

Information Theory for Single Molecule Observation

Francisco Balzarotti

Likelihood functions, Parameter estimation, Fisher Information

12.07.2022

LIGHT MICROSCOPY

1m 1dm 1cm 1mm 100µm 10µm 1µm 100nm 10nm 1nm 0.1nm

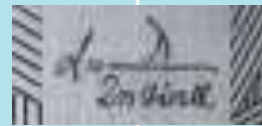
1873

1994

2014



HUMAN EYE



RES



FRET



Donor

Akzeptor



LIGHT MICROSCOPE

1946

FRET

HOW FAR?



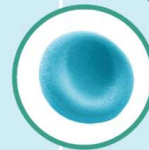
ELECTRON MICROSCOPE



Width of a finger



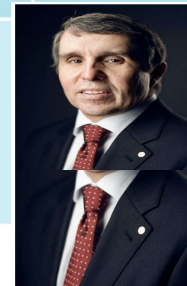
Thickness of human hair



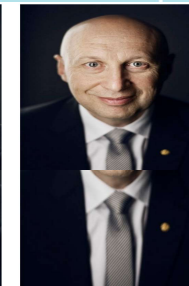
Size of a red blood cell



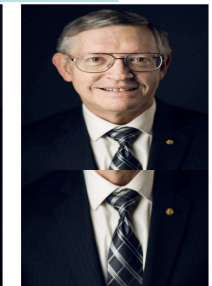
Size of a bacterium



Eric Betzig



Stefan W. Hell



William E. Moerner

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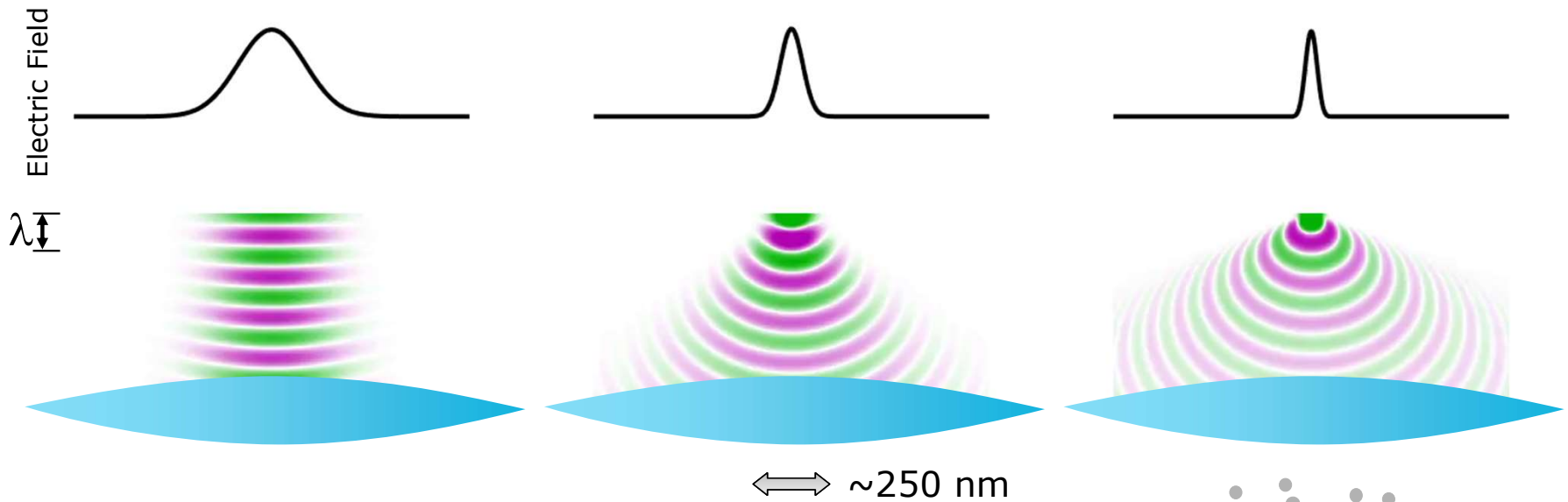
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JENA, GERMANY

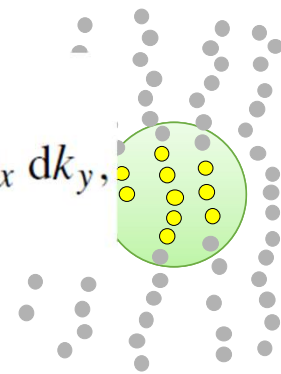
DIFFRACTION BARRIER



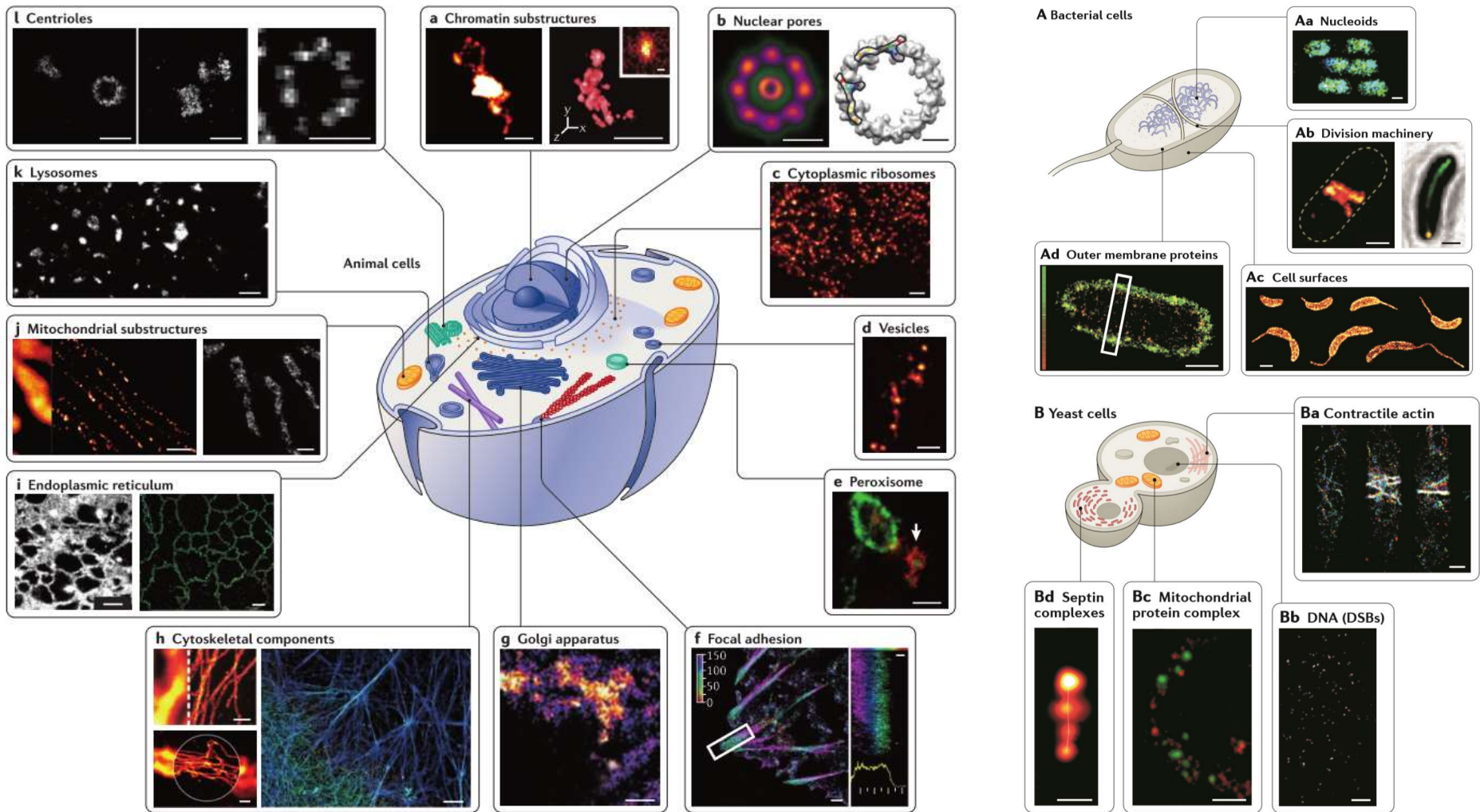
$$\mathbf{E}(x, y, z) = \iint_{-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{\mathbf{E}}(k_x, k_y; 0) e^{i[k_x x + k_y y \pm k_z z]} dk_x dk_y,$$

