

Introduction to Spatial Filtering / Array Processing

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Introduction to Spatial Filtering / Array Processing — Overview

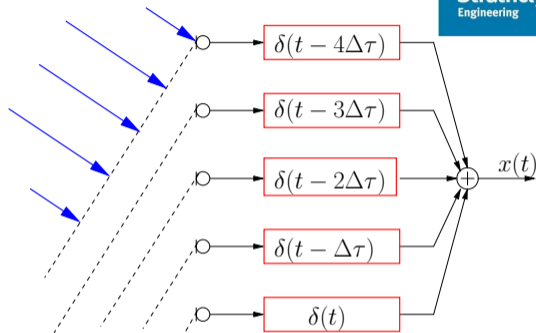


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1.1 Intuitive Beamforming

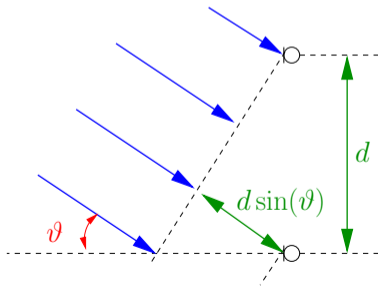
- ▶ A **farfield wavefront** arrives at a linear uniformly spaced sensor array:
- ▶ due to the direction of arrival (DOA) and finite propagation speed, the wavefront will arrive at different sensors with a delay $\Delta\tau$;



- ▶ with appropriate **processing (beamforming)**, the sensor signals can be aligned to create constructive interference at the output $x(t)$;
- ▶ the above is a simple delay-and-sum beamformer [16, 42, 64, 43].

1.2 Spatial Sampling

- ▶ For unambiguous **spatial sampling**, we need to take **at least two samples per wavelength** of the highest frequency component in the array signals [42];
- ▶ analogy from **temporal sampling (Nyquist)**: take at **least two samples per period** (relating to the highest frequency component);
- ▶ Wavelength λ and frequency f are related by the propagation speed c in the medium:
 $\lambda = \frac{c}{f}$;



- ▶ maximum sensor distance

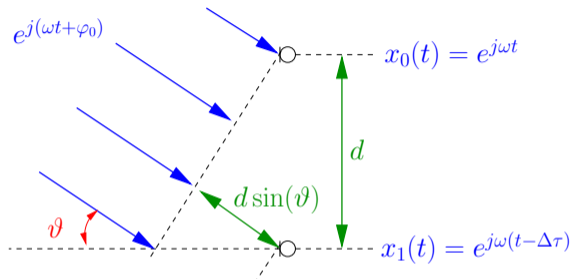
$$d = \frac{\lambda_{\max}}{2} = \frac{c}{2f_{\max}}$$

- ▶ time delay between sensors

$$\Delta\tau = \frac{d \sin(\vartheta)}{c} = \frac{\sin(\vartheta)}{2f_{\max}}$$

Spatial and Temporal Sampling

- ▶ Consider the array signals $x_0(t)$ and $x_1(t)$ due to a source $e^{j(\omega t + \varphi_0)}$:



- ▶ sampling with $t = nT_s$ leads to

$$x_0[n] = e^{j\omega n T_s} \quad \text{and} \quad x_1[n] = e^{j\omega(n T_s - \Delta\tau)}$$

- ▶ with $f_{\max} = \frac{f_s}{2} = \frac{1}{2T_s}$ and normalised angular frequency $\Omega = \omega T_s$,

$$x_0[n] = e^{j\Omega n} \quad \text{and} \quad x_1[n] = e^{j\Omega n} \cdot e^{-j\Omega \sin(\vartheta)} .$$

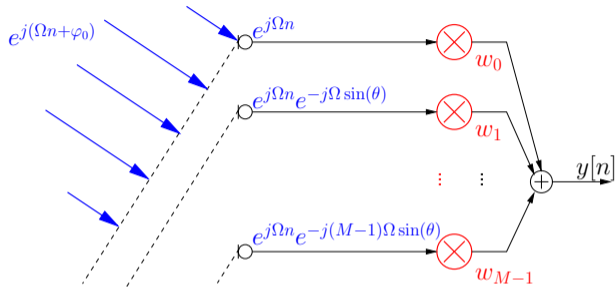
1.3 Steering Vector

- ▶ A narrowband source with normalised angular frequency Ω illuminates an M -element linear array of equi-spaced sensors:

$$\mathbf{x}[n] = \begin{bmatrix} x_0[n] \\ x_1[n] \\ \vdots \\ x_{M-1}[n] \end{bmatrix} = e^{j\Omega n} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ e^{-j\Omega \sin(\vartheta)} \\ \vdots \\ e^{-j(M-1)\Omega \sin(\vartheta)} \end{bmatrix} = e^{j\Omega n} \cdot \mathbf{s}_{\Omega, \vartheta}$$

- ▶ the vector $\mathbf{s}_{\Omega, \vartheta}$ characterises the phase shifts of waveform with frequency Ω and DOA ϑ measured at the array sensors;
- ▶ since a narrowband signal $e^{j\Omega n}$ only causes phase shifts rather than delays, constructive interference can be accomplished by a set of complex multipliers rather than processors $\delta(t - m\Delta\tau)$, $m = 0, 1, \dots (M - 1)$;
- ▶ beamforming problem: how to select the set of complex coefficients?

1.4 Data Independent Beamformer



- Challenge:
find a set of complex multipliers w_m , $m = 0, 1, \dots (M - 1)$:

- to steer the array characteristic towards this source, the output

$$y[n] = [w_0 \ w_1 \ \dots \ w_{M-1}] e^{j\Omega n} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ e^{-j\Omega \sin(\vartheta)} \\ \vdots \\ e^{-j(M-1)\Omega \sin(\vartheta)} \end{bmatrix} = e^{j\Omega n} \mathbf{w}^H \mathbf{s}_{\Omega, \vartheta}$$

should satisfy $y[n] = e^{j\Omega n}$, leading to $\mathbf{w}^H \mathbf{s}_{\Omega, \vartheta} = 1$.

Coefficient Vector

- ▶ For later convenience and compatibility, the Hermitian transpose operator $\{\cdot\}^H$ is used to denote the coefficient vector

$$\mathbf{w}^H = [w_0 \ w_1 \ \dots \ w_{M-1}] ;$$

- ▶ as a result, the vector \mathbf{w} hold the **complex conjugates** of the coefficients,

$$\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} w_0^* \\ w_1^* \\ \vdots \\ w_{M-1}^* \end{bmatrix} ;$$

- ▶ to access the actual unconjugated coefficients, the beamforming vector \mathbf{w}^* has to be considered
- ▶ note that

$$\mathbf{w}^H \mathbf{s}_{\Omega, \vartheta} = 1 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \mathbf{s}_{\Omega, \vartheta}^H \mathbf{w} = 1 .$$

Narrowband Beamforming — Single Source

- ▶ The expression $\mathbf{s}_{\Omega,\vartheta}^H \mathbf{w} = 1$ forms a system with one equation and M unknowns

$$\boxed{\mathbf{s}_{\Omega,\vartheta}^H} \boxed{\mathbf{w}} = \boxed{1}$$

- ▶ general solution to an underdetermined system $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ is the right pseudo-inverse \mathbf{A}^\dagger [14],

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}^\dagger \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{A}^H (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^H)^{-1} \mathbf{b} ;$$

- ▶ here:

$$\mathbf{w} = (\mathbf{s}_{\Omega,\vartheta}^H)^\dagger \cdot 1 = \mathbf{s}_{\Omega,\vartheta} \cdot (\mathbf{s}_{\Omega,\vartheta}^H \mathbf{s}_{\Omega,\vartheta})^{-1} \cdot 1 = \frac{\mathbf{s}_{\Omega,\vartheta}}{\|\mathbf{s}_{\Omega,\vartheta}\|_2^2} = \frac{1}{M} \mathbf{s}_{\Omega,\vartheta} ;$$

- ▶ the complex conjugation for \mathbf{w}^* inverts and therefore compensates the phase of the steering vector, which could have been foreseen
- ▶ the formulation via the pseudo-inverse will be powerful for more complicated cases.

Narrowband Beamformer Example

- ▶ Source parameters: $\Omega = \frac{\pi}{2}$ and $\vartheta = 30^\circ$; array parameter: $M = 5$;
- ▶ steering vector (with $\Omega \sin(\vartheta) = \frac{1}{4}\pi$):

$$\mathbf{s}_{\Omega, \vartheta}^T = [1 \ e^{-j\frac{1}{4}\pi} \ \dots \ e^{-j\frac{4}{4}\pi}]$$

- ▶ coefficient vector is given by $\mathbf{w} = (\mathbf{s}_{\Omega, \vartheta}^H)^{\dagger}$;
 - ▶ numerical solution in Matlab;
- ```
Omega=1/4; theta = pi/6; M=5;
s = exp(-sqrt(-1)*Omega*sin(theta)*(0:(M-1)'));
w = pinv(s');
angle([s conj(w)])/pi yields:
```

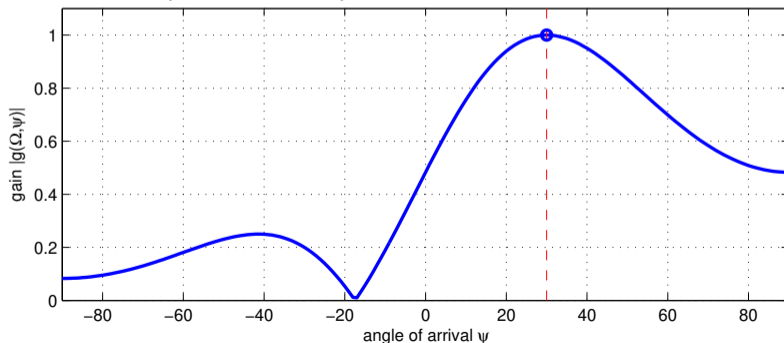
|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| -0.00000 | 0.00000 |
| -0.25000 | 0.25000 |
| -0.50000 | 0.50000 |
| -0.75000 | 0.75000 |
| -1.00000 | 1.00000 |

# Beam Pattern I

- ▶ The beamformer has a unit gain towards a source with frequency  $\Omega$  and DoA  $\theta$ ; what is its gain response towards other angles of arrival?
- ▶ the beam pattern measures the response of a beamformer by sweeping the angle  $\psi$  of a source with frequency  $\Omega$

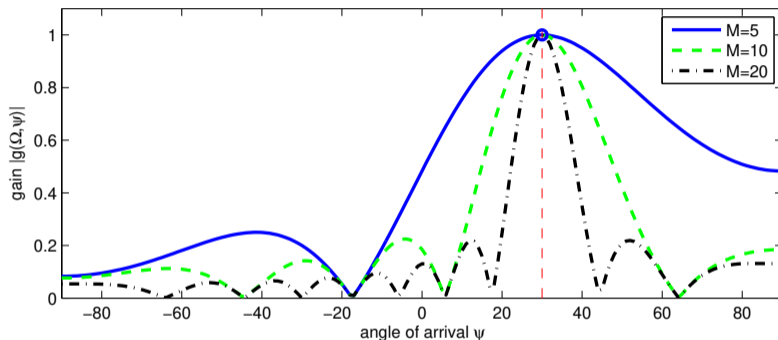
$$g(\Omega, \psi) = \mathbf{w}^H \mathbf{s}_{\Omega, \psi}$$

- ▶ beam pattern for the previous example:



## Beam Pattern II

- ▶ Beam patterns for  $\Omega = \frac{\pi}{2}$  and  $\vartheta = 30^\circ$  with variable  $M$ :



- ▶ increasing the sensor number  $M$  narrows the main beam, and increases the number of spatial zeros;
- ▶ analogous characteristic in the time domain: increased temporal support leads to higher frequency resolution.

# Interference

- ▶ Many scenarios contain a source of interest and a number of interferers:

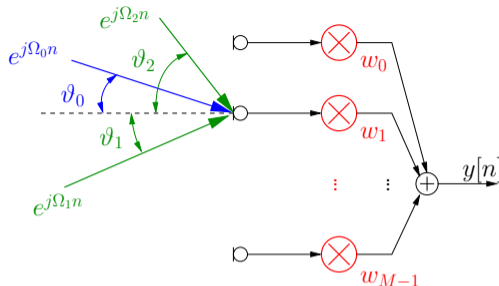
signal of interest:

$$\{\Omega_0, \vartheta_0\}$$

two interferers:

$$\{\Omega_1, \vartheta_1\}, \{\Omega_2, \vartheta_2\}$$

- ▶ we would like to control the beampattern to place spatial nulls in the directions of the interfering sources;
- ▶ Problem formulation and solution :



$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{s}_{\Omega_0, \vartheta_0}^H \\ \mathbf{s}_{\Omega_1, \vartheta_1}^H \\ \mathbf{s}_{\Omega_2, \vartheta_2}^H \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{s}_{\Omega_0, \vartheta_0}^H \\ \mathbf{s}_{\Omega_1, \vartheta_1}^H \\ \mathbf{s}_{\Omega_2, \vartheta_2}^H \end{bmatrix}^\dagger \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} .$$

## Narrowband BF Example — Multiple Sources

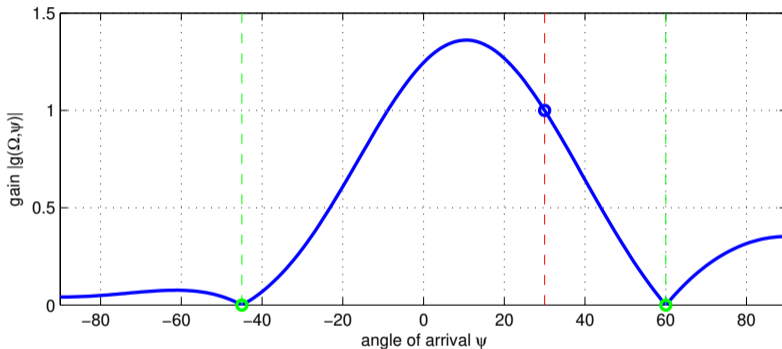
- ▶ The signal of interest illuminates an  $M = 5$  element array at a frequency  $\Omega_0 = \frac{\pi}{2}$  with a DoA  $\vartheta_0 = 30^\circ$
- ▶ two interferers at  $\Omega_1 = \Omega_2 = \Omega_0$  are present with DoA  $\vartheta_1 = -45^\circ$  and  $\vartheta_2 = 60^\circ$
- ▶ results via right pseudo-inverse of steering vectors

| $\angle \mathbf{s}_{\Omega_0, \vartheta_0}$ | $\angle \mathbf{s}_{\Omega_1, \vartheta_1}$ | $\angle \mathbf{s}_{\Omega_2, \vartheta_2}$ | $\angle \mathbf{w}^*$ | $ \mathbf{w} $ |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 0.00                                        | 0.00                                        | 0.00                                        | -42.81                | 0.3172         |
| 45.00                                       | 63.64                                       | -77.94                                      | -105.01               | 0.3004         |
| 90.00                                       | 127.28                                      | -155.89                                     | -90.00                | 0.2343         |
| 135.00                                      | -169.08                                     | 126.17                                      | -74.99                | 0.3004         |
| 180.00                                      | -105.44                                     | 48.23                                       | -137.19               | 0.3172         |

- ▶ the angle of  $\mathbf{w}$  is no longer intuitive; also note that the coefficients in  $\mathbf{w}$  no longer have the same modulus
- ▶ amongst a manifold of solutions, the right pseudo-inverse provides the minimum norm solution.

