delay, as the travel delay acts against the frequency change. Conversely, were the angle of inclination simple displacement in time. This equivalence leads to the is identical to every other chirp of the same inclination by a made 0, the chirps would become degenerate vertical lines through and that no longer overlap if displaced in time, so the delay and the distance information both vanish.

These details, and relations to causality and the speed of light, are revealed by incorporating the source frequency \((SS_D)\) and time \((-SS_T)\) axes, with corresponding source chirp lines \(JD\) and \(AE\) parallel to \(GC\) and \(HF\). Sinusoidal transport would be represented by parallel lines like \(DC\) and \(EF\) connecting equal values on the source and receiver frequency axes. Hubble’s law would require inclined lines like \(EC\) to produce shifts \(\Delta \nu = \omega_2 - \omega_1 = |CF| \) at distance \(r\) and \(\Delta \omega_1 \equiv |LM| \approx |CF| r_1 / r\) at distance \(r_1 \approx |EM|\).

The \(r-ct\) invariance required of d’Alembertian solutions more particularly calls for lines like \(AC\) and \(KL\) inclined at \(\angle DAC = \tan^{-1}(|DC|/|AD|) = \tan^{-1}(r/\Delta t) \equiv \tan^{-1} c\) with respect to the time axes, but parallel to the distance vector \(SR\), so as to connect equal component frequencies of the source current and receiver voltage spectra, regardless of whether the connected frequencies belong to chirps, as denoted by lines \(IE\) and \(HF\), or to sinusoids, represented by lines \(AD\) and \(BC\), respectively. The inclination denotes wave speeds \(c < \infty\), and is along increasing time from source \((A)\) to receiver \((C)\), conforming to causality.

More importantly, a component with angular frequency \(\omega_1\) at \(C\) on the chirp line \(GC\) should correspond to the same angular frequency \(\omega_t\) in source history \((A)\), but belongs on the chirp line \(IE\) that changes to \(\omega_4\) at time \(t_2\) \((E)\). However, an atom emitting at angular frequency \(\omega_4\) at \(t_2\) \((E)\) would have been observed locally at \(\omega_4\) also at \(t_0\) \((A)\), and the same should hold for a steady carrier transmission. It thus appears that the d’Alembertian travel lines like \(AC\) either require amplitudes to shift with travel, from \(N\) to \(C\), which would conflict with the d’Alembertian invariance; or chirp spectral decompositions, which can only produce inclined histories like \(HF\) and \(AE\), must be impossible, so the lags \(\Delta \omega\) would require nonlocal simultaneous measurements at source and receiver at \(t_2\). The second case cannot hold since the inclinations \(\beta\) could be infinitesimally small, and the decomposition is in any case purely computational.

The answer is that the construction already implies that at nonzero \(\beta\), \(\omega_t\) is seen only at distances \(r = c \Delta \omega / \beta\). The amplitude at \(C\) comes from \(A\), which is precursor to \(E\) at \(t_0\) and to \(N\) at \(t_0 - \Delta t\). The chirp spectrum thus reconstructs distributions at the past times \(t_0 - \Delta t\). The chirp spectrum thus reconstructs distributions at the past times \(t_0 - \Delta t\), to the factor 2 relates to the excess delay.

\[\int_T \exp \left[ \frac{i}{\beta} (\omega_{c} + \Omega_{m}) e^{i \nu_{t} (1-r/c)} \right] \exp \left[ -\frac{i \omega_0}{\beta} e^{i \beta t} \right] dt \approx \frac{2 \pi}{\delta} \left( \omega_c + \langle \Omega_m \rangle - \omega_0 \right) \delta (\beta' - \beta), \]

Fig. 3: Spatial relation of spectral histories.

Chirp spectra would be thus time invariant like Fourier spectra, but exhibit distance proportional shift factors and dilations with the receiver’s choice of \(\beta\) and its derivatives, because the chirp spectra start fully shifted and dilated at the source! The total energy is also clearly unchanged.

The inclined axis \(R_2 R_{\beta, \Omega}\), denotes the chirped spectral view, given by the DSN and ESA range data during flybys, in which local chirp histories \(GC\) and \(HF\) seem normal to the frequency axis, but travel lines \(AC\), \(KL\) unaccountably seem inclined. The inclination of axis is equivalent to the receiver’s clock acceleration inclining the components; the segment \(|PF|\) denotes the relative phase accelerations \(|PF|\) that are not apparent in the rotated “reference frame”, in which the chirps appear as a Fourier spectrum with shifts \(|CP| \approx \Delta \omega\), due to skewing of all travel lines \(AC\), \(KL\) to longer wavelengths, as if space itself were expanding.

Reception and orthogonality. – In any frequency-modulation scheme, including phase shift keying (PSK) in deep space telemetry [40], can be described by a random variable \(\Omega_m\) denoting the instantaneous modulation. Both at the DSN receiver and the spacecraft transponder, the carrier loop phase locks imply, upon allowing for frequency variations, the first-order product integral condition

where \(\omega_c\) is the carrier; \(\omega_0\) is the loop voltage-controlled oscillator (VCO) frequency; \(\beta\) and \(\beta'\) are fractional rates of the VCO and a received spectral component, respectively; and \(T\) is the loop filter time constant. \(T\) is set below 1 Hz in DSN carrier loops in order to suppress both phase noise and modulation [35]. The \(\beta^{-1}\) factor is from integrating the exponential chirp \(\omega(t) = \omega_0 e^{i \beta t}\) to get the phase, and vanishes in the phase derivative via L’Hôpital’s rule.