↑
Electric field

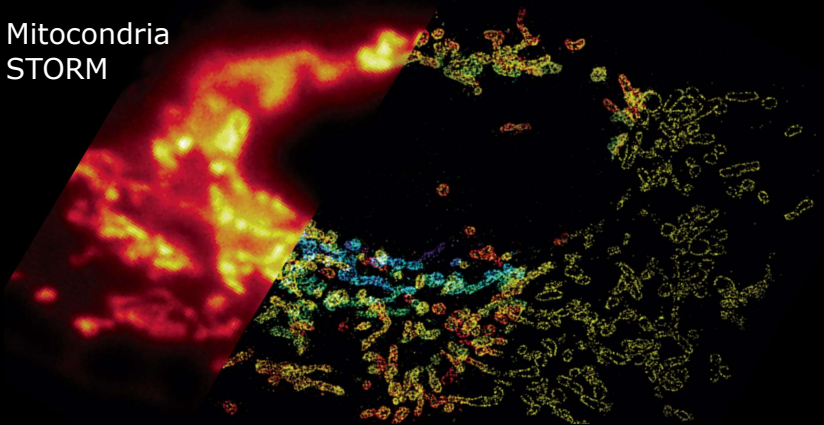
↑
Angular Spectrum



SUPER RESOLUTION IN CELL BIOLOGY

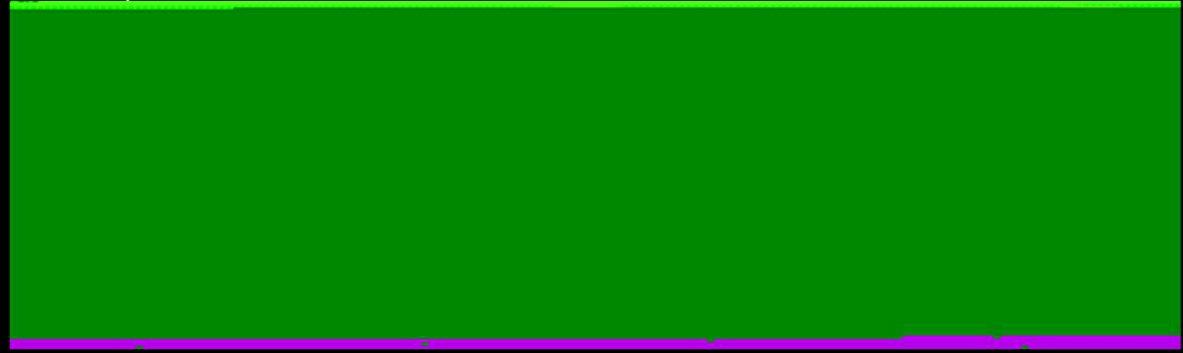


Mitochondria
STORM

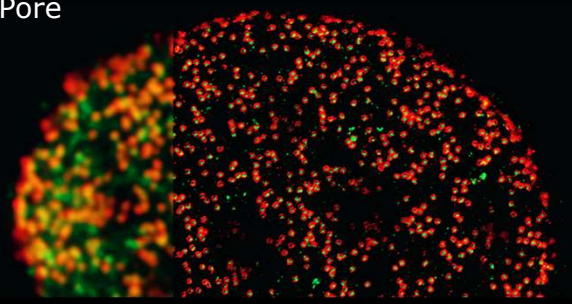


B. Huang et al. *Nat. Meth.* (2008)

Cell cytoskeleton



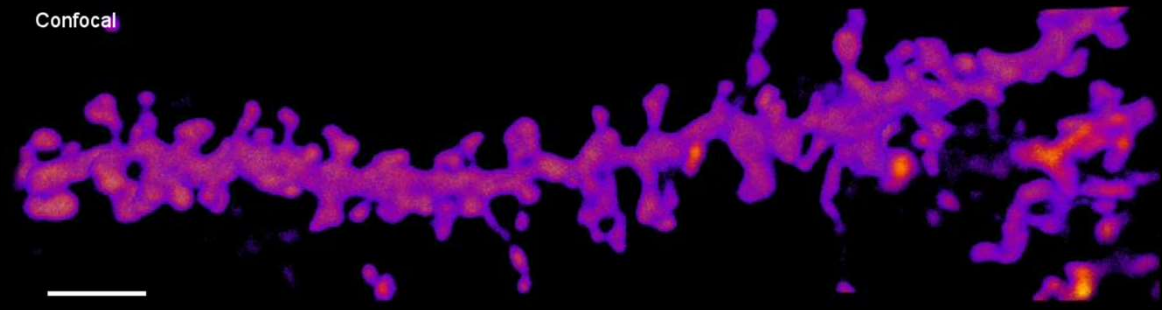
Nuclear Pore
STED



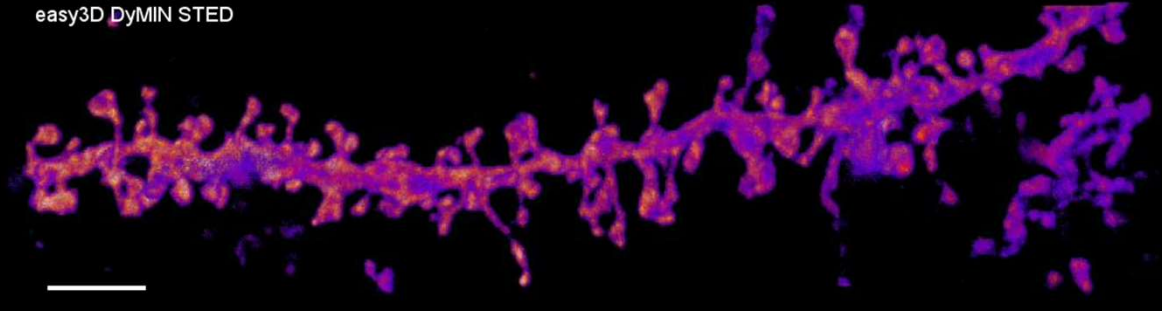
F. Göttfert et al. *Biophys. J.* (2013)

Dendritic spines

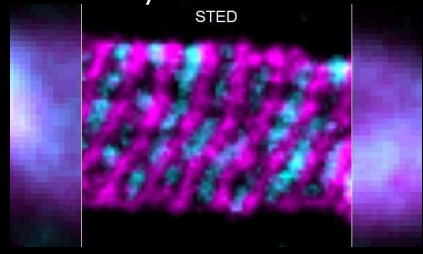
Confocal



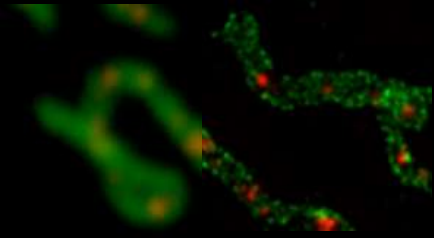
easy3D DyMIN STED



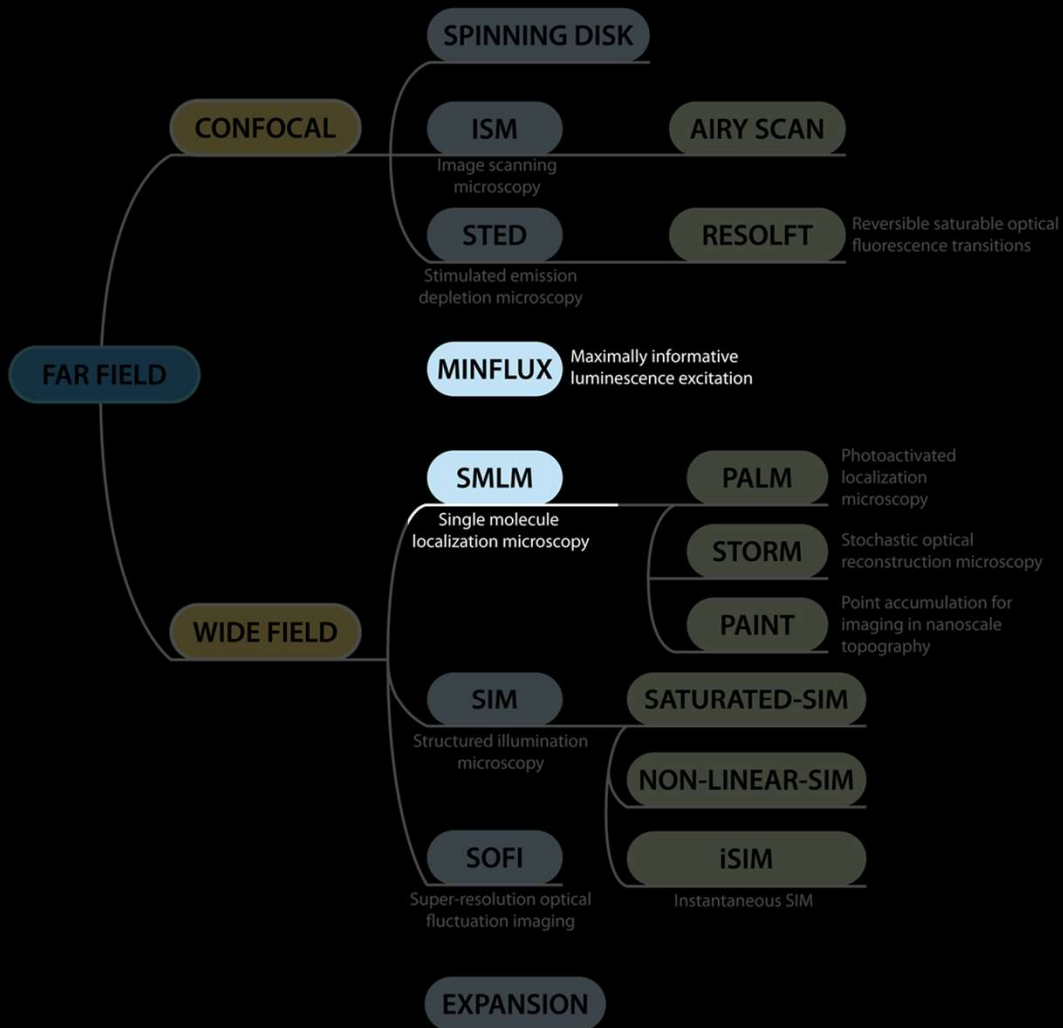
Neuron Cytoskeleton
STED



Mitochondria



SUPER RESOLUTION OPTICAL MICROSCOPY

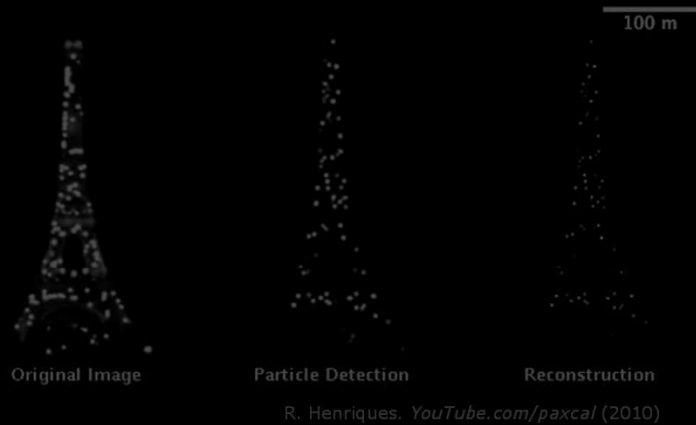


CONSIDERATIONS

- Spatial resolution
- Time resolution
- Photo toxicity
- Long observation
- Probe availability
- Multicolor
- Live compatible
- Depth / tissue