# Multiple Source Example — Beampattern

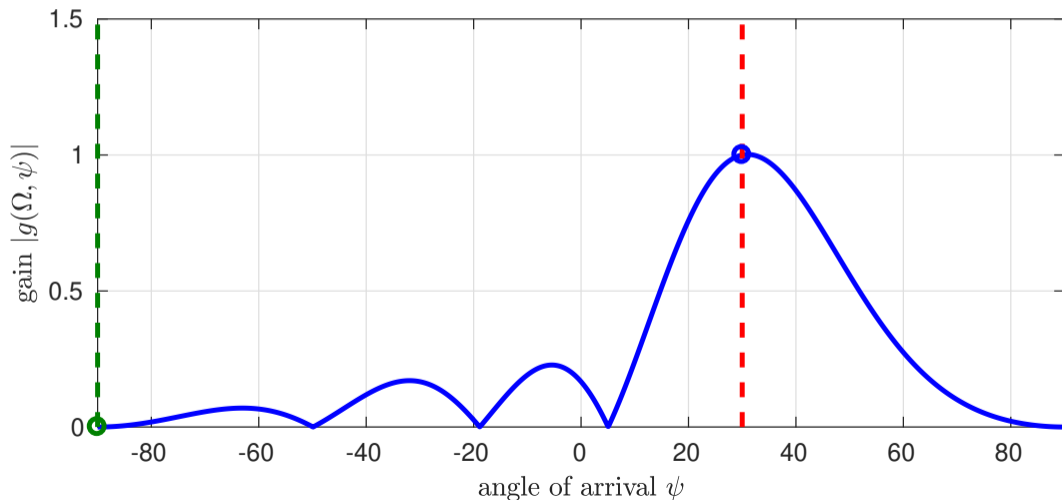
- ▶ Beam pattern one source of interest and two interferers:



- ▶ the pseudo-inverse is the minimum norm solution, keeping the general gain response as low as possible;
- ▶ the minimum norm property protects against spatially white noise.

# Beamforming Example — Variable Interferer I

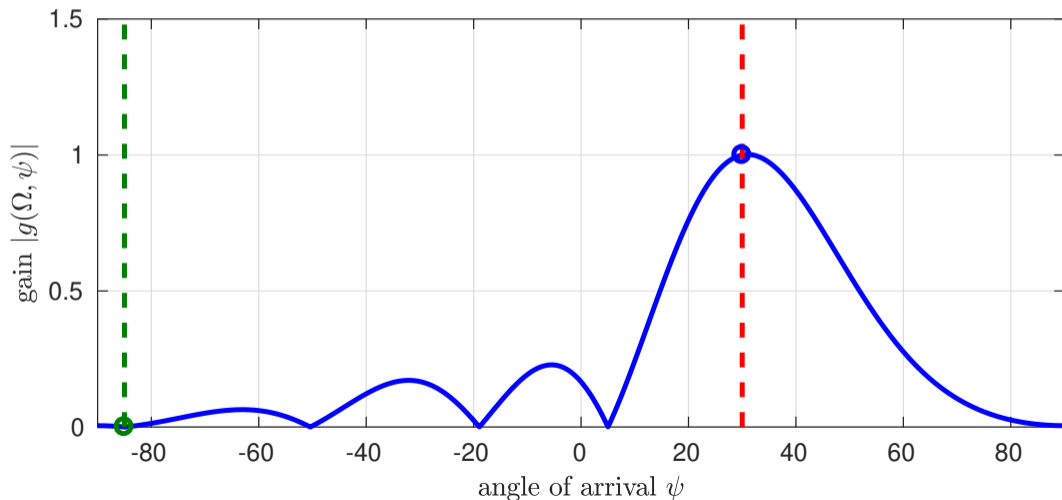
- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, source of interest towards  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , interferer variable:





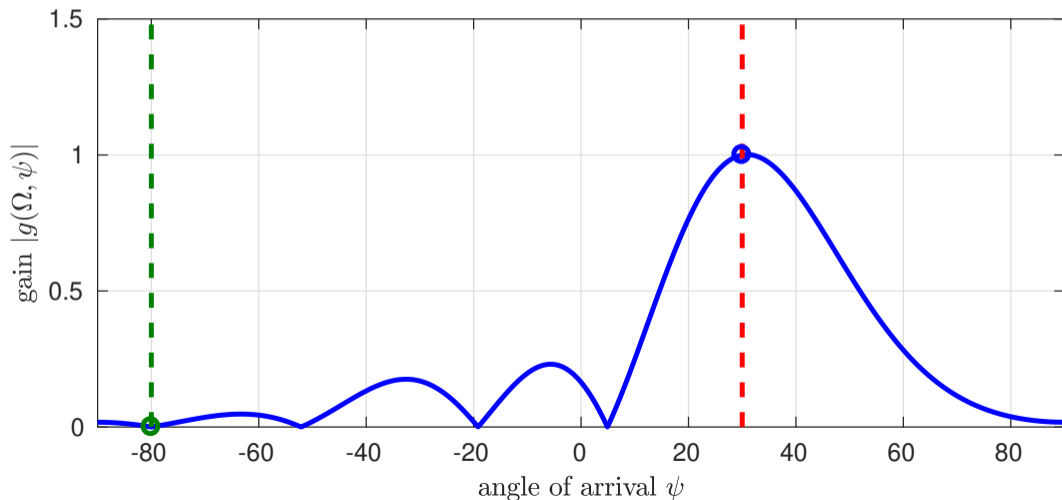
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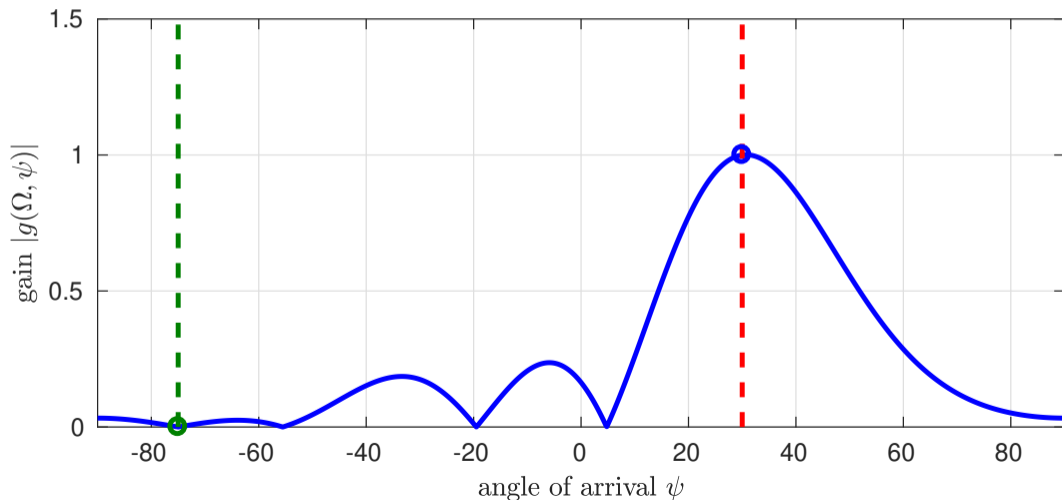
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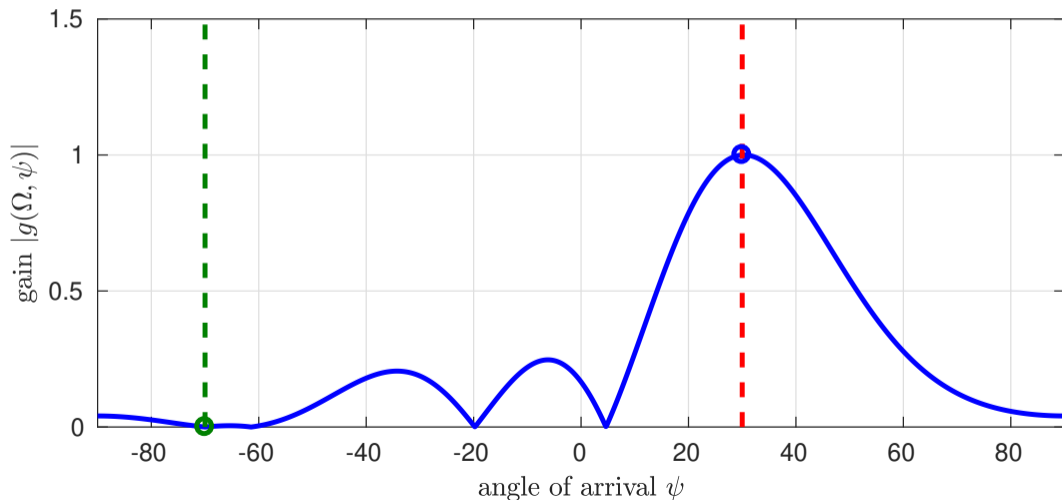
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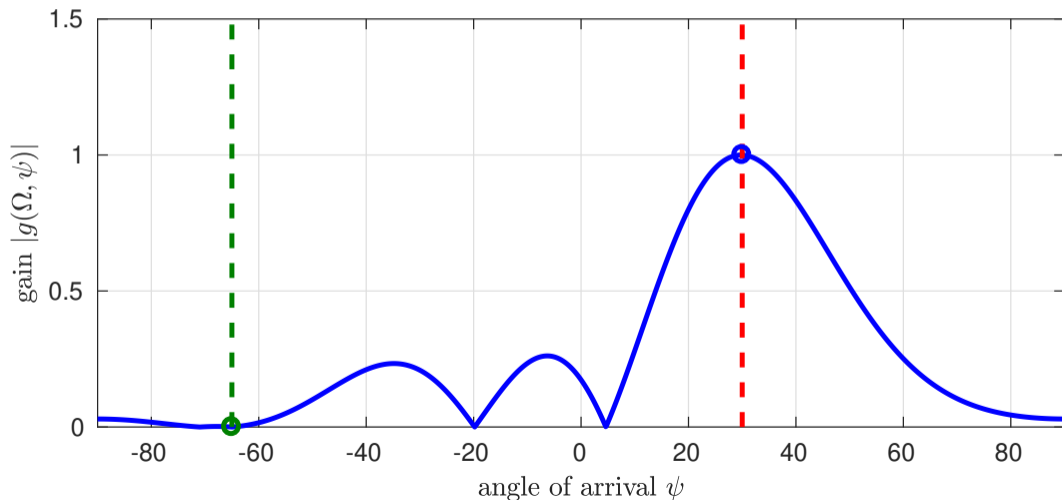
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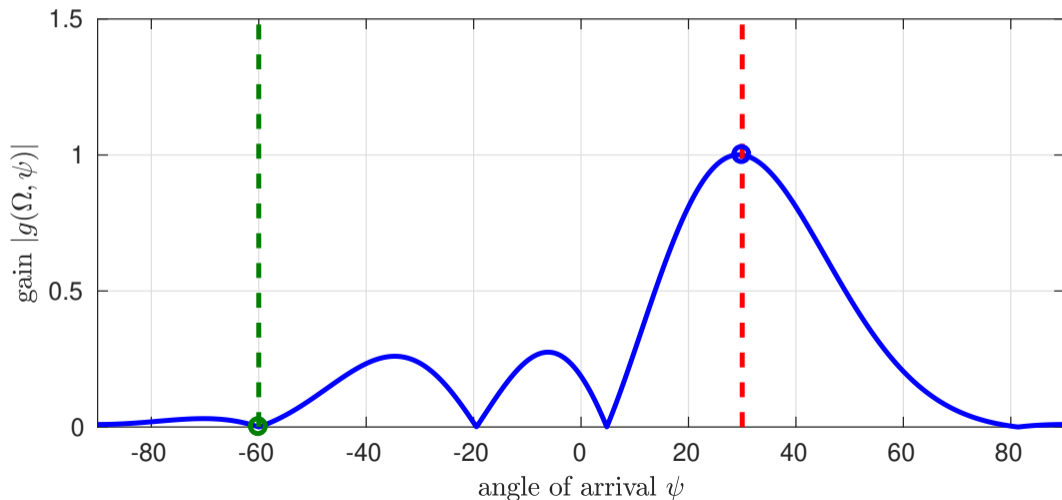
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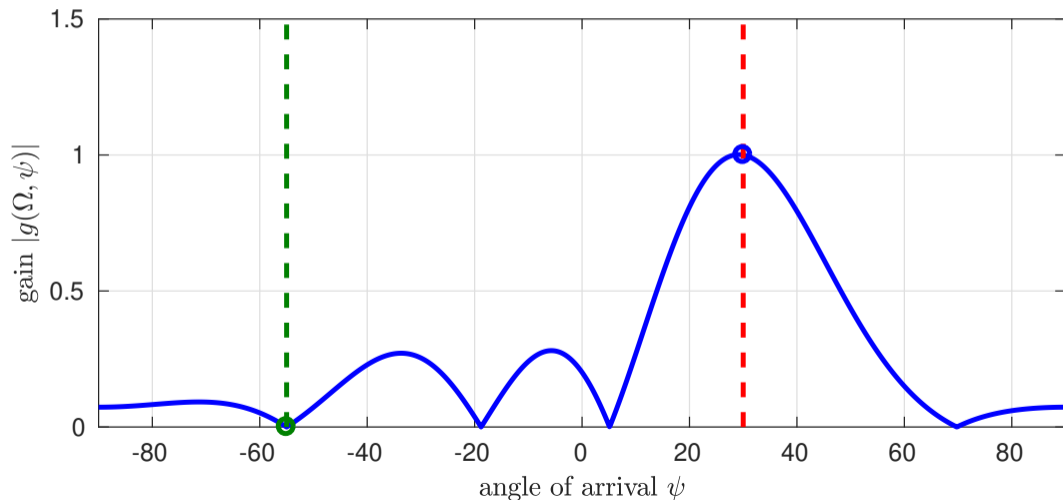
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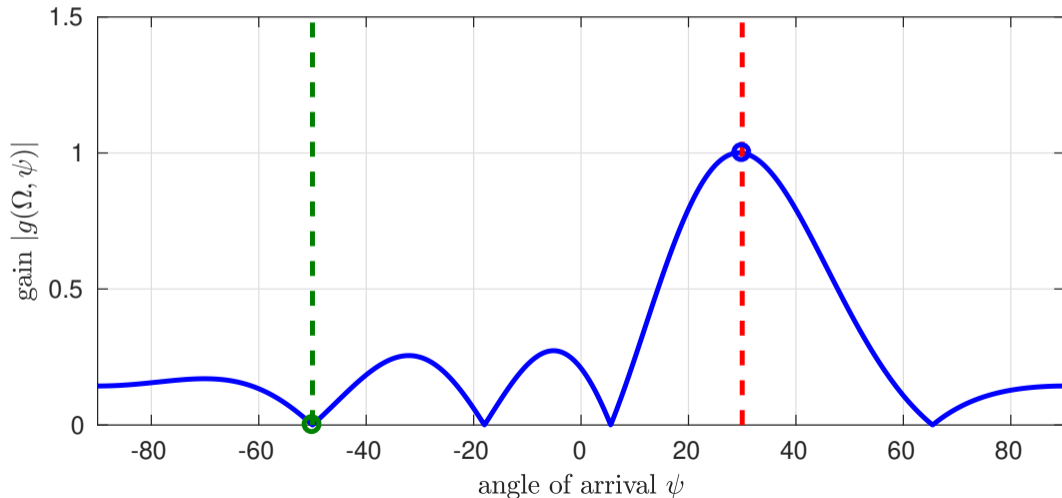
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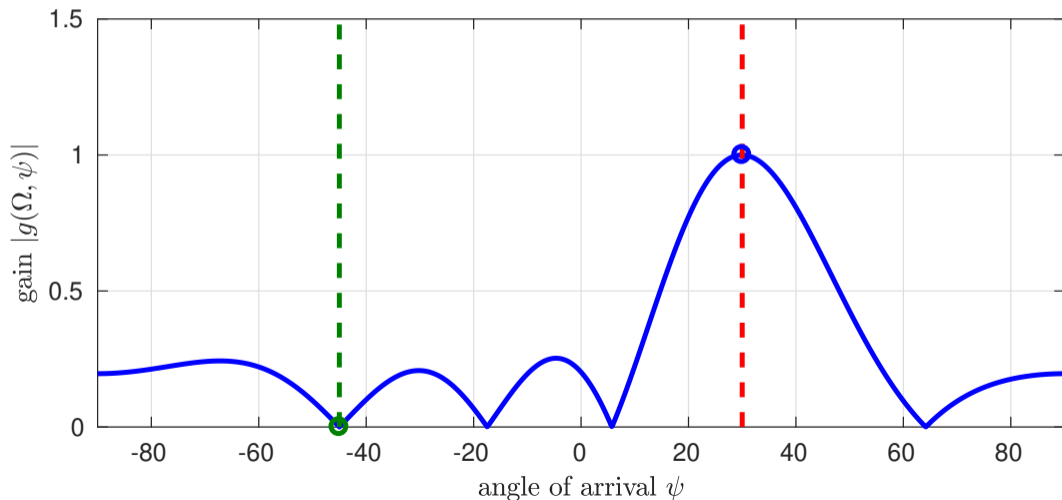
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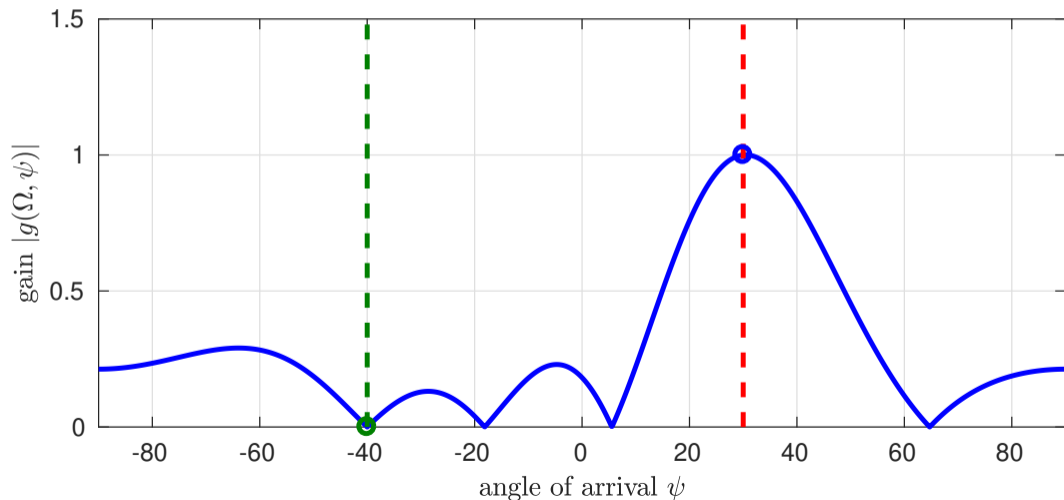
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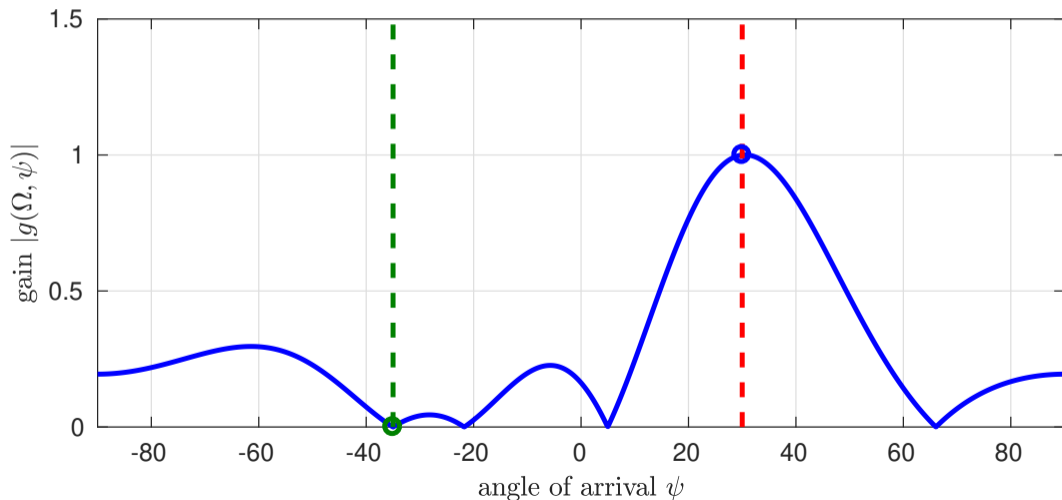
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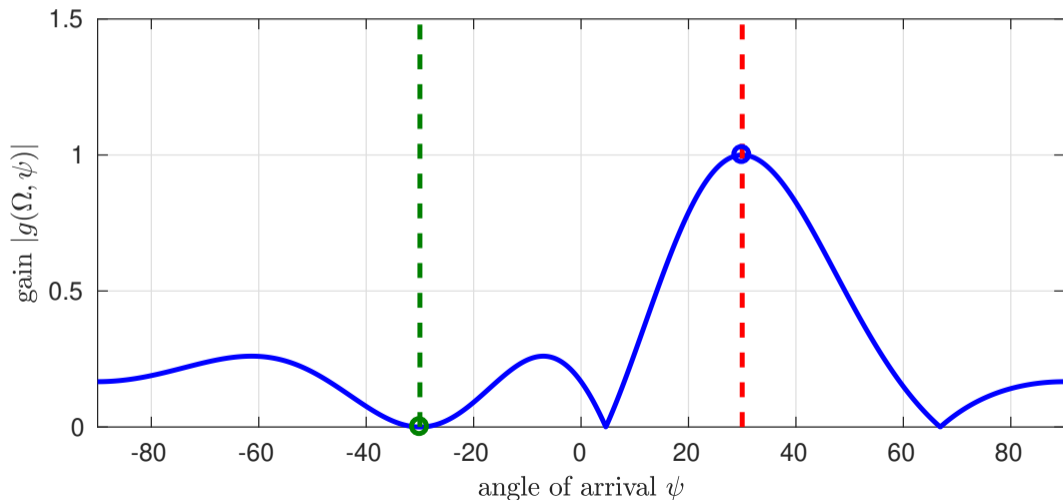
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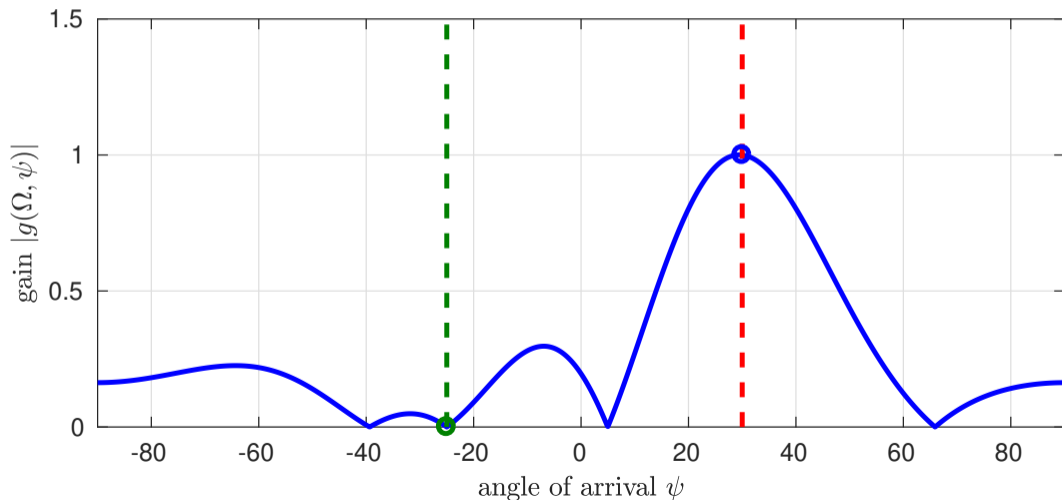
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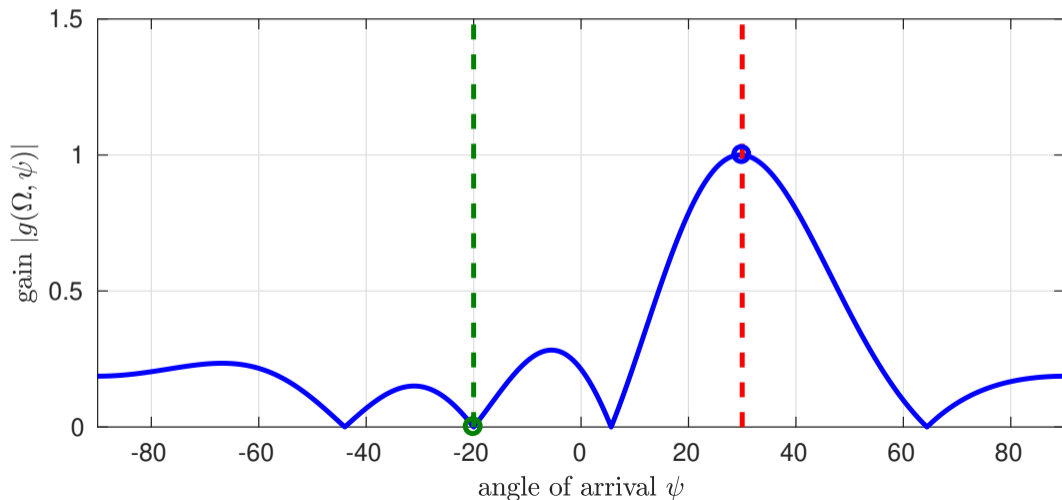
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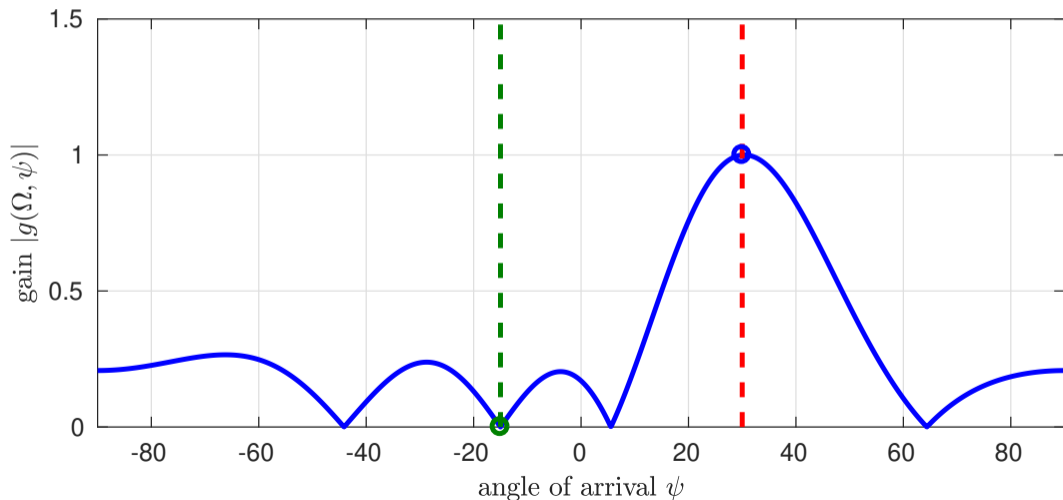
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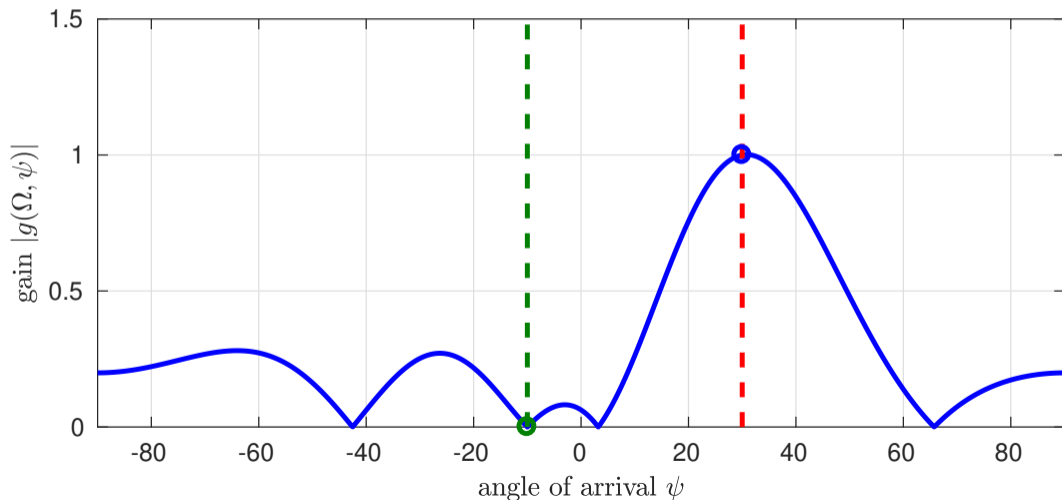
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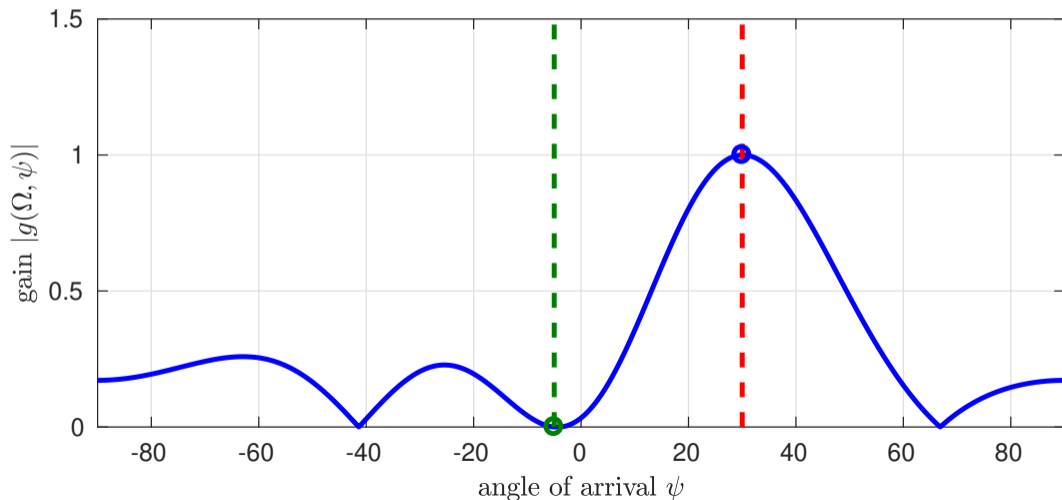
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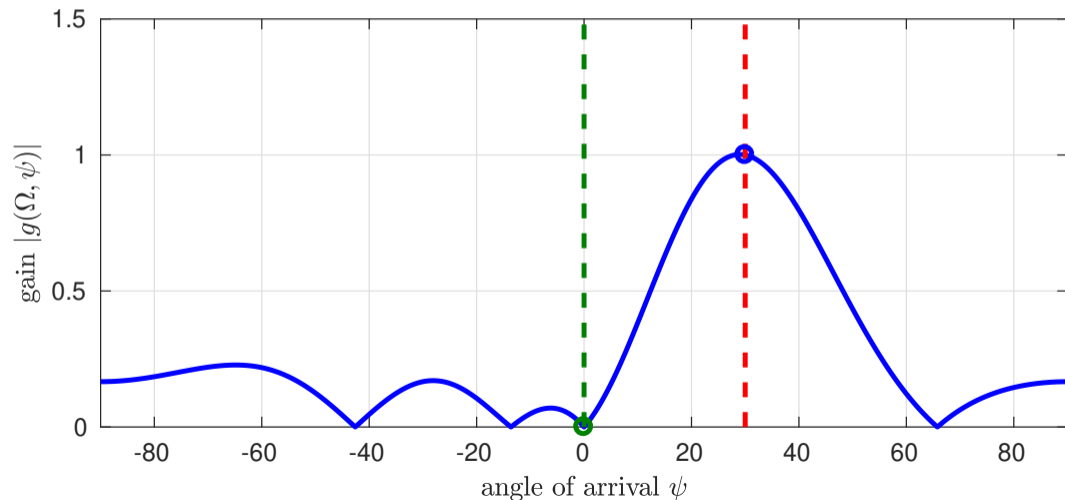
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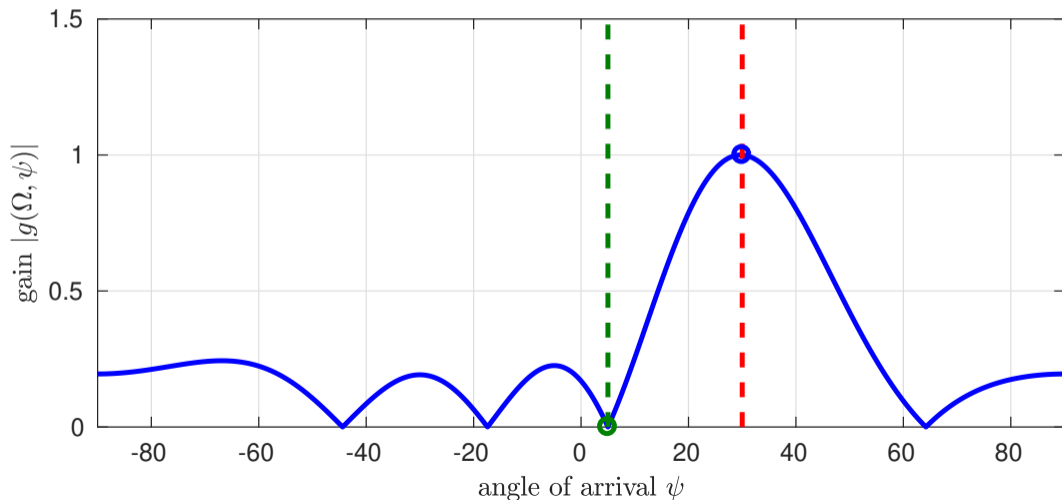
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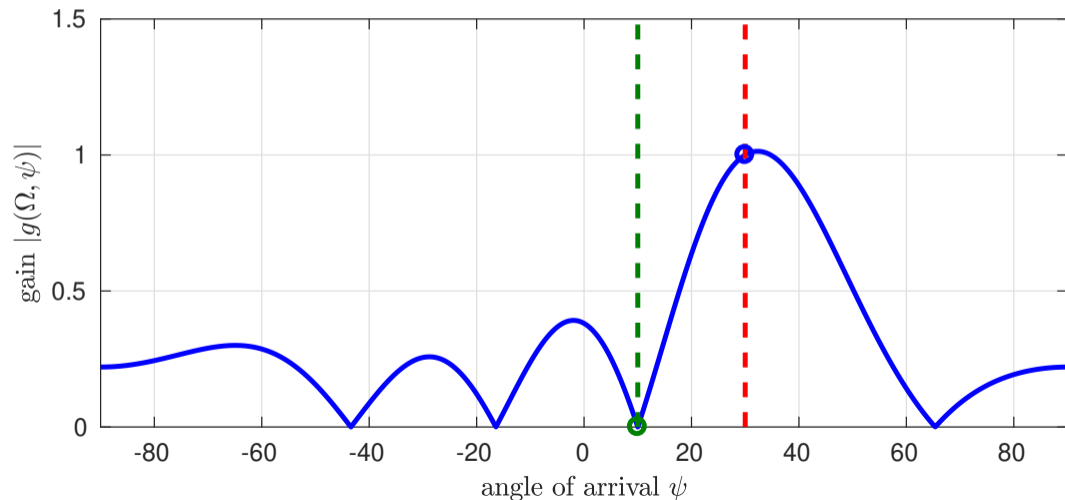
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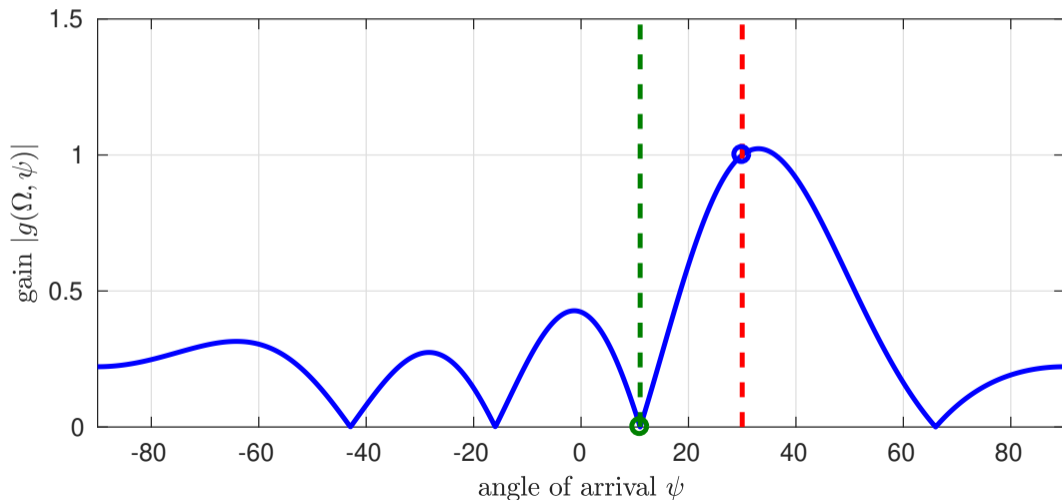
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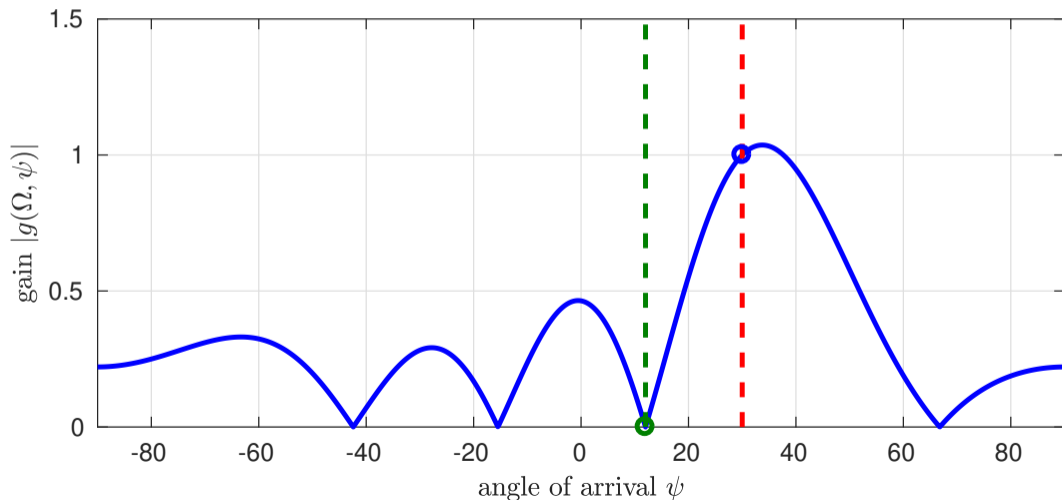
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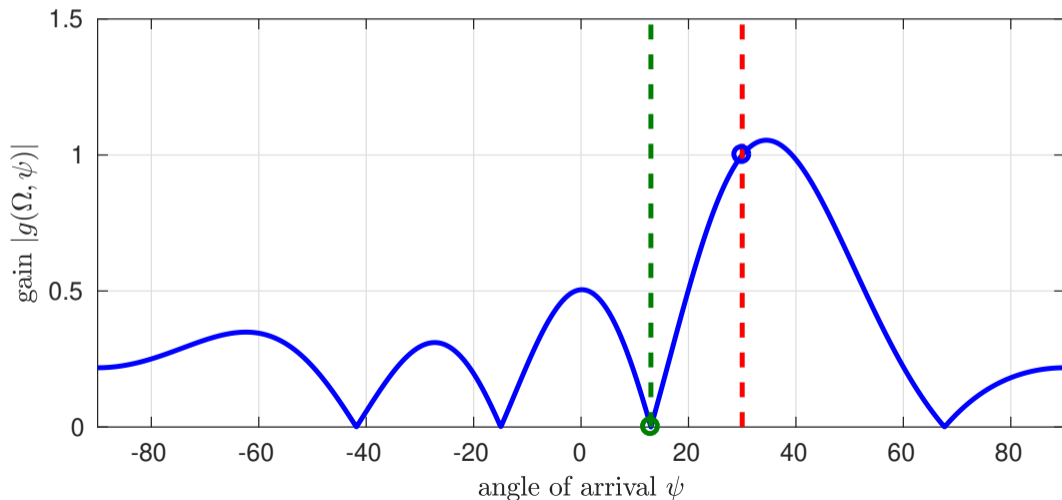
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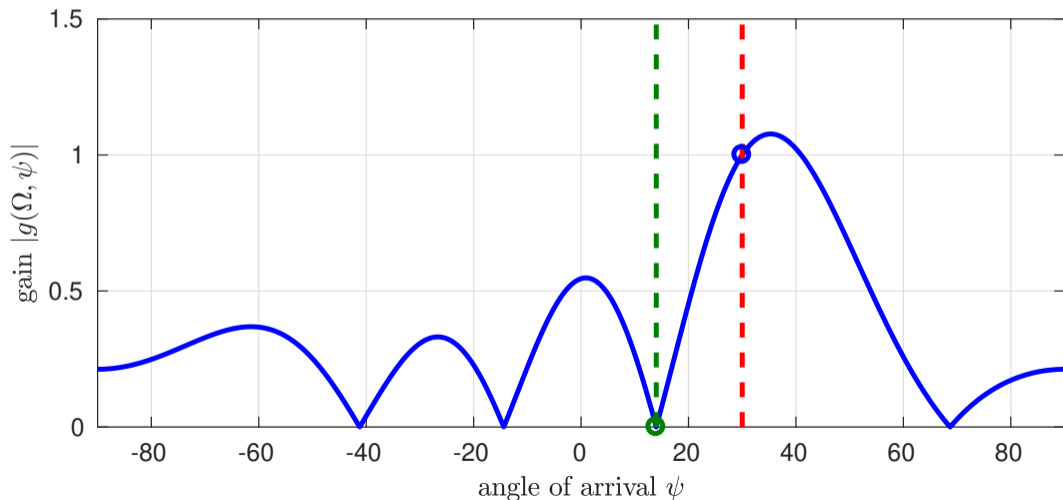
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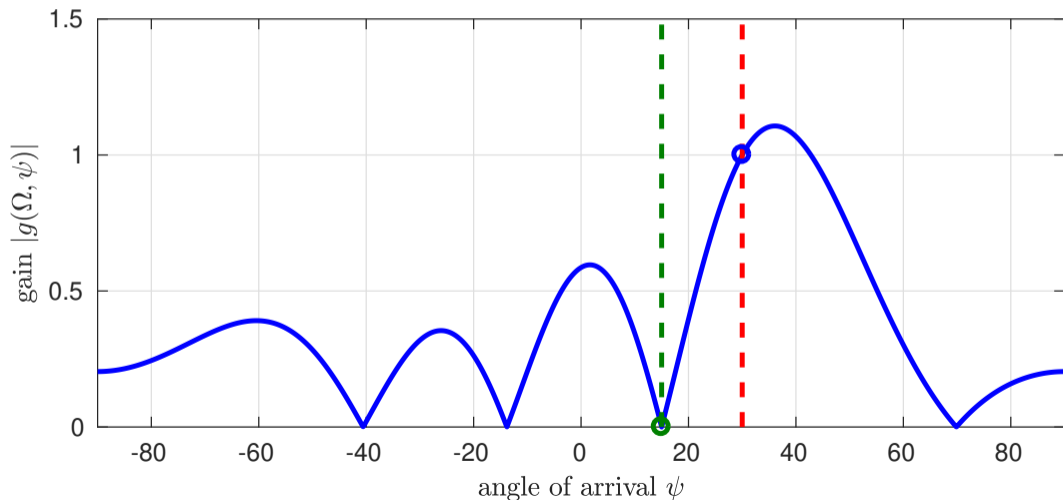
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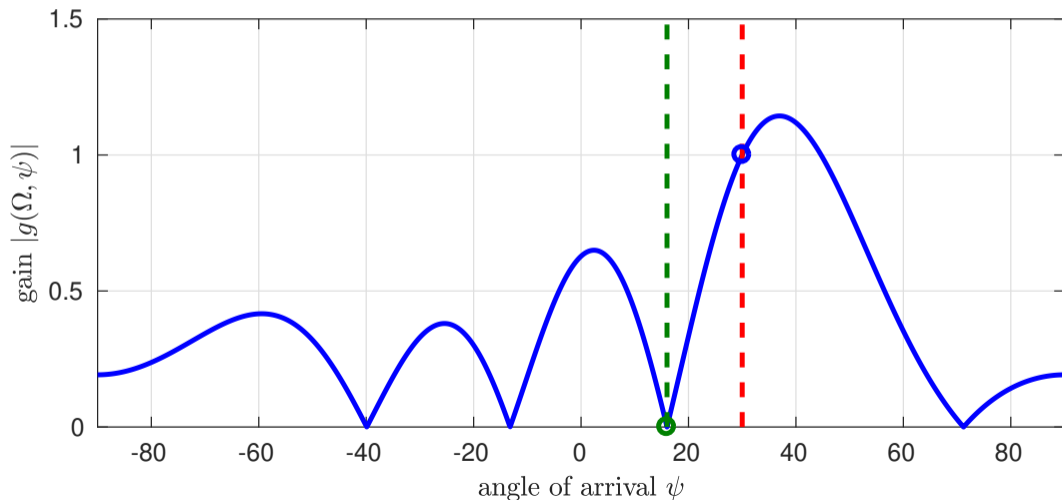
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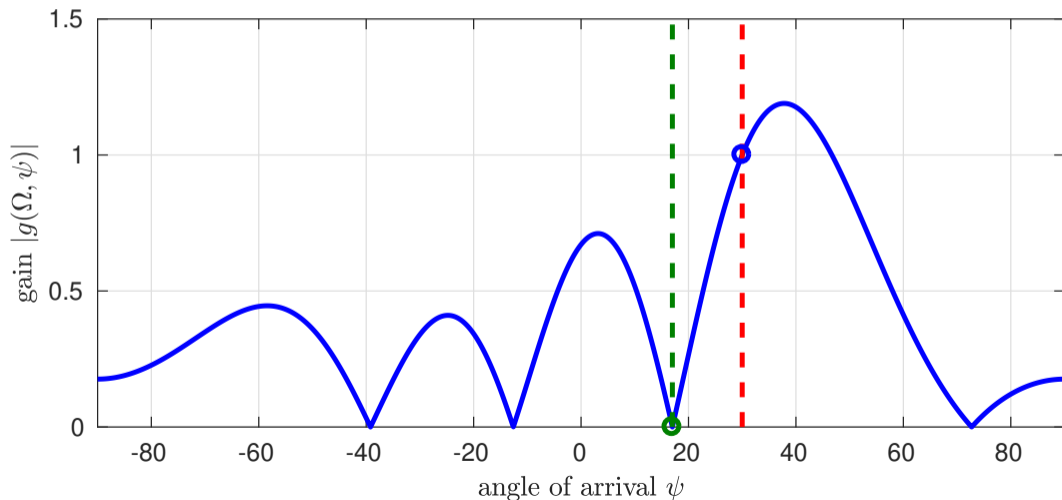
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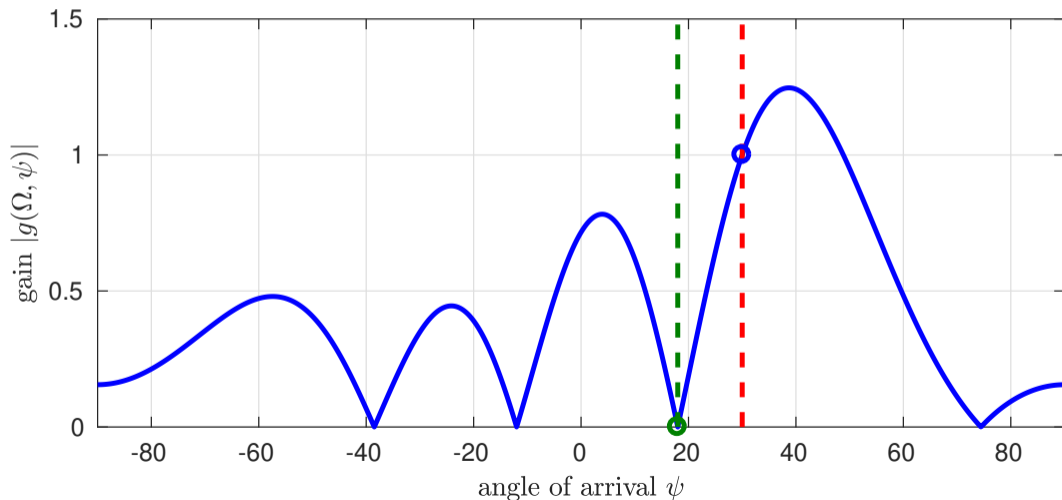
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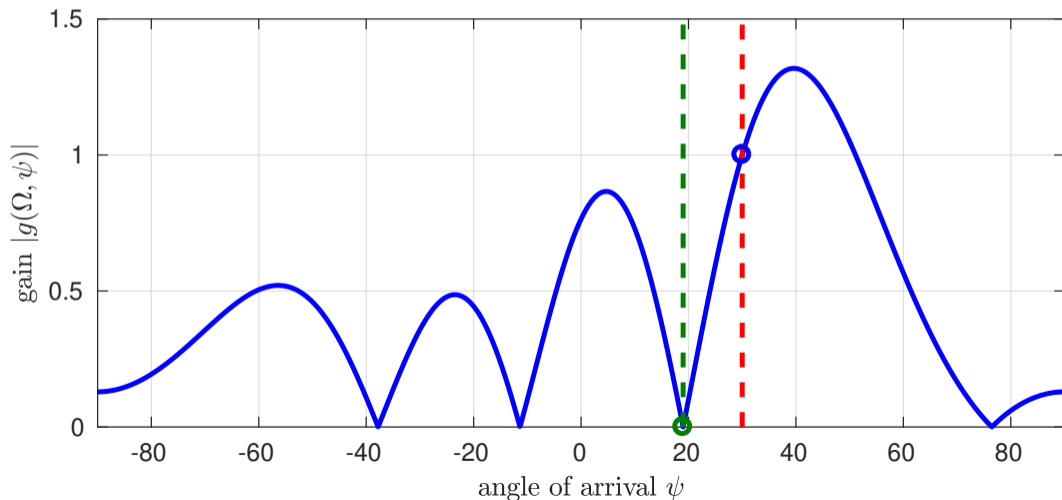
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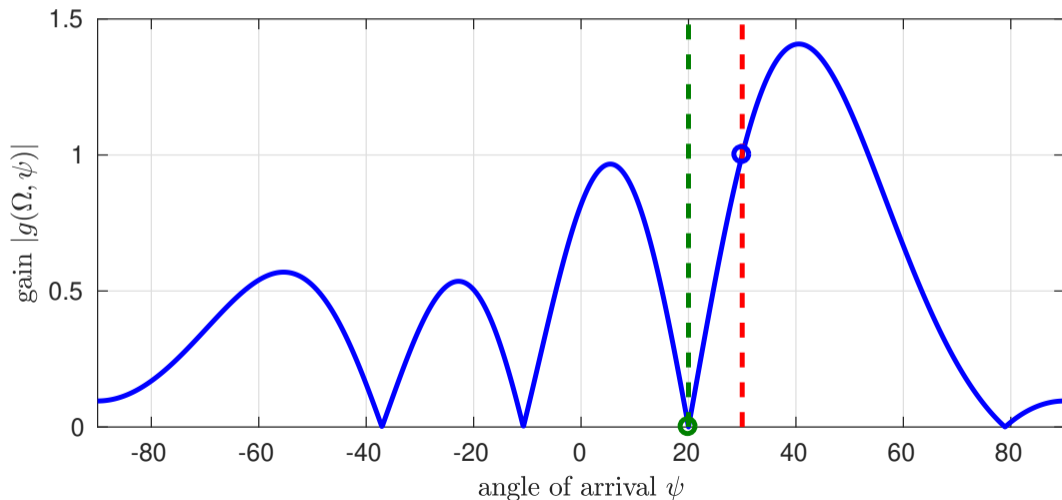
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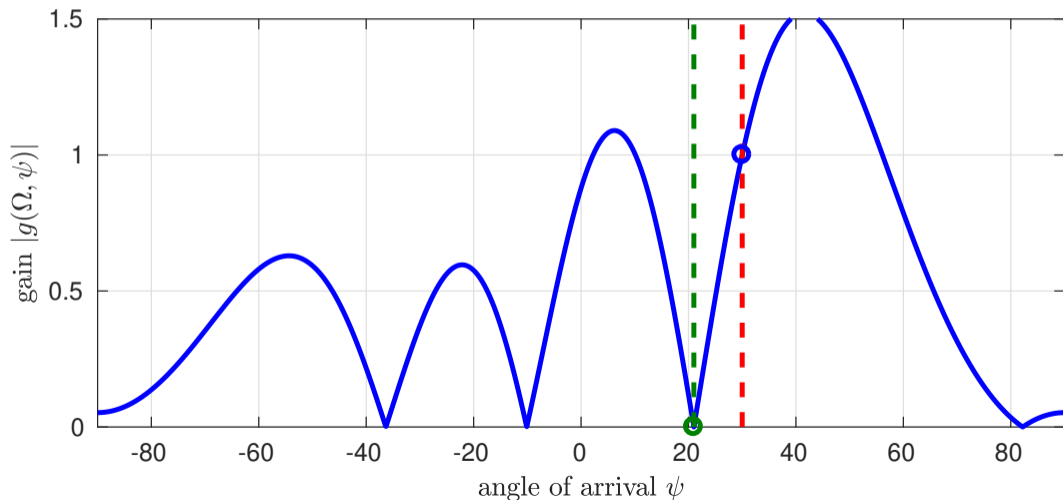
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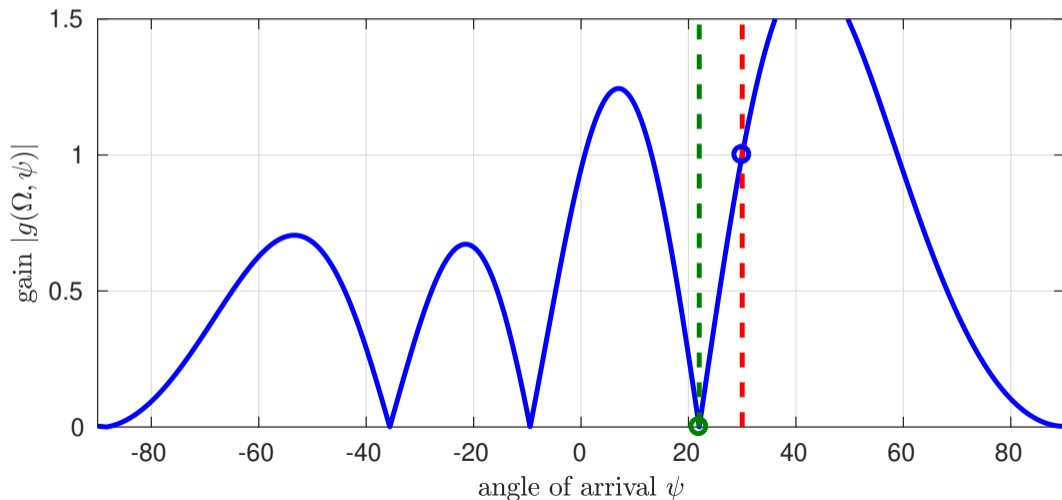
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# Beamforming Example — Variable Interferer I