Equation (2) constitutes the orthogonality condition for exponential chirp waves without modulation \((\Omega_m = 0)\), and including the case of \(T \to \infty\), since a travelling wave
of the same instantaneous frequency and rate of change as the receiver’s LO (≈ ω0) contributes in every cycle to the integration performed by subsequent filters, but any other component contributes over at most a cycle. In a Fourier transform, nonmatching components contribute at every few cycles indefinitely, so Fourier convergence depends on Cesàro means, and is weaker in this sense.

The orthogonality looks weak for distinguishing between, say, a chirp of fractional rate 1 s⁻¹ at 5 THz from a 5 THz sinusoid as their phases would differ by only 10⁻⁷ rad over 10⁵ cycles, but in a spectral selection or decomposition, all families of curves over local frequency-time planes (fig. 3) must be assumed available. The contributions from β ± δβ pairs then cancel out for δβ ≠ 0, just as in the interference of alternative paths in Fermat’s principle. For decoding or demodulation, eq. (2) relates the modulated carrier and LO statistically over shorter integration times T for the modulation bandwidth, assuming (Ωₘ) = 0, since the d.c. (direct current) is suppressed in deep space telemetry. The consistency of the DSN range data with its Doppler implies that the modulated chirp spectrum had the correct phase offsets Ωₘ relative to the chirp carrier.

Larger lags, of 9 MHz at 1 AU for the same acceleration 0.5 m s⁻² as at loss of signal (LOS), would shift the chirps out of the filter pass-bands, so the signal presumably gets demodulated from the Fourier spectrum without lags¹.

Explanation of the SSN residuals. – The net gain in speed was only (6.87 − 6.83)/6.87 ≈ 0.6% ([9], fig. 3a), with most of the acceleration close to the Earth after the SSN tracking in increasingly tangential motion. The uniformity of the 10 min ticks in the equatorial view ([9], fig. 1) and of similar ticks in the north polar view ([14], fig. 9), which are expanded due to projection, suggest that the mean speed vo ≡ 6.85 km s⁻¹ would be adequate for present purposes.

The 219 min gap in the DSN tracking then represents 6.851 km s⁻¹ × 219 min = 90000 km of trajectory. LOS occurred 1 h 8 min before periapsis and acquisition of signal (AOS), at Canberra, at 2 h 31 min after periapsis, so the range was 90000 km × 68/219 ≈ 27050 km at LOS and 62070 km at LOS. Tracking at Altair ended 36 mm past LOS at 06:51:08 and had started at 06:14:28, for a total of 2200 s, so the tracking started 4120 s before periapsis, at r ≈ 4120 × 6.851 km s⁻¹ = 28226 km. The one-way delay was therefore Δt ≡ −r/c ≈ −94 ms, implying range error εᵣ ≡ vΔt = −94 ms × 6.851 km s⁻¹ ≈ −645 m, about 25% smaller than in fig. 1. The error decreased with the range rate at dεᵣ/dt ≈ v dΔt/dt = v²/c = (6.851 km s⁻¹)²/c ≈ 0.313 m s⁻¹, over 1187 s from 06:25:25 to 06:45:12, hence by 0.313 × 1187 ≈ 186 m, which

¹The lags should be about 18 Hz at lunar range, but inband chirps would then face echo suppression due to their 1.2 s excess delay. A carrier loop lock to the Fourier spectrum would produce a piecewise frequency approximation of the Doppler rate as the VCO carrier, so each range code bit then gets retrieved from the Fourier spectrum.

The negative Δv in Galileo’s second flyby was concluded from around periapsis, since it was at first thought masked by atmospheric drag [9,14]. The tracking was unbroken in Cassini’s flyby that also showed negative Δv [41].

As the excess delay varies with the range, the true velocity profile, given by the differentiated SSN range, and the DSN Doppler would be closest at periapsis, and cannot really be parallel. The slopes of the residuals were thus “irreducible through velocity estimation” [14], though both curves were monotonic over the SSN tracking period, as shown.

The velocity error at AOS should cause post-encounter data to be inconsistent with the pre-encounter trajectory, and vice versa. Acceleration due to Earth’s gravity at AOS range would be a = 0.103 m s⁻², implying a velocity error Δv = −aΔt ≈ 21.4 mm s⁻¹, or a 603 mHz ≈ 10.7 mm s⁻¹, Doppler amplitude at the downlink frequency. These are about 20% of the reported 760 mHz = 13.5 mm s⁻¹ [9].

Canberra’s latitude of 35.282°⁸ means it is 6371 km × cos(35.282°) = 5201 km off Earth’s axis. The −71.96° declination of the post-encounter velocity asymptote then implies 5201 km × cos(71.96°) ≈ 1611 km of diurnal range and (1611/62070) × 603 mHz ≈ 15.6 mHz diurnal Doppler oscillations. The larger actual 50 MHz amplitude is due to a smaller declination at AOS, and to a misprediction of the direction [9], possibly worsened by the error at LOS².

The velocity error Δv = −aΔt ≡ −ar/c also explains the −r⁻¹ decay in the post-encounter oscillation graphs [9,14], since a ∝ r⁻² due to Earth’s gravity.

Fig. 4: DSN Doppler and its lags during flybys.
REFERENCES