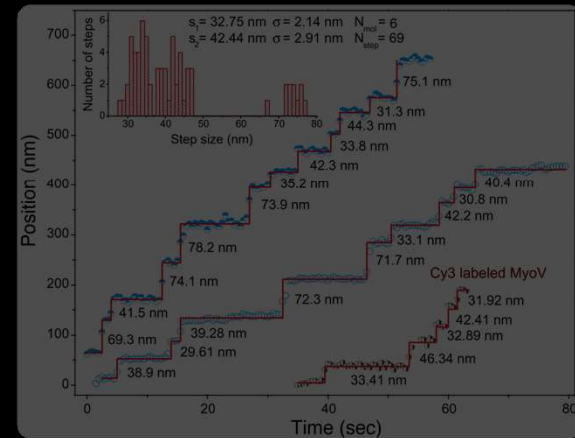
SINGLE MOLECULE LOCALIZATION

SMLM – Super Resolution Microscopy



SMT – Single Molecule Tracking

Myosin V – Cy3



A. Yildiz et al. *Science* (2003)

MINIFLUX
precision

$$\sigma \propto \frac{L}{NK/2}$$

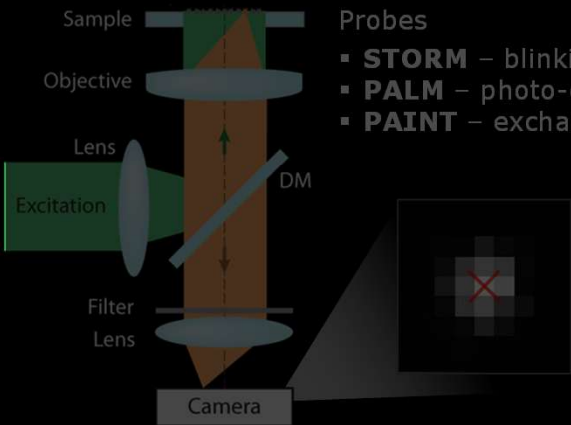


Wavelength

$$\sigma \propto \frac{\lambda}{NA} \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}$$

Numerical aperture Photons

Wide field
precision

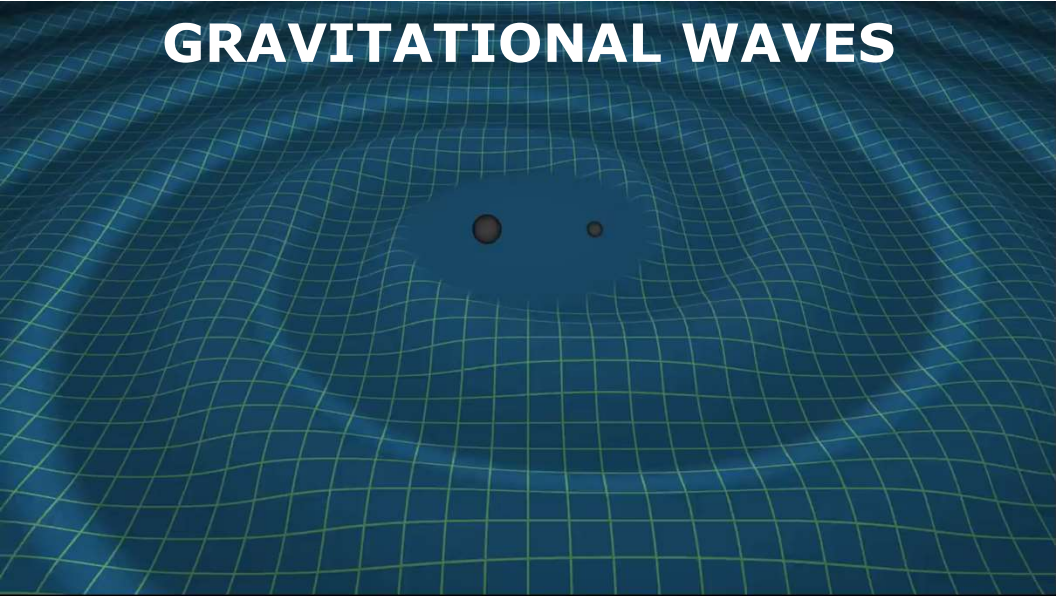


Probes

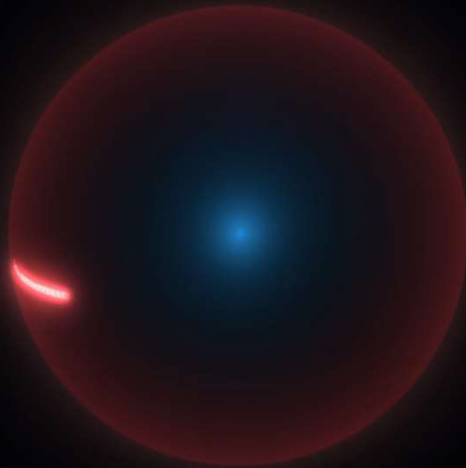
- **STORM** – blinking dyes
- **PALM** – photo-convertible FPs
- **PAINT** – exchangeable reporter

M.J. Rust et al. *Nat. Methods* (2006)
 E. Betzig et al. *Science* (2006)
 S.T. Hess et al. *Biophys. J.* (2006)

GRAVITATIONAL WAVES

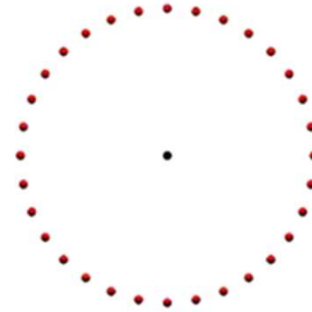
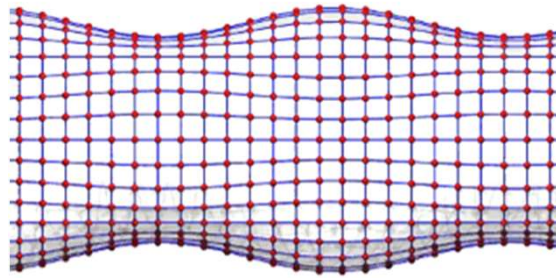


Scale of Effect Vastly Exaggerated



WHAT IS THE RULER?

Gravitational wave
with linear polarization

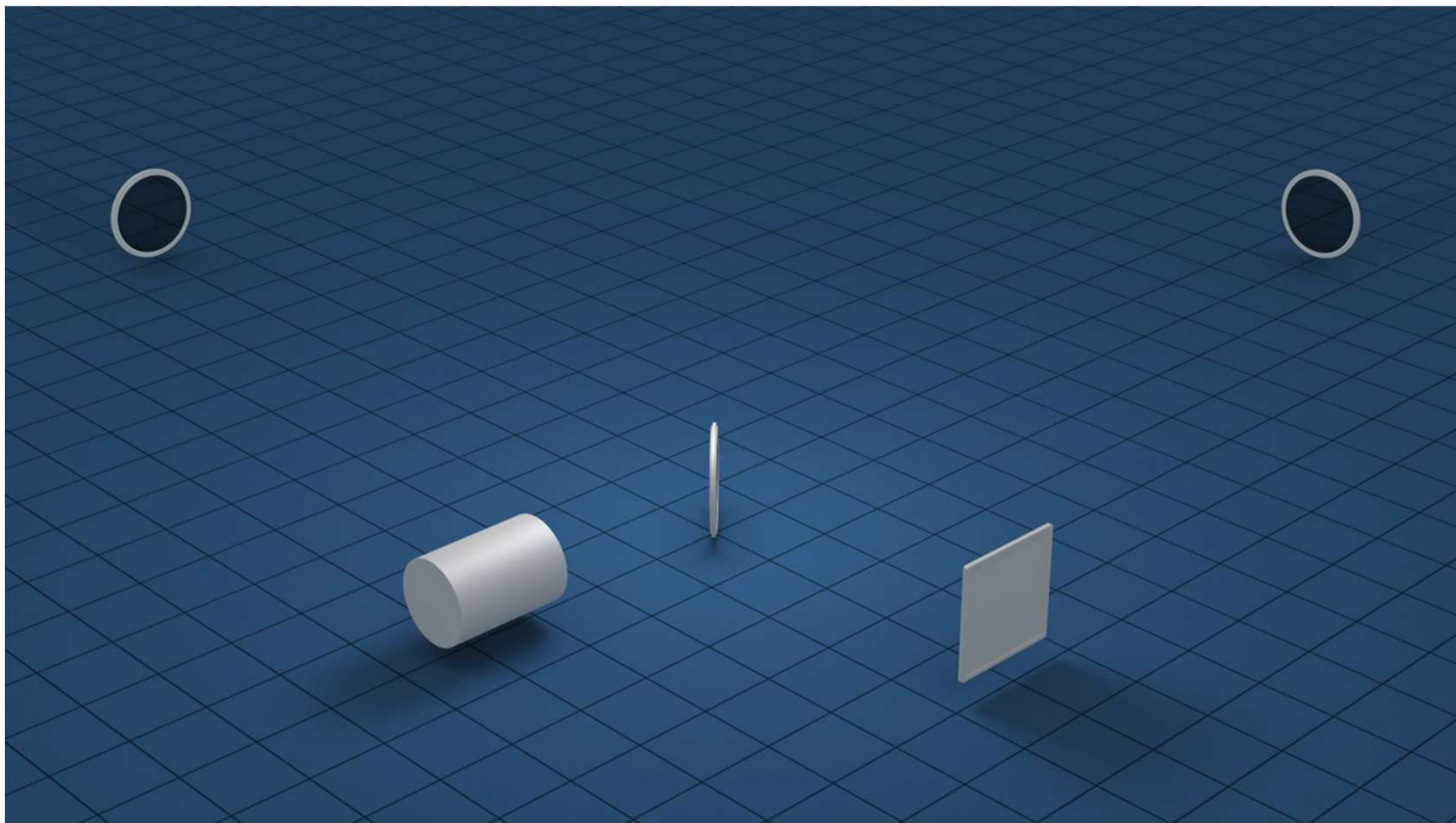


Michaelson Interferometer

$$E_T = E_1 e^{i(\phi_1 - \omega t)} + E_2 e^{i(\phi_2 - \omega t)}$$

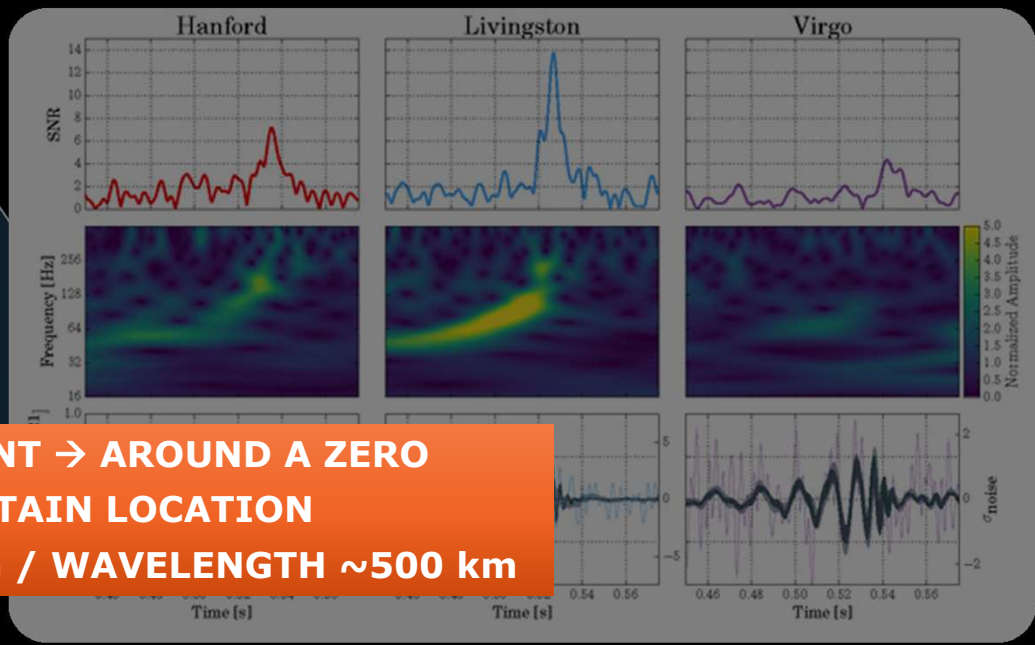
$$I_{det} = E_0^2 [1 - \cos(2k(l_1 - l_2))]$$

$$I_{det} \propto (l_1 - l_2)^2$$





- SENSITIVE MEASUREMENT → AROUND A ZERO
- MULTIPLE POINTS → OBTAIN LOCATION
- DISPLACEMENTS 10^{-18} m / WAVELENGTH ~ 500 km



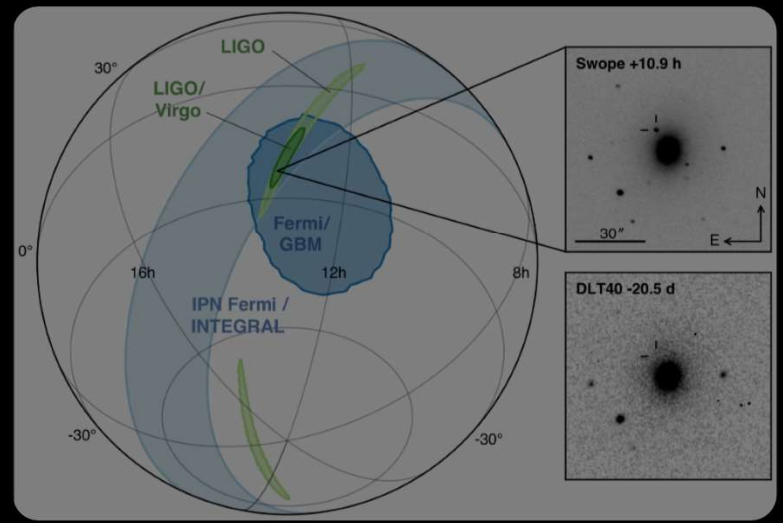
Livingston



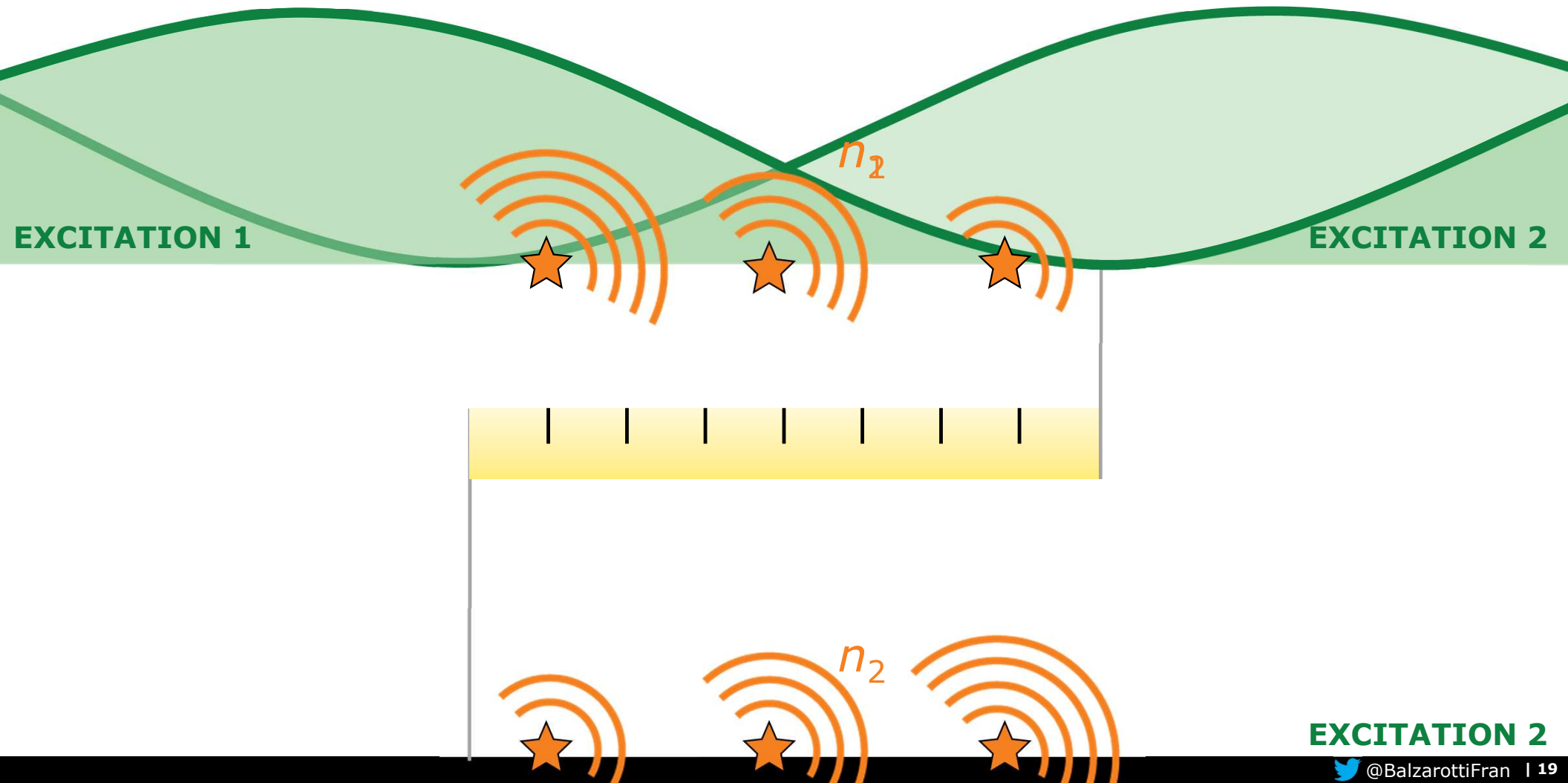
Hanford



Virgo



MINIFLUX AS A RULER



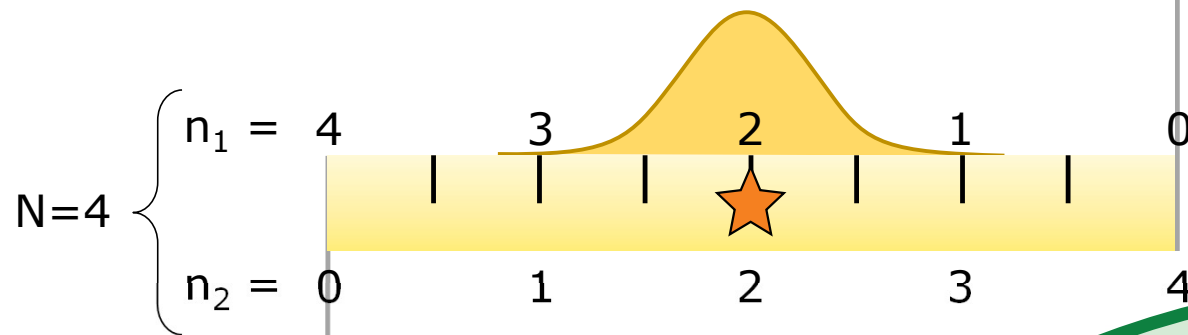
EXCITATION 2

MINIFLUX AS A RULER

RULER SIZE \rightarrow BEAM SEPARATION

RULER DIVISIONS \rightarrow NUMBER OF PHOTONS

EXCITATION 1



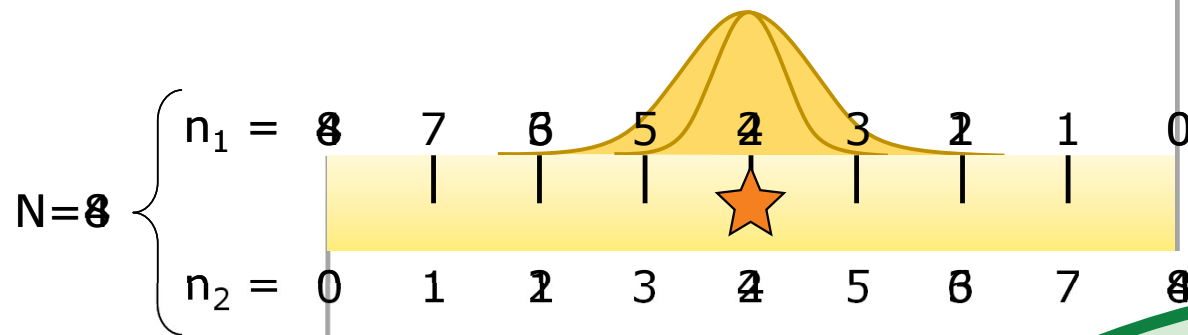
EXCITATION 2

MINIFLUX AS A RULER

RULER SIZE \rightarrow BEAM SEPARATION

RULER DIVISIONS \rightarrow NUMBER OF PHOTONS

EXCITATION 1



MORE PHOTONS \rightarrow MORE DIVISIONS \rightarrow HIGHER PRECISION

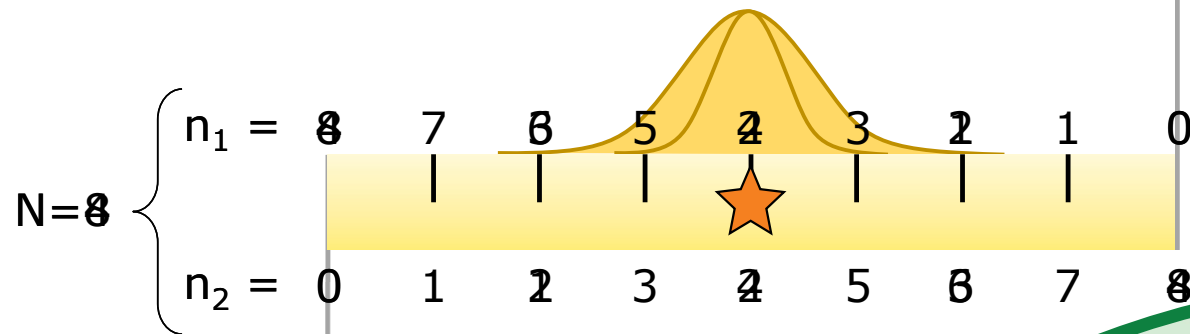
EXCITATION 2

MINIFLUX AS A RULER

RULER SIZE \rightarrow BEAM SEPARATION

RULER DIVISIONS \rightarrow NUMBER OF PHOTONS

EXCITATION 1



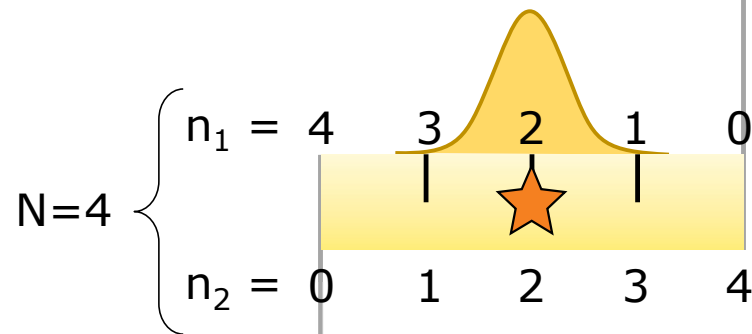
MORE PHOTONS \rightarrow MORE DIVISIONS \rightarrow HIGHER PRECISION

EXCITATION 2

MINIFLUX AS A RULER

RULER SIZE \rightarrow BEAM SEPARATION

RULER DIVISIONS \rightarrow NUMBER OF PHOTONS



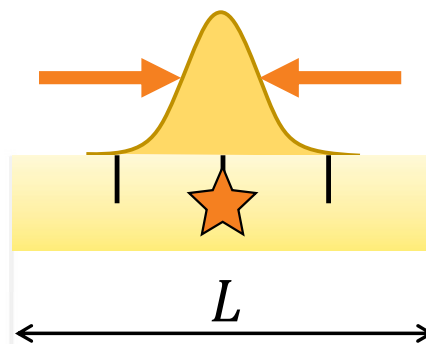
MORE PHOTONS \rightarrow MORE DIVISIONS \rightarrow HIGHER PRECISION

BEAMS CLOSER \rightarrow SMALLER RULER \rightarrow HIGHER PRECISION

MINFLUX AS MAXIMALLY INFORMATIVE

MINFLUX Resolution

$$\sigma \propto \frac{L}{\sqrt{N}}$$



**MAXIMALLY
INFORMATIVE
LUMINESCENCE
EXCITATION**

INFORMATION THEORY ELEMENTS

Likelihood Function
Parameter Estimation
Fisher Information

BINOMIAL DISTRIBUTION

Flip a coin n times each with success probability p

Probability mass function:

$$P_X(X = k; n, p) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}$$

Measure $k = 6$

→ **How to obtain parameter** p ?

Notation abuses:

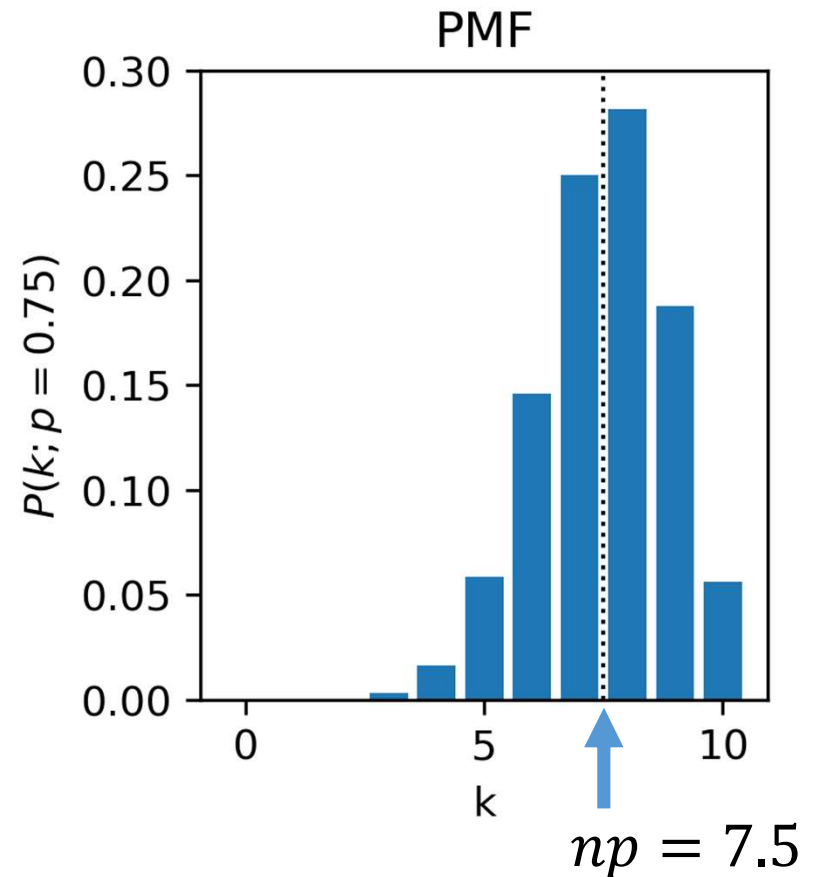
$$P_X(X = k; n, p)$$

$$P(k; n, p)$$

$$P(k|n, p)$$

$$P(k)$$

$n = 10; p = 0.75$



LIKELIHOOD FUNCTION

Probability mass function:

$$P_X(X = k; n, p) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}$$

Measure $k = 6$

→ How to obtain parameter p ?

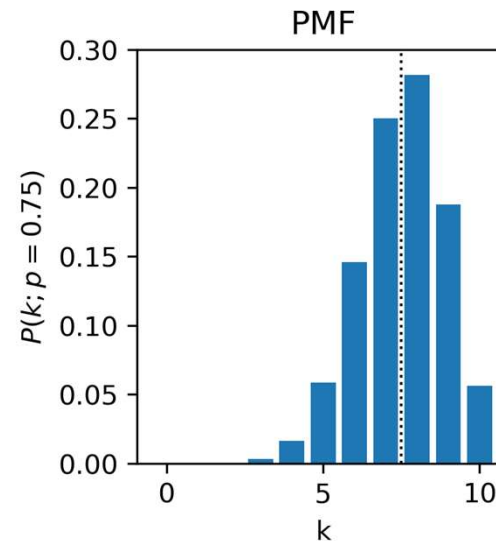
Likelihood function:

$$\mathcal{L}(k, p) = P_X(X = k; n, p)$$

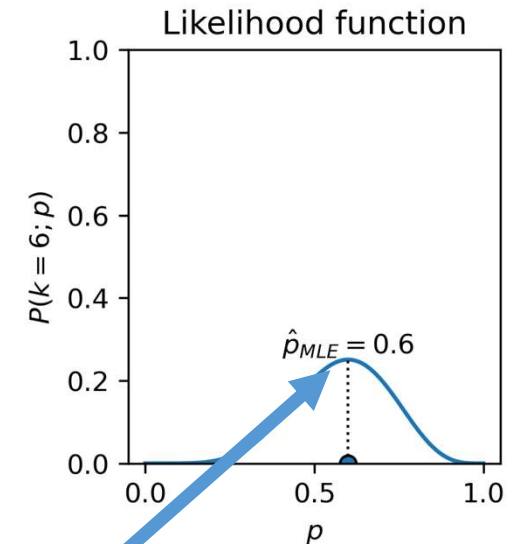
Which p makes this measurement the most likely outcome?

$$\frac{d\mathcal{L}(k, p)}{dp} = 0 \quad \hat{p}_{MLE} = \frac{k}{n}$$

$n = 10; p = 0.75$

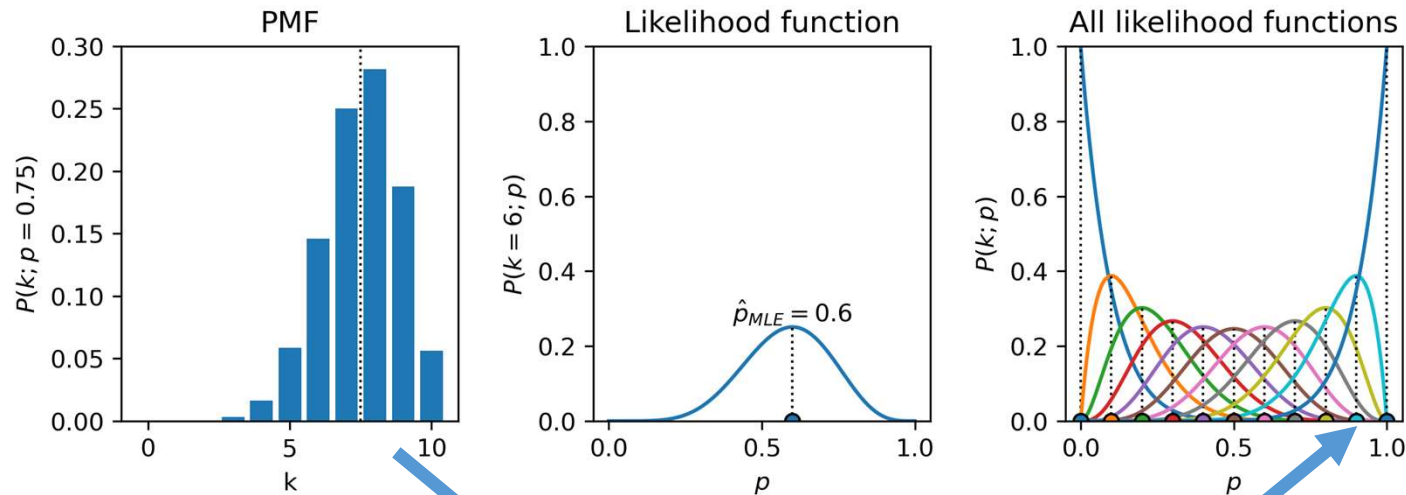


$n = 10; k = 6$



- Not dependent on the real value of p
- Only on the measurement k

LIKELIHOOD FUNCTION



Probability mass function:

$$P_X(X = k; n, p) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}$$

Likelihood function:

$$\mathcal{L}(k, p) = P_X(X = k; n, p)$$

Estimator:

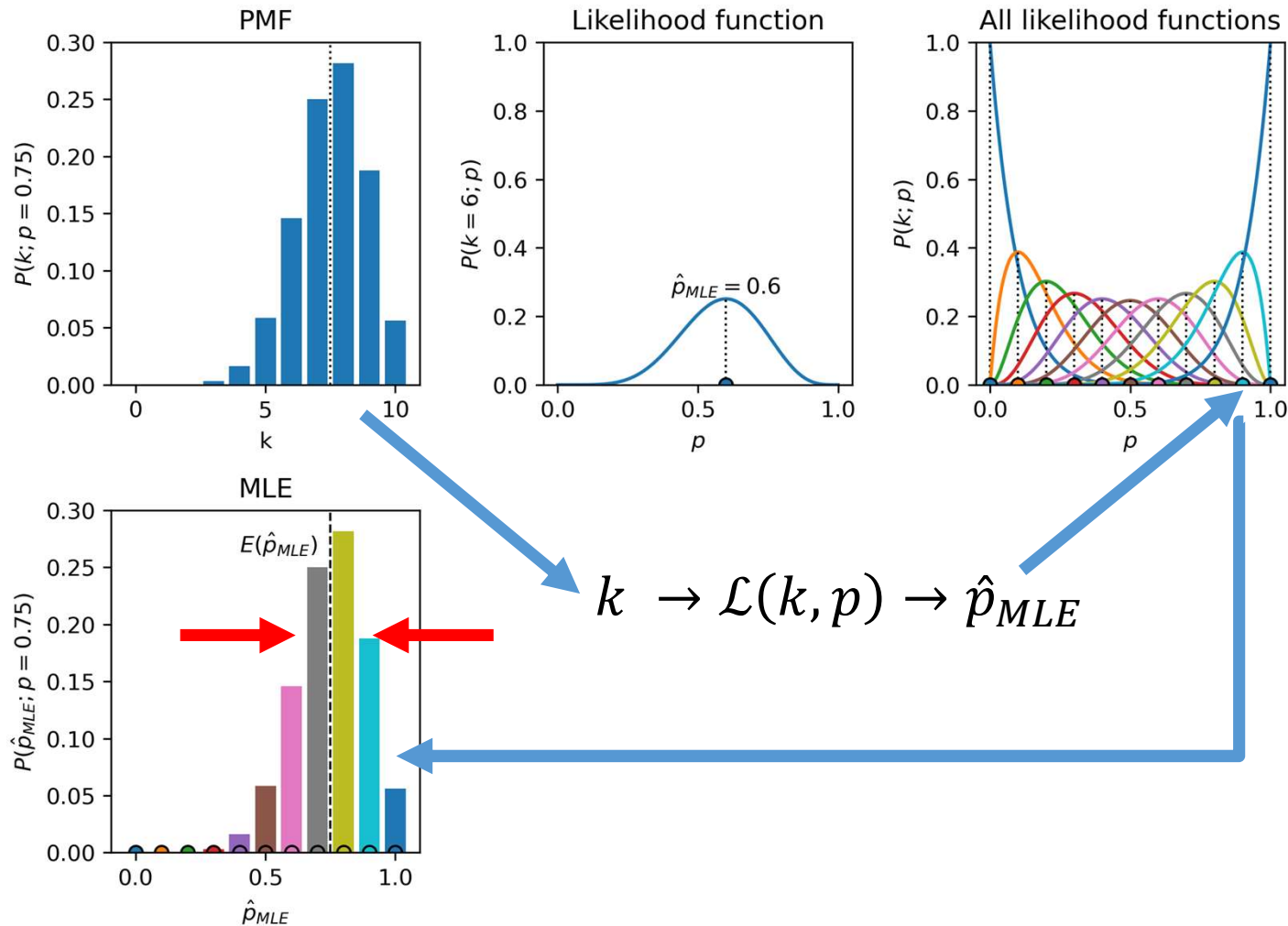
$$\hat{p}_{MLE} = \frac{k}{n}$$

$$k \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(k, p) \rightarrow \hat{p}_{MLE}$$

Random variable

Random variable

MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD ESTIMATOR



Estimator:

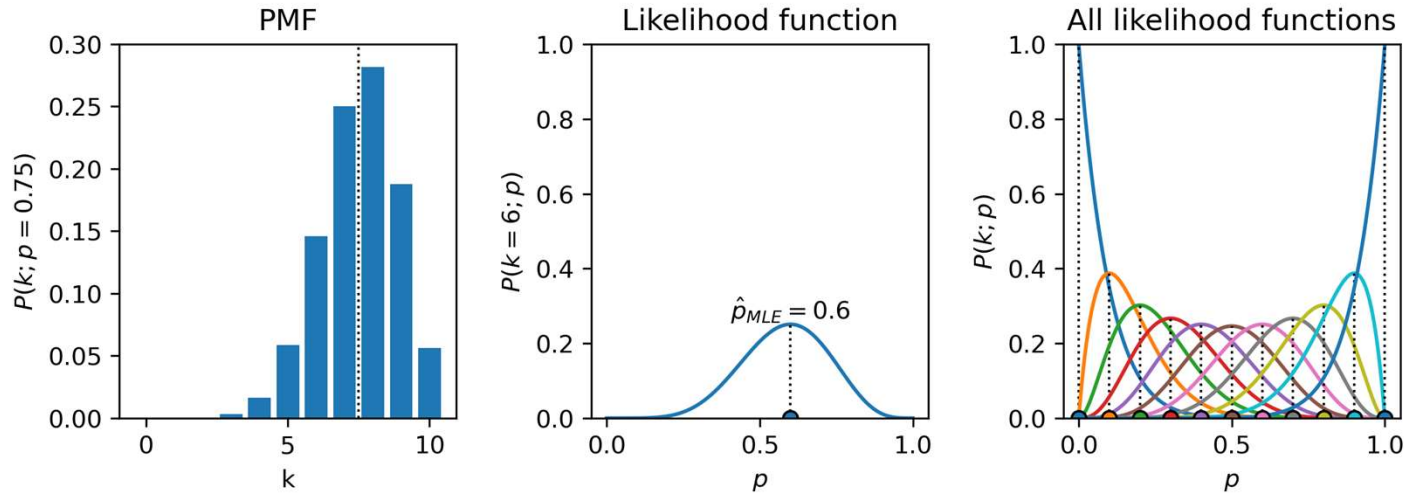
$$\hat{p}_{MLE} = \frac{k}{n}$$

Characterize:

$$E(\hat{p}_{MLE})$$

$$\text{var}(\hat{p}_{MLE})$$

FISHER INFORMATION AND CRAMER-RAO BOUND



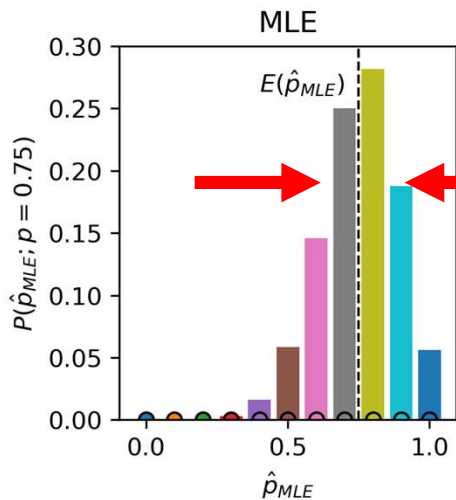
Estimator:

$$\hat{p}_{MLE} = \frac{k}{n}$$

Characterize:

$$E(\hat{p}_{MLE})$$

$$\text{var}(\hat{p}_{MLE})$$

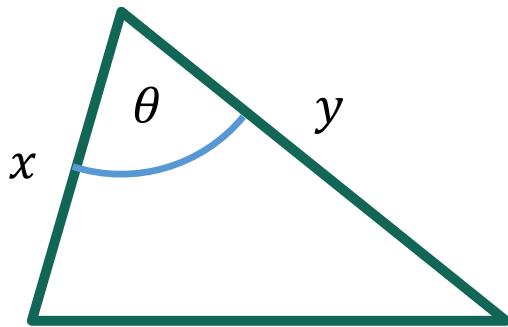


How sharp can this be?

$$\text{var}(\hat{p}) \geq \frac{1}{F_p} \quad \left. \vphantom{\text{var}(\hat{p})} \right\} \text{Cramer-Rao bound}$$

Fisher Information

FISHER INFORMATION AND CRAMER-RAO BOUND



$$x^T y = |x||y| \cos(\theta) \leq |x||y|$$

$$\text{Cauchy-Schwarz: } \langle x, y \rangle^2 \leq |x|^2 |y|^2$$



Estimator $x = \hat{p}(k)$

Internal product

$$\langle x, y \rangle = \text{cov}(x, y)$$

$$\langle x, y \rangle = E([x - E(x)][y - E(y)])$$

$$\langle x, x \rangle = \text{var}(\hat{p})$$

Score function $y = \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \log P(k; p)$

$$\boxed{\frac{1}{E(y^2)} \leq \sigma_p^2}$$

$$F_p = E(y^2) = E\left(\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial p} \log P(k; p)\right)^2\right) = E\left(-\frac{\partial^2}{\partial p^2} \log P(k; p)\right)$$

$$\text{Actual calculation} \rightarrow F_p = \begin{cases} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left[-\frac{\partial^2}{\partial p^2} \log P(k; p) \right] P(k; p) \\ \int \left[-\frac{\partial^2}{\partial p^2} \log p(k; p) \right] p(k; p) dk \end{cases}$$

FISHER INFORMATION AND CRAMER-RAO BOUND

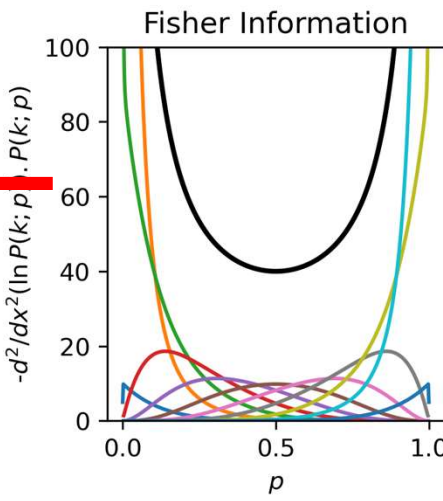
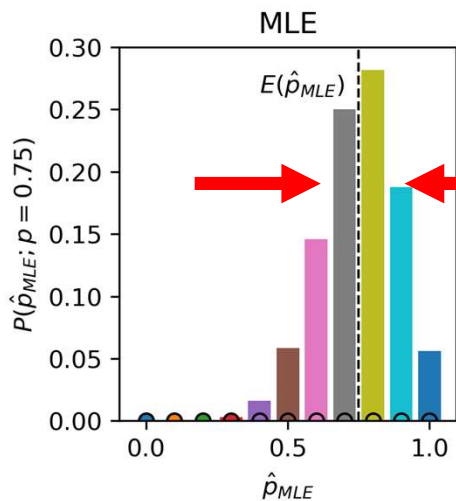
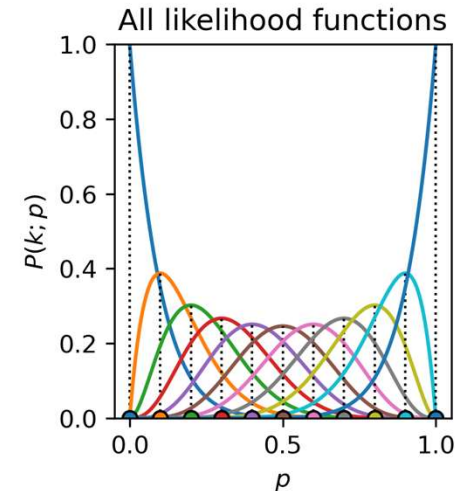
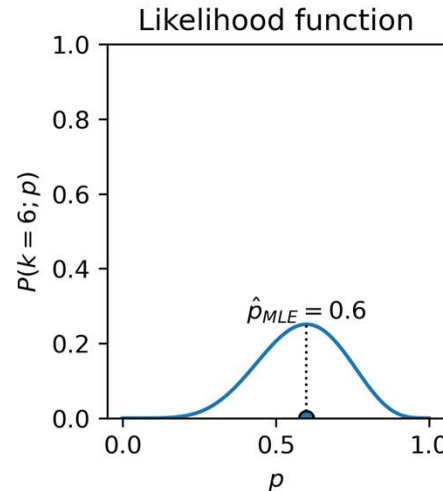
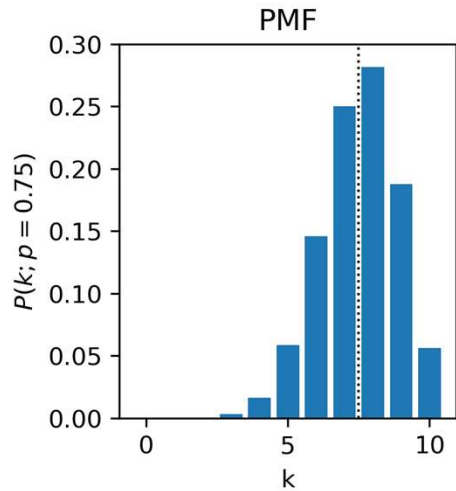
Estimator:

$$\hat{p}_{MLE} = \frac{k}{n}$$

Characterize:

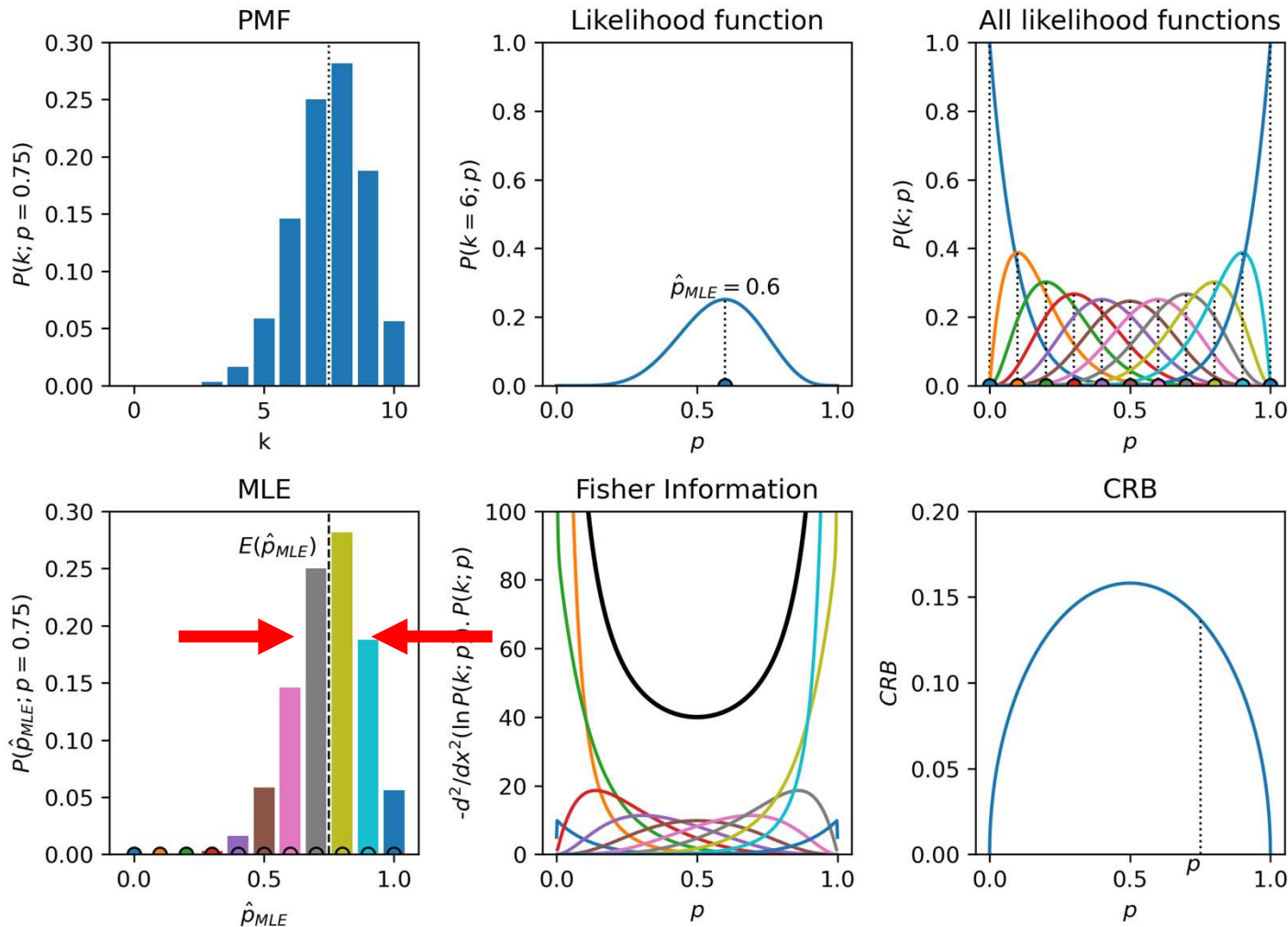
$$E(\hat{p}_{MLE})$$

$$\text{var}(\hat{p}_{MLE})$$



$$F_p = \sum_{k=0}^n \left[-\frac{\partial^2}{\partial p^2} \log P(k; p) \right] P(k; p)$$

FISHER INFORMATION AND CRAMER-RAO BOUND



Estimator:

$$\hat{p}_{MLE} = \frac{k}{n}$$

Characterize:

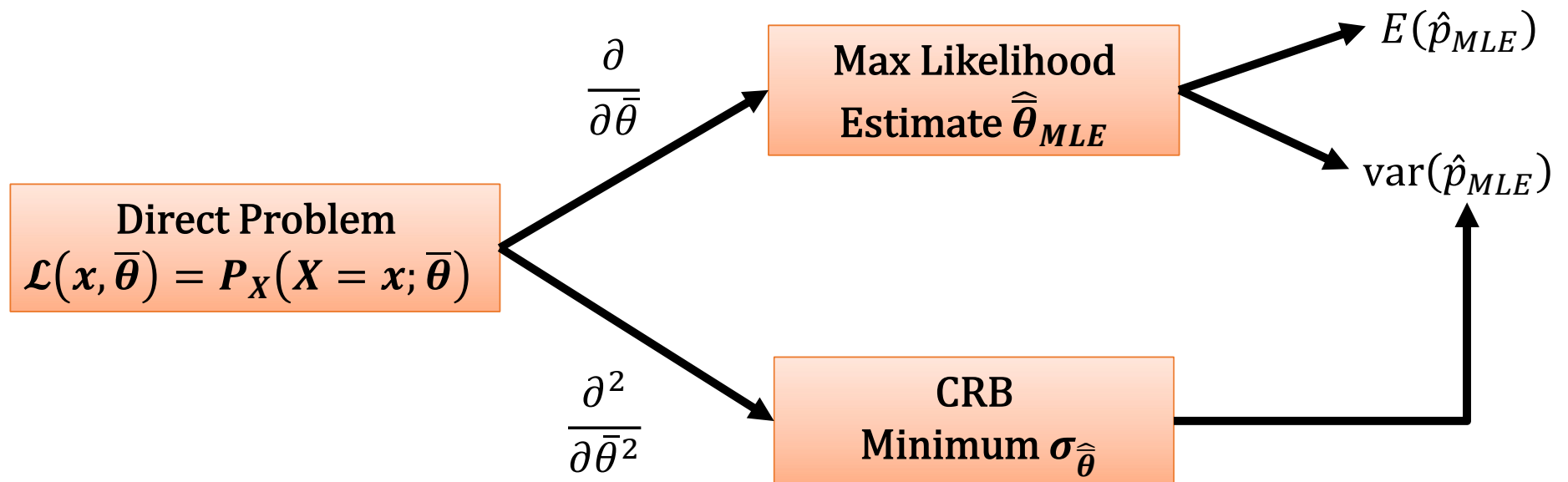
$$E(\hat{p}_{MLE})$$

$$\text{var}(\hat{p}_{MLE})$$

$$\text{var}(\hat{p}) \geq \frac{1}{F_p}$$

$$\sigma_{CRB} = \sqrt{\frac{p(1-p)}{n}}$$

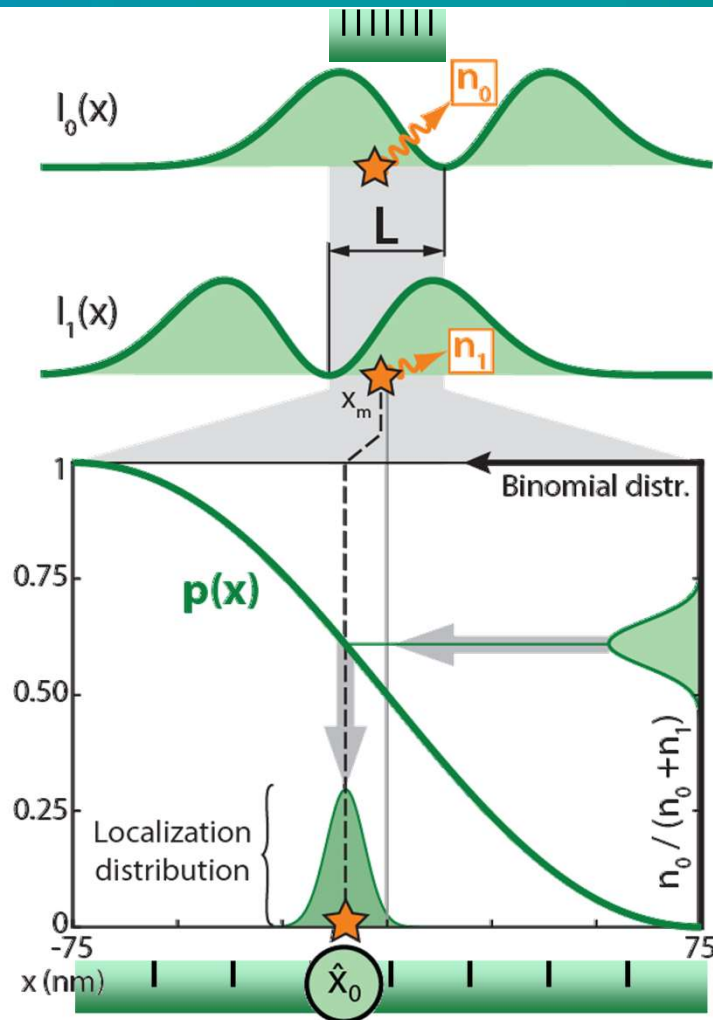
SUMMARY



OTHER DISTRIBUTIONS

	Gaussian	Poissonian	Binomial
Variable	x	n	k
Parameters	$\vec{\theta} = [\mu, \sigma]$	$\vec{\theta} = [\lambda]$	$\vec{\theta} = [p]$
Distribution $p(x; \vec{\theta})$	$\frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$	$e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^n}{n!}$	$\binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$
Log-likelihood			
$\ln \mathcal{L}(x; \vec{\theta})$	$-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2} - \ln \sigma$	$-\lambda + n \ln \lambda - \ln n!$	$k \ln p + (n-k) \ln(1-p)$
$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \ln \mathcal{L}(x; \vec{\theta})$	$\begin{bmatrix} -(x-\mu)/\sigma^2 \\ \frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^3} - \frac{1}{\sigma} \end{bmatrix}$	$-1 + n/\lambda$	$\frac{k}{p} + \frac{n-k}{1-p}$
$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} \ln \mathcal{L}(x; \vec{\theta})$	$\begin{bmatrix} -1/\sigma^2 & 2\frac{(x-\mu)}{2\sigma^3} \\ 2\frac{(x-\mu)}{2\sigma^3} & -3\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^4} + \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \end{bmatrix}$	$-n/\lambda^2$	$-\frac{k}{p^2} + \frac{n-k}{(1-p)^2}$
MLE			
$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \ln \mathcal{L}(x; \vec{\theta}) = 0$	$\hat{\mu}_{\text{MLE}} = x$	$\hat{\lambda}_{\text{MLE}} = n$	$\hat{p}_{\text{MLE}} = k/n$
$E(\hat{\theta})$	$E(x) = \mu$	$E(n) = \lambda$	$E(k/n) = p$
$\text{var}(\hat{\theta})$	$\text{var}(x) = \sigma^2$	$\text{var}(n) = \lambda$	$\text{var}(k/n) = p(1-p)/n$
Fisher Information			
$E\left(-\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} \ln \mathcal{L}(x; \theta)\right)$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1/\sigma^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2/\sigma^2 \end{bmatrix}$	$1/\lambda$	$\frac{n}{p(1-p)}$
CRB	$\begin{bmatrix} \sigma^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma^2/2 \end{bmatrix}$	λ	$\frac{p(1-p)}{n}$

MINIFLUX LOCALIZATION ESTIMATION



n_0

$n_0 \sim \text{Poissonian } E(n_0) \propto I_0(x_m)$

n_1

$n_1 \sim \text{Poissonian } E(n_1) \propto I_1(x_m)$

$n_0 | n_0 + n_1 = N \sim \text{Binomial } p(x) = \frac{I_0(x)}{I_0(x) + I_1(x)}; n = N$

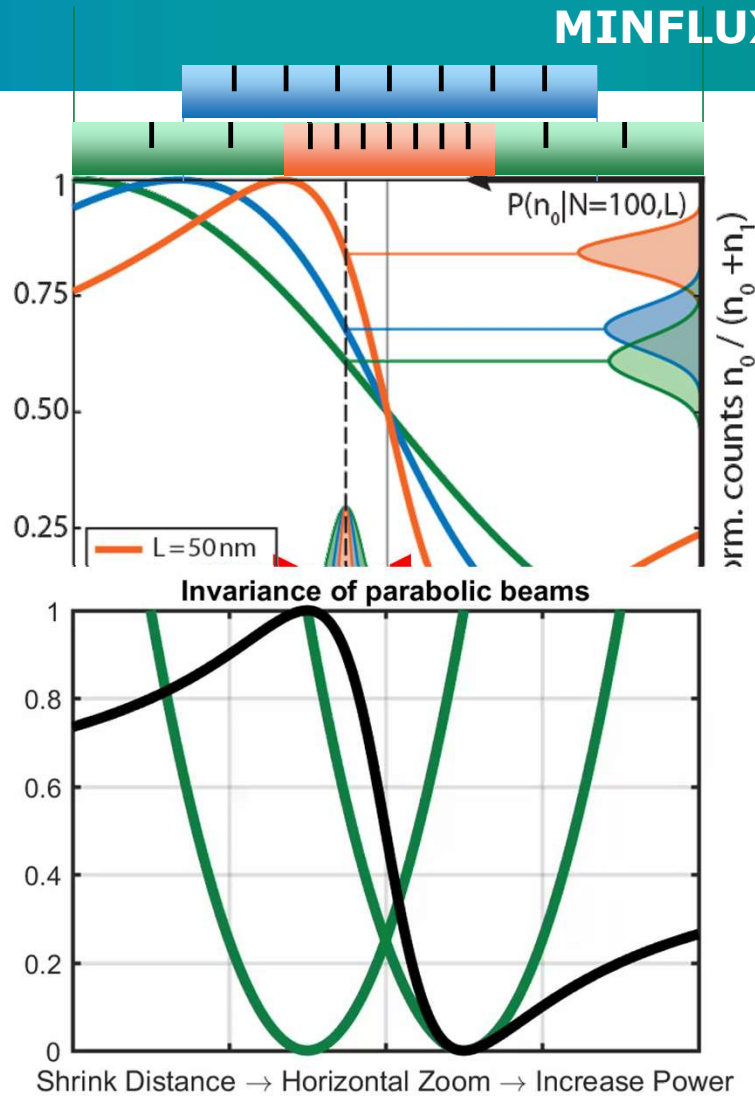
~~$k \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(k, p) \rightarrow \hat{p}_{MLE} = k/n$~~

$n_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(n_0, p(x)) \rightarrow \hat{p}_{MLE} = n_0/N$

\hat{x}_{MLE} such that $\hat{p}_{MLE} = p(\hat{x}_{MLE})$

$\frac{60}{60 + 40} = 0.6 = p(x) \rightarrow \text{find } x$

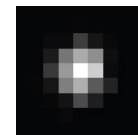
MINIFLUX WITH MATH



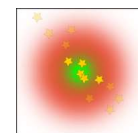
MAXIMALLY INFORMATIVE LUMINESCENCE EXCITATION

$$\tilde{\sigma}_{CRB}^{quad}(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \frac{L}{4} \left[1 + \left(\frac{x}{L/2} \right)^2 \right] |x\rangle$$

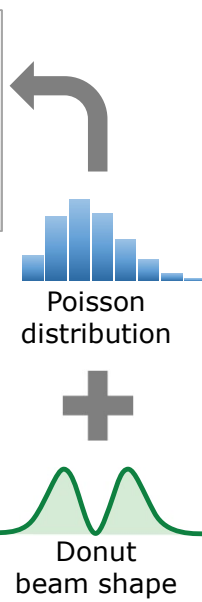
$$\tilde{\sigma}_{CRB}^{quad}(0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \frac{L}{4} \quad \text{INFORMATION}$$



$$\sigma_{CAM} \propto \frac{\lambda}{NA} \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}$$



$$\sigma_{STED} \propto \frac{\lambda}{NA} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + I/I_S}}$$



GAUSSIANS VS DONUTS

**THE MAPPING OF STATISTICS VIA $p(x)$
ENABLES MANIPULATING THE
INFORMATION**

**CRITICAL ELEMENTS:
1. POISSON STATISTICS
2. INHOMOGENEOUS ILLUMINATION**