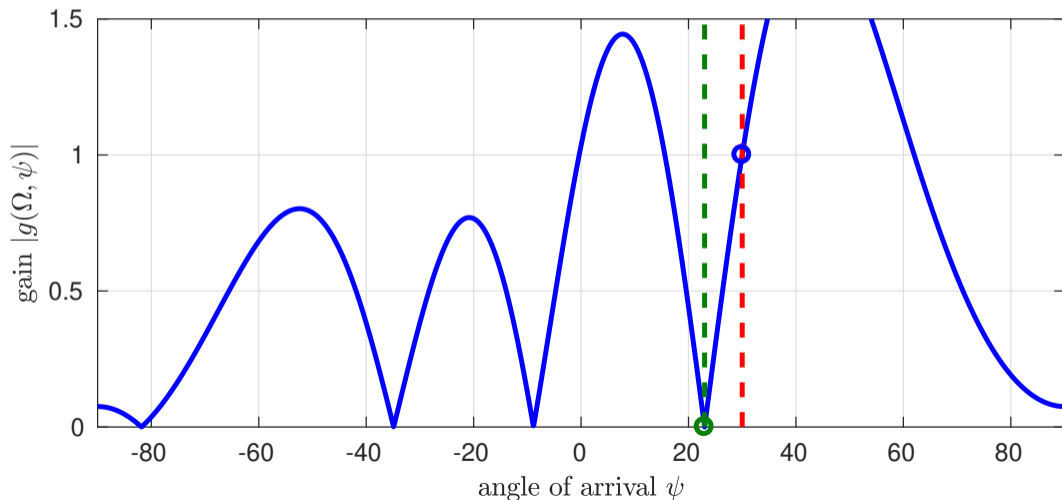
- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, source of interest towards  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , interferer variable:





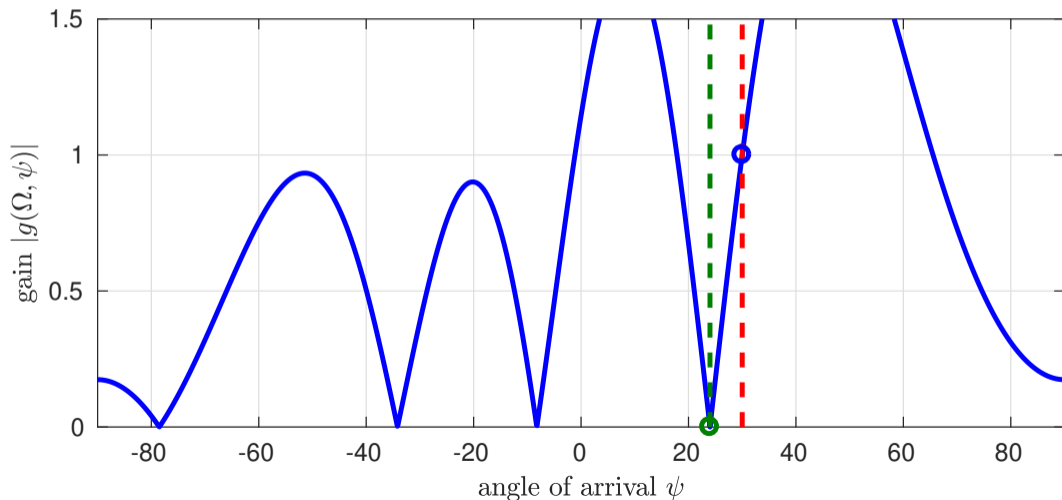
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- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, source of interest towards  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , interferer variable:



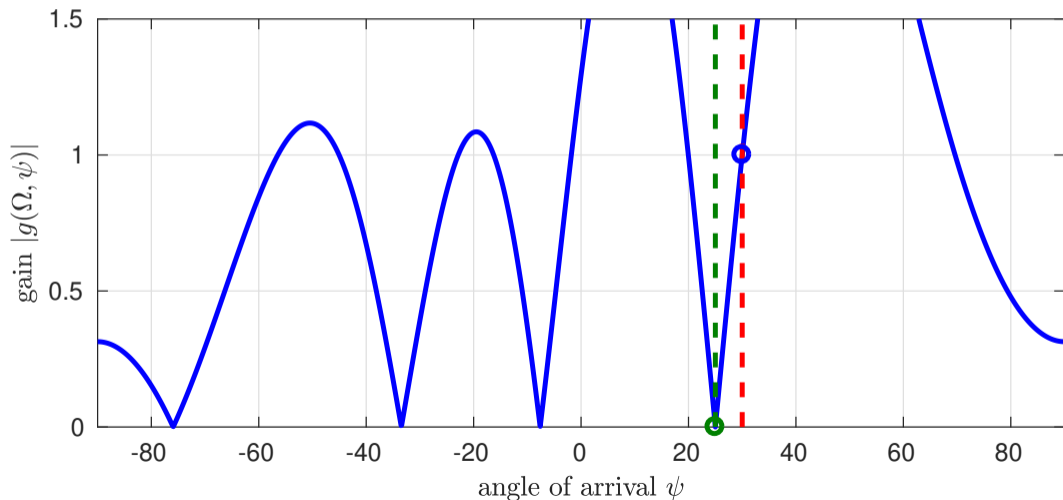
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- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, source of interest towards  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , interferer variable:



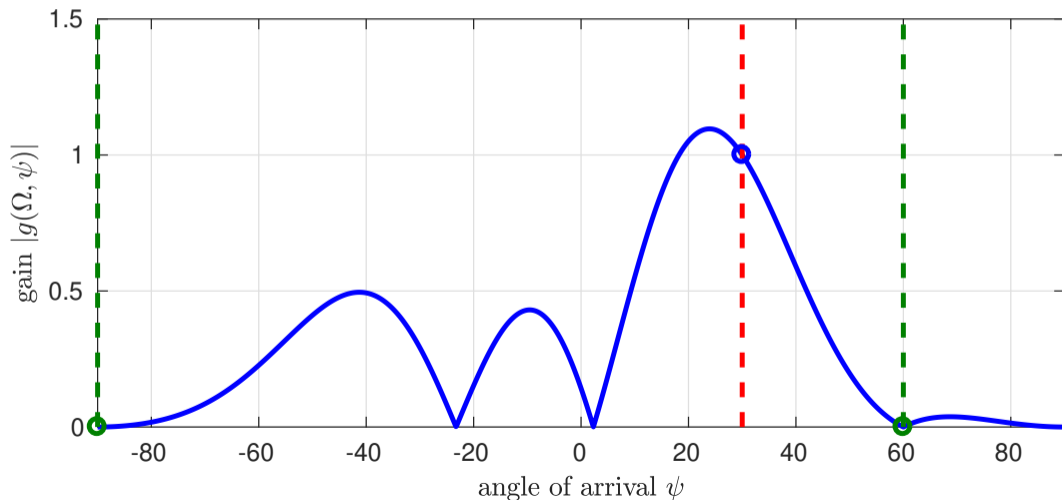
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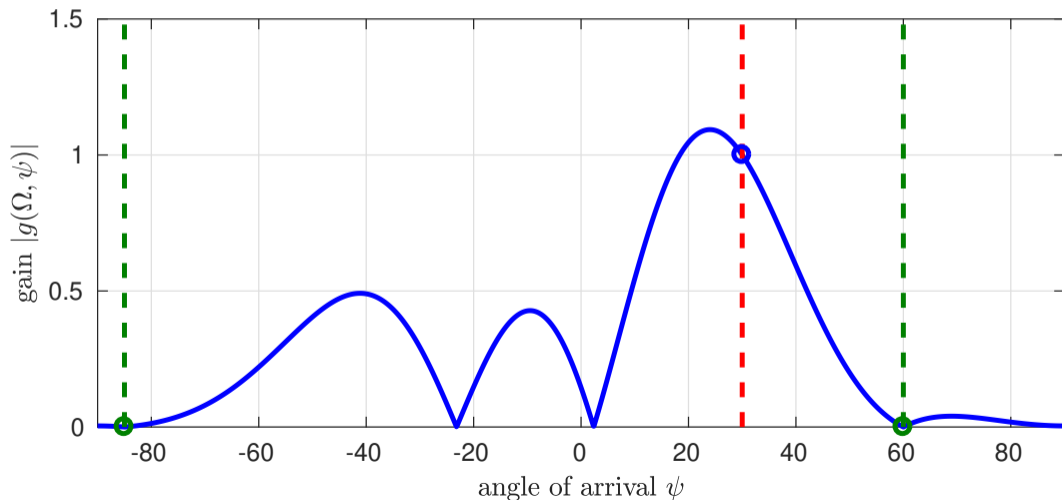
## Beamforming Example — Variable Interferer II

- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one fixed and one variable interferer:



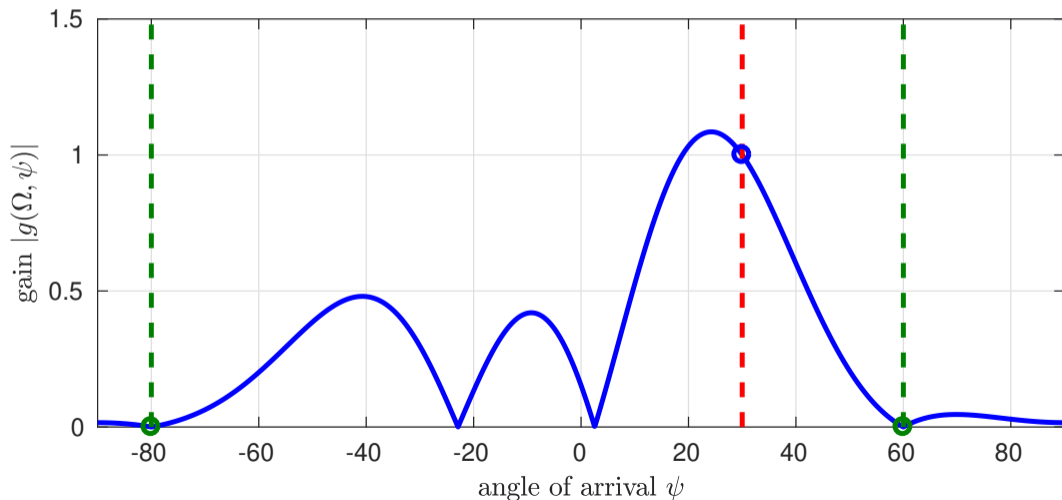
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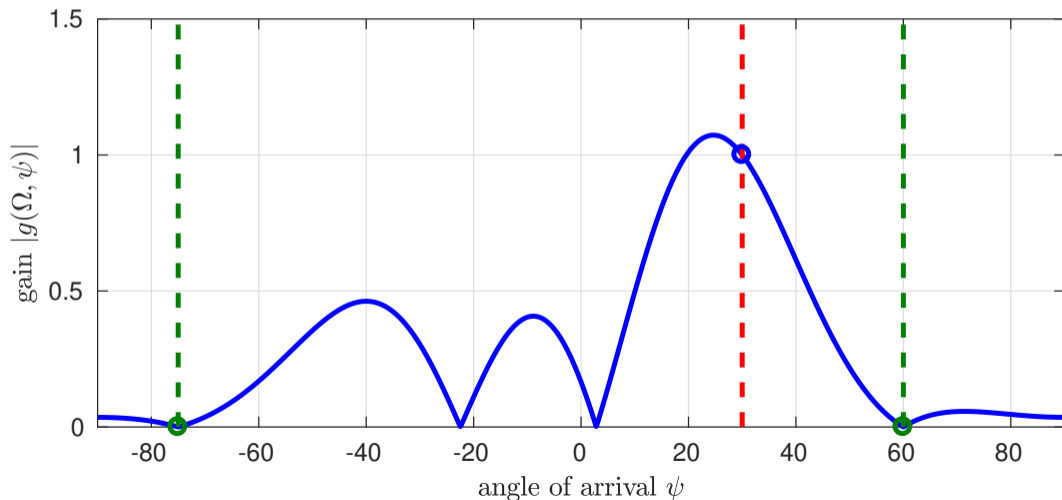
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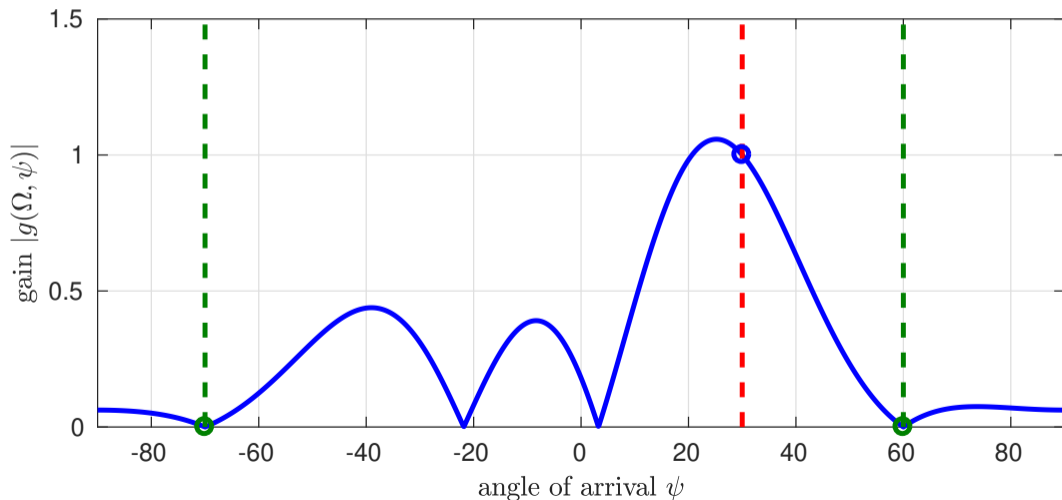
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- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one fixed and one variable interferer:



## Beamforming Example — Variable Interferer II

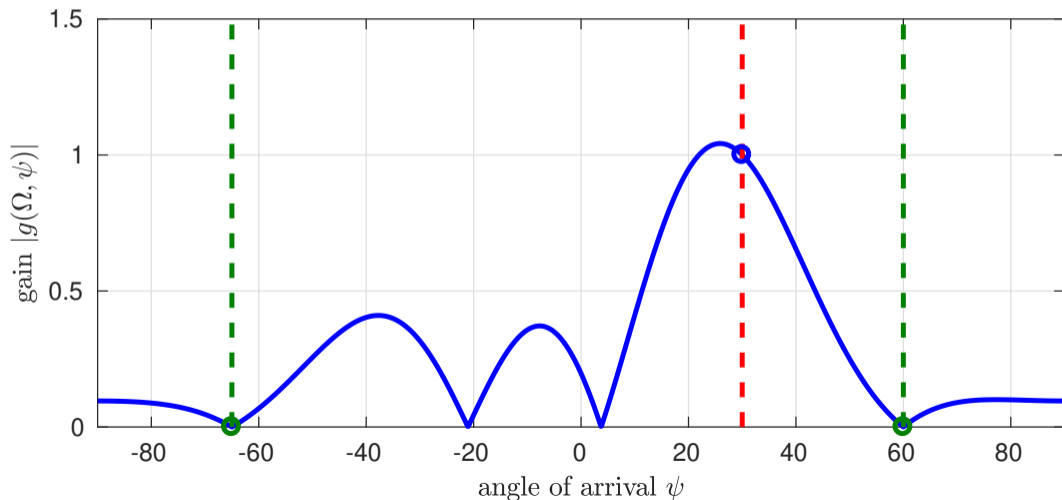
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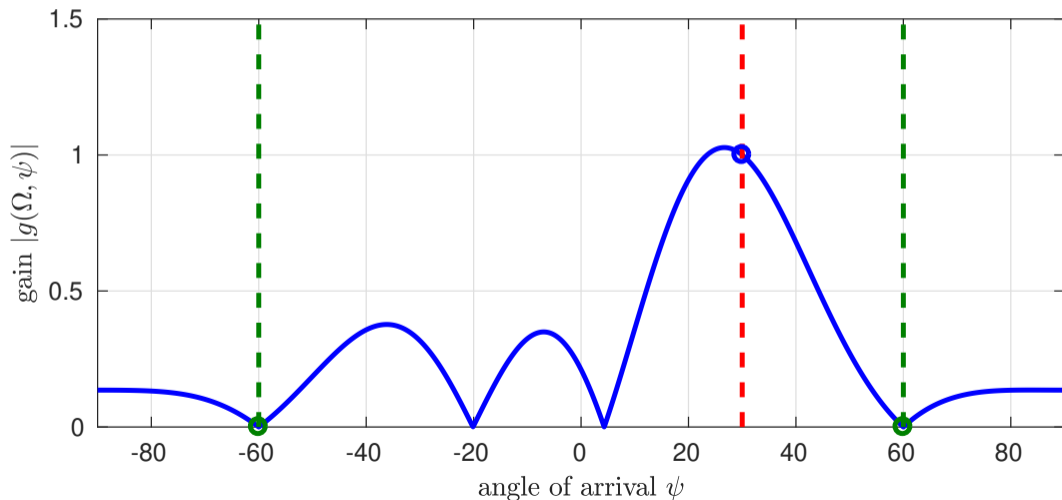
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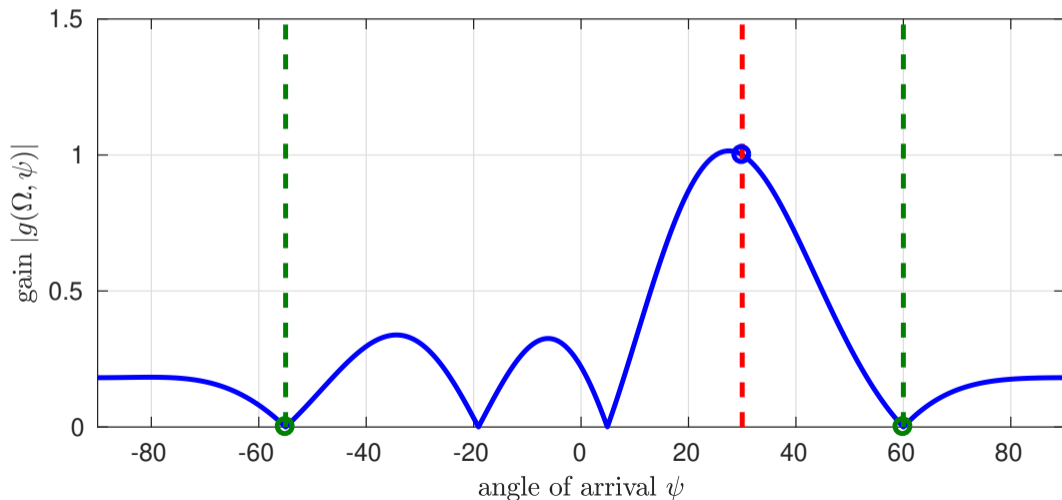
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- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one fixed and one variable interferer:



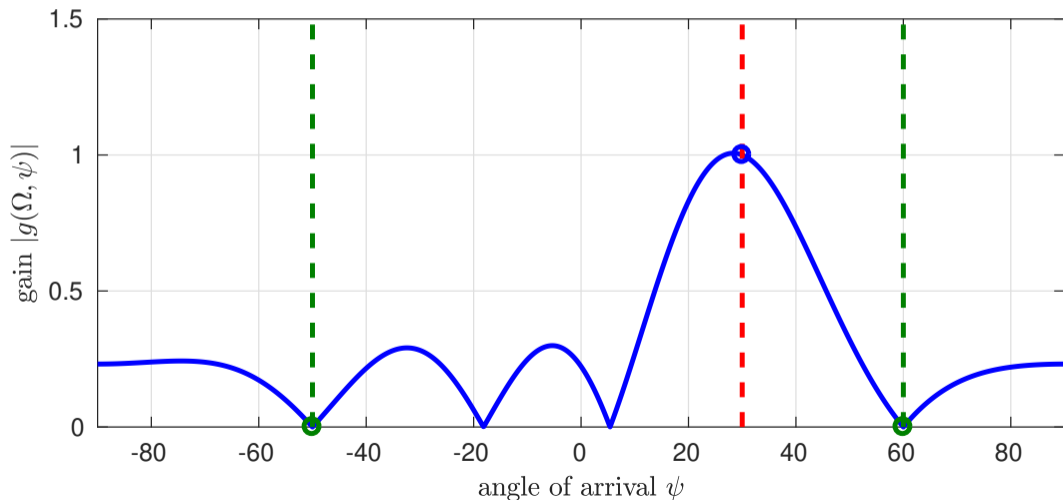
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- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one fixed and one variable interferer:



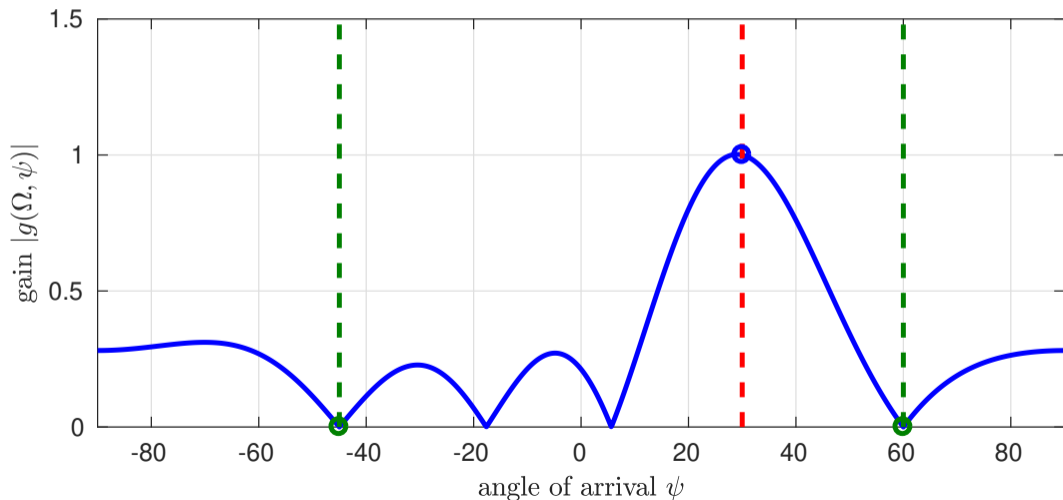
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- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one fixed and one variable interferer:



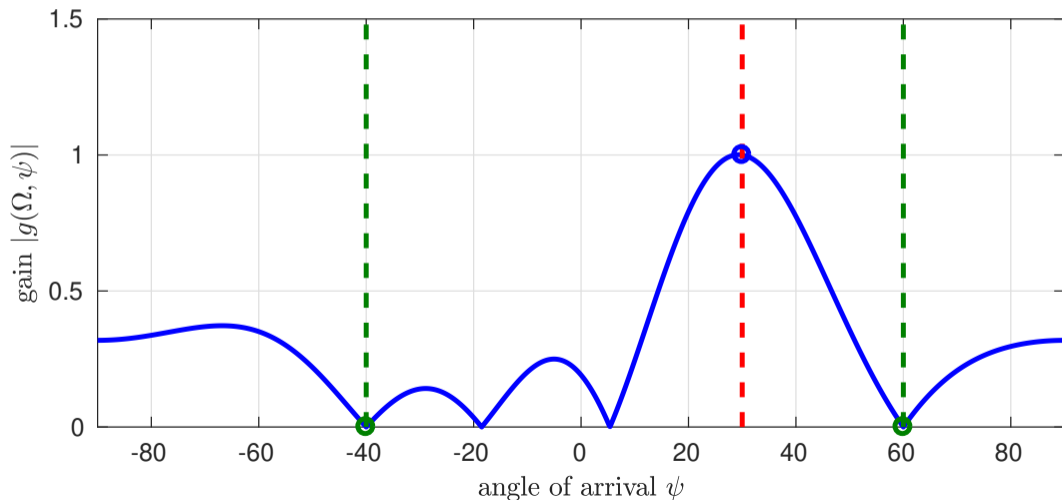
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- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one fixed and one variable interferer:



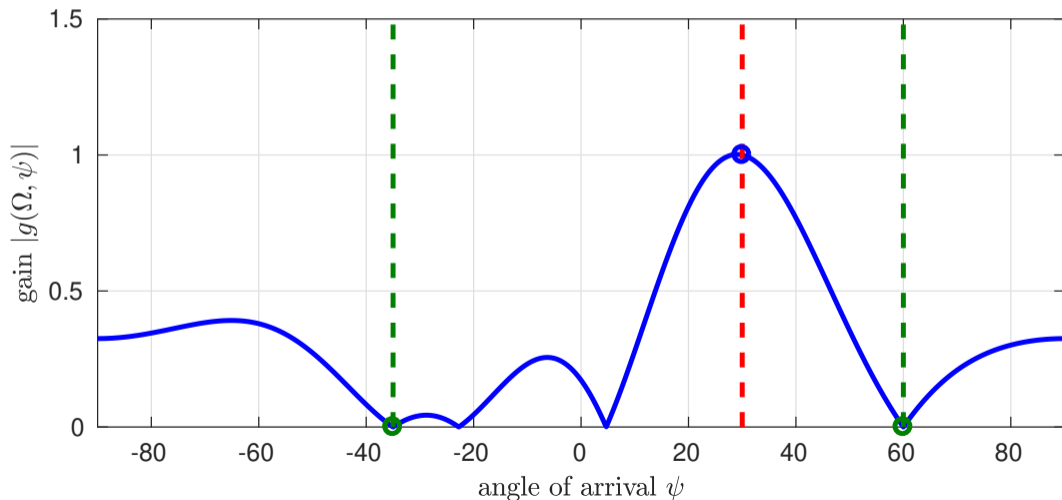
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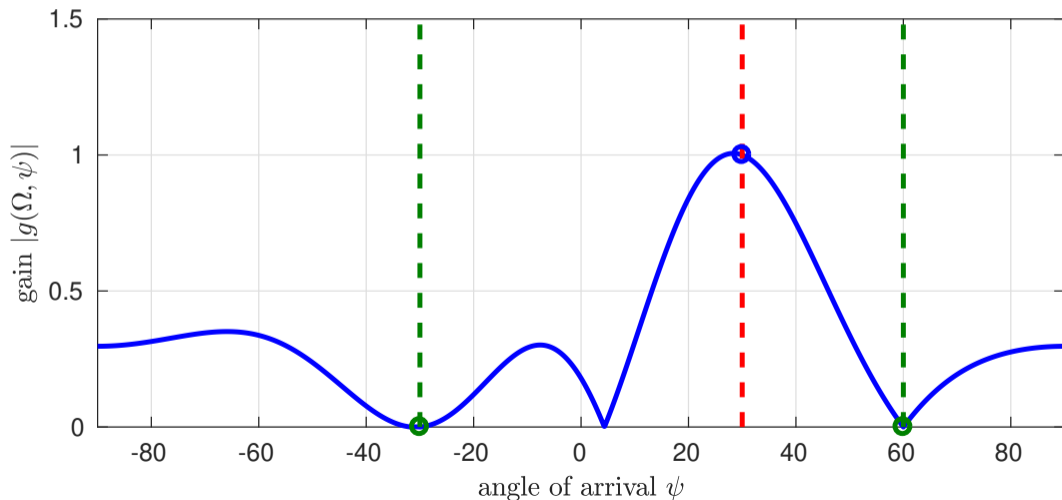
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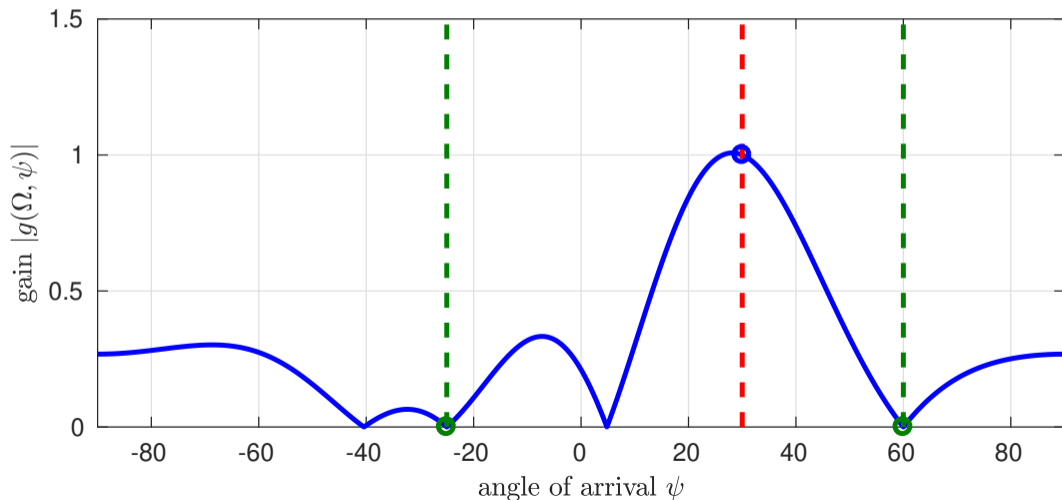
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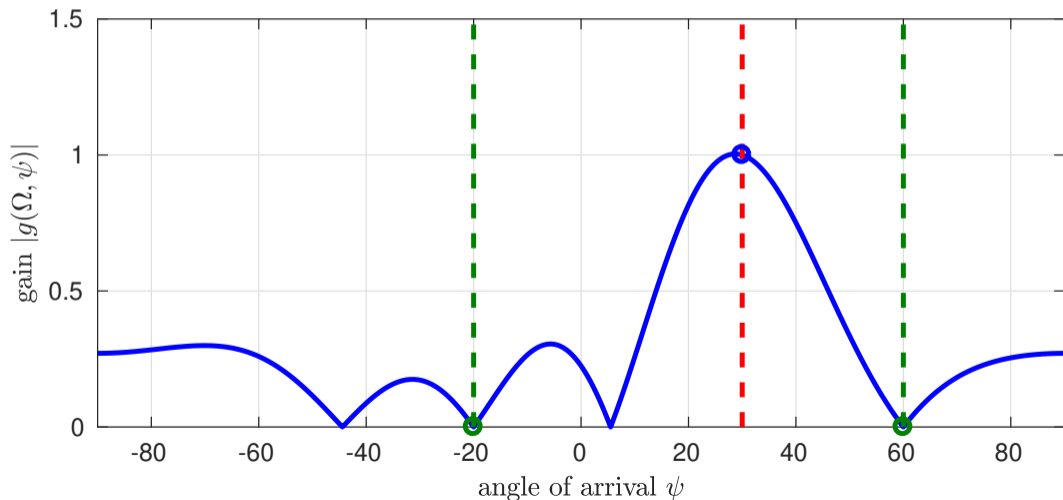
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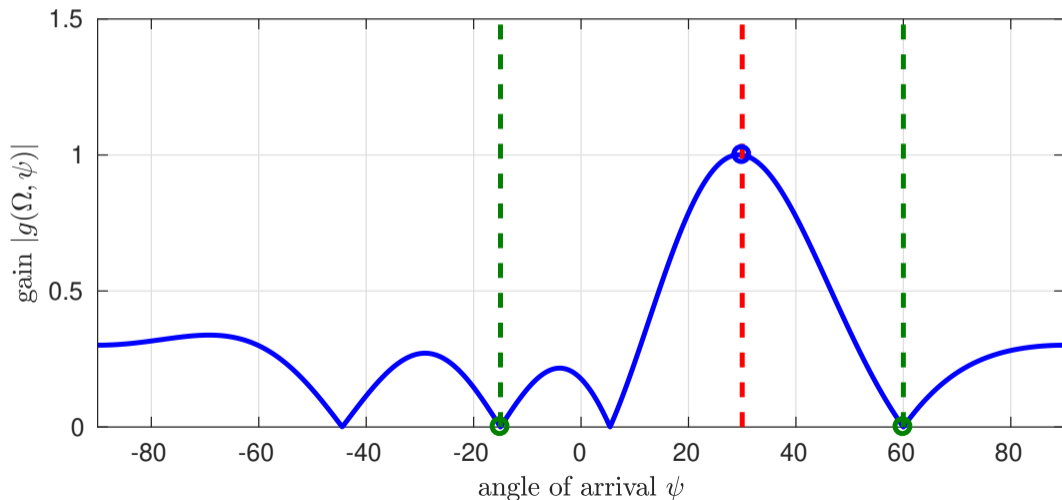
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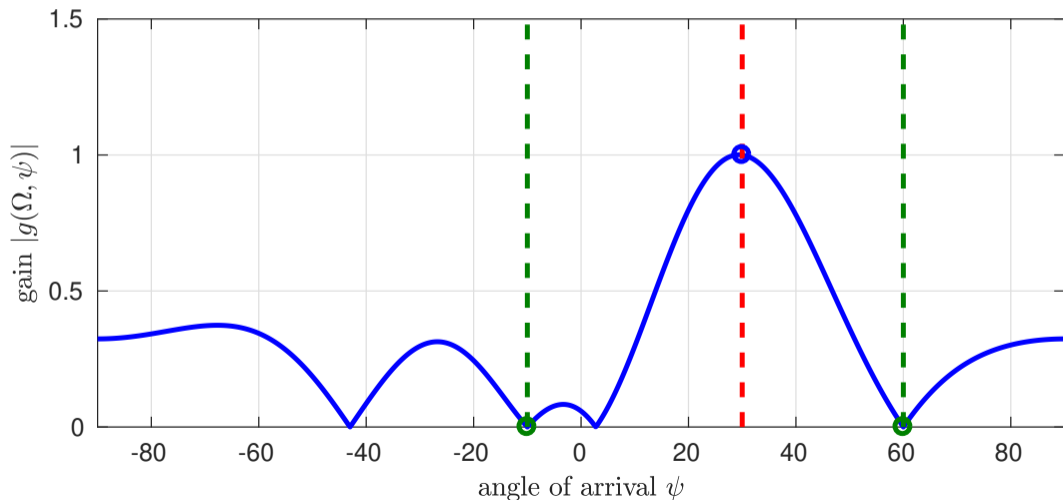
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- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one fixed and one variable interferer:



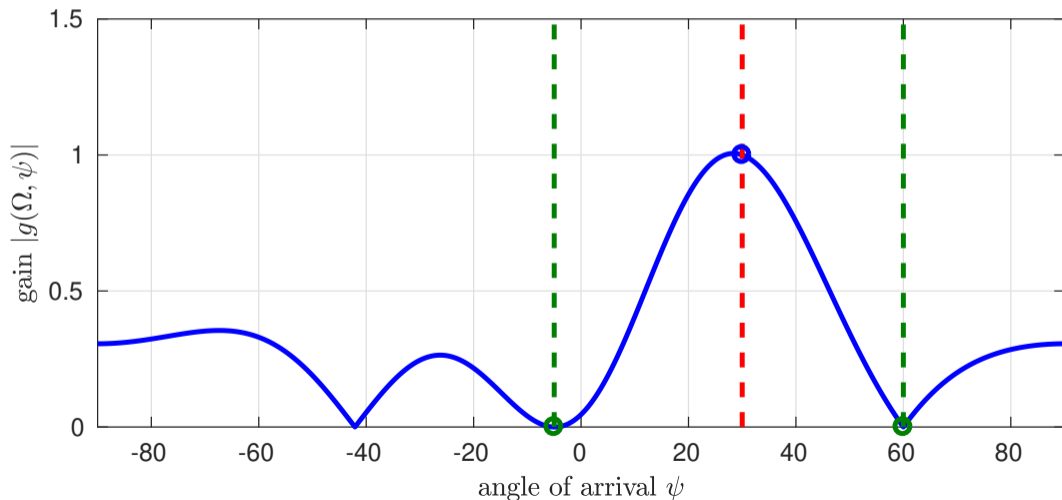
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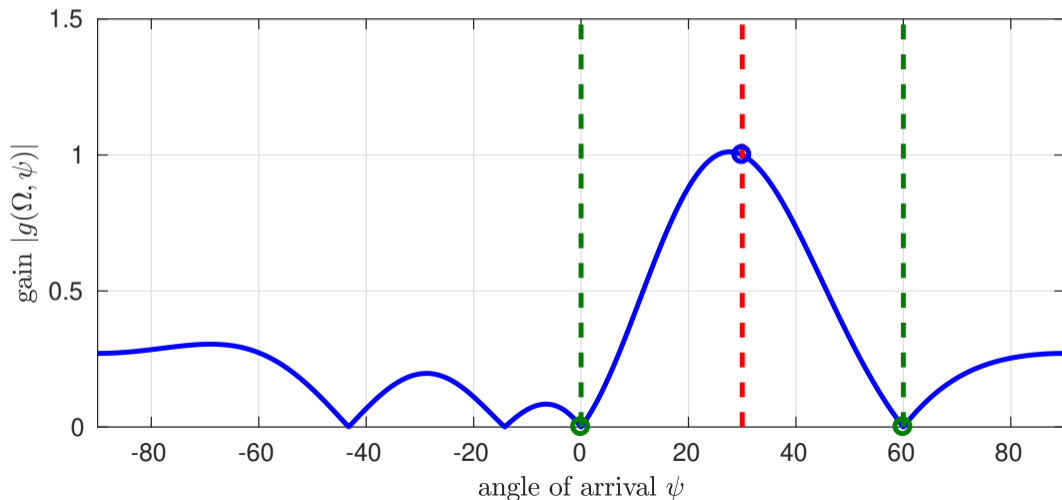
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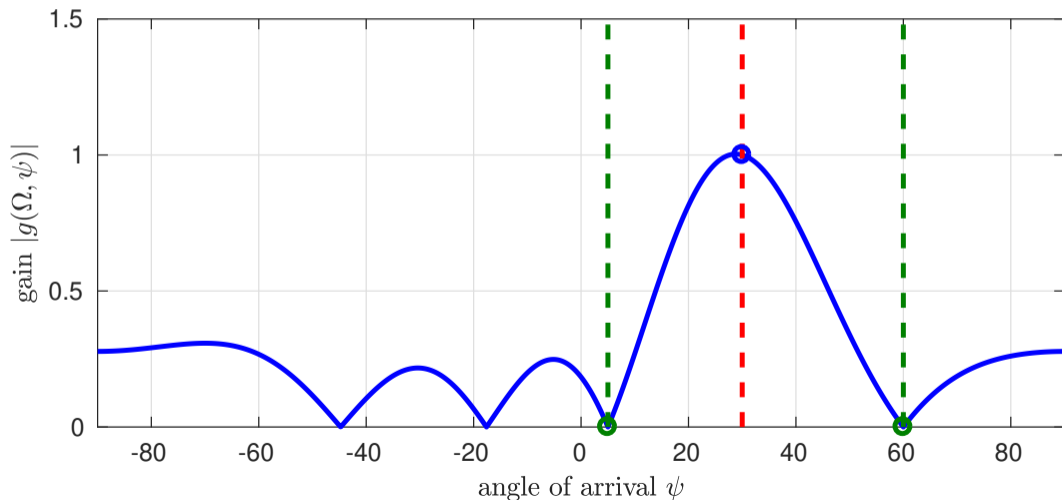
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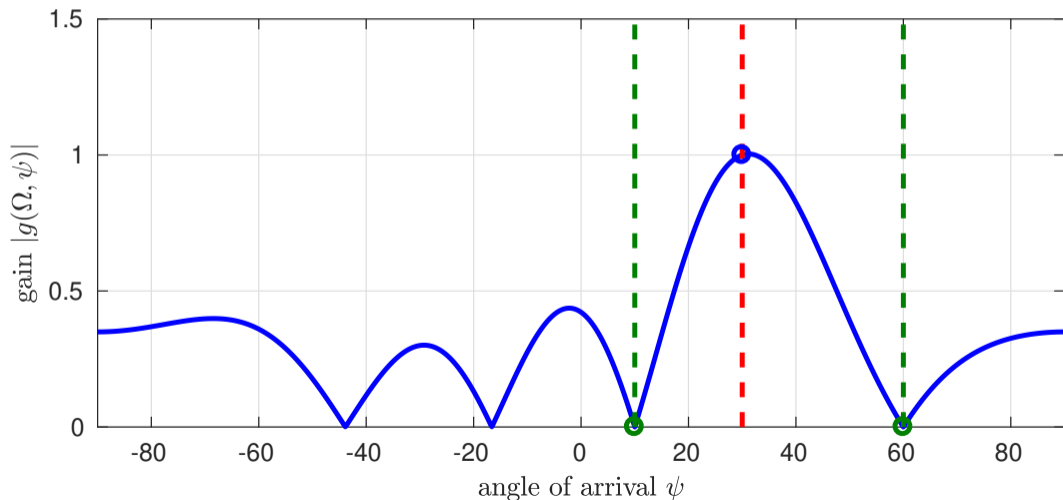
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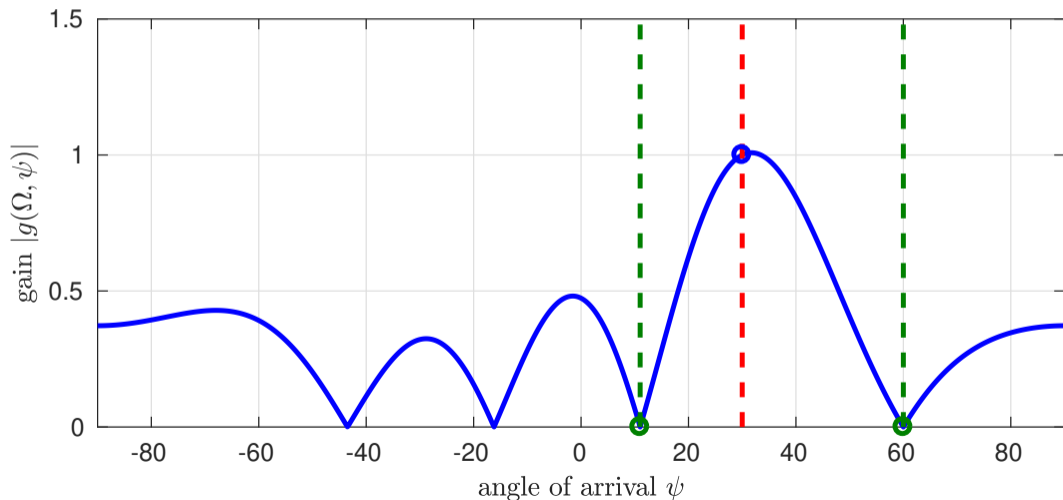
- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one fixed and one variable interferer:





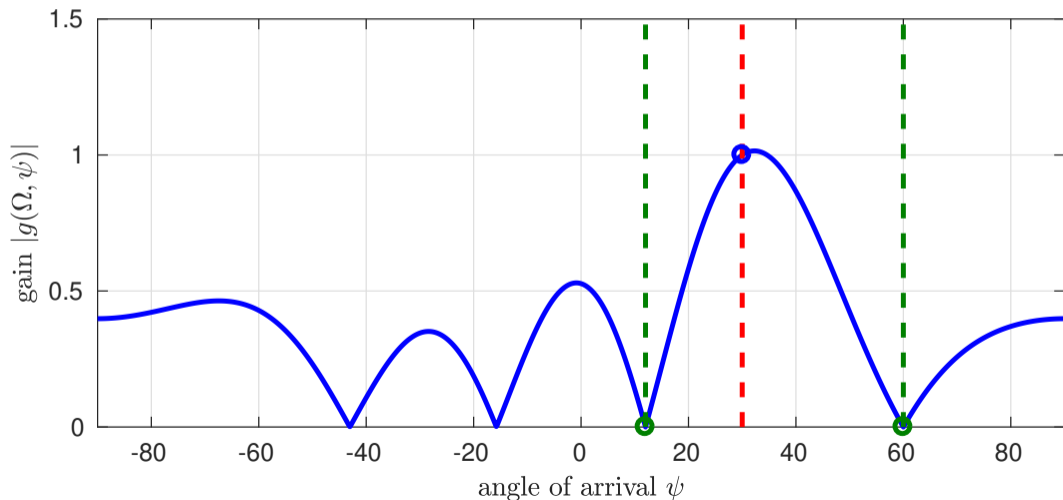
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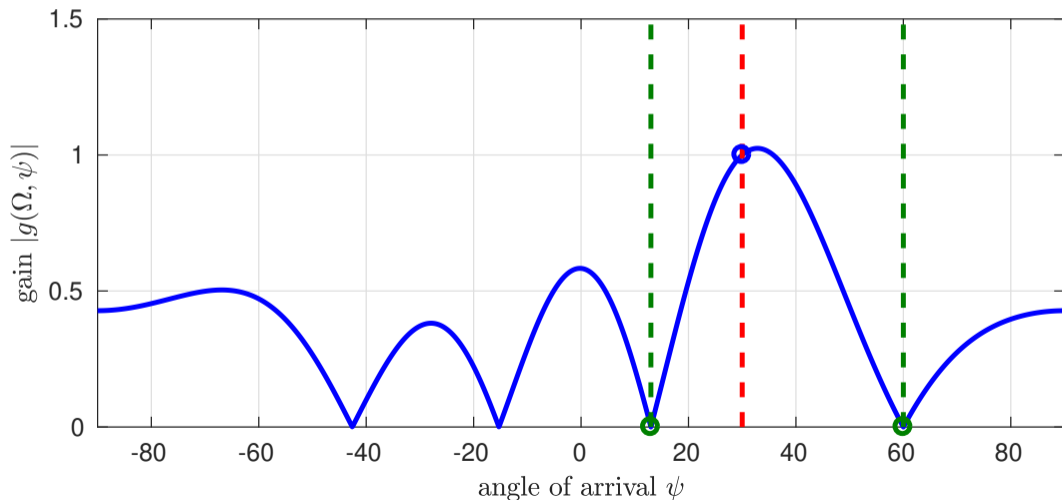
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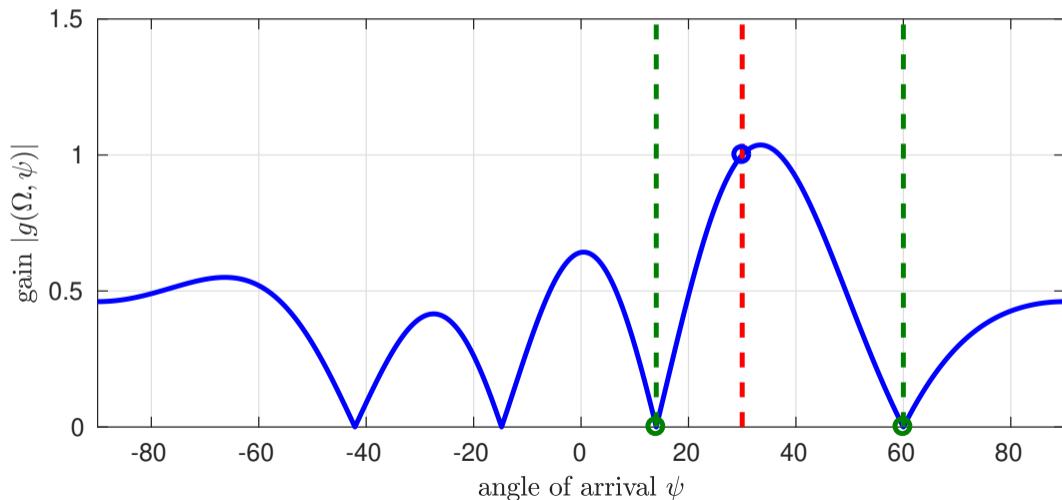
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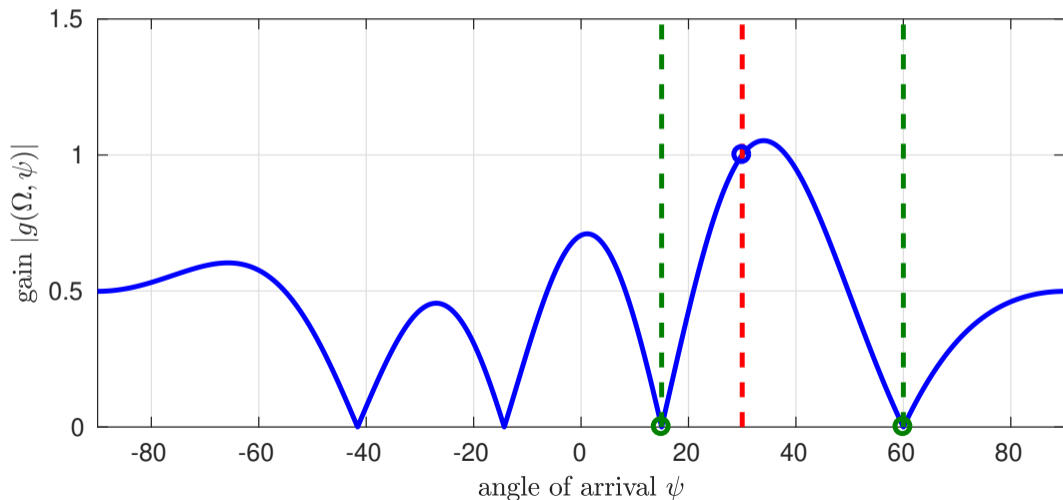
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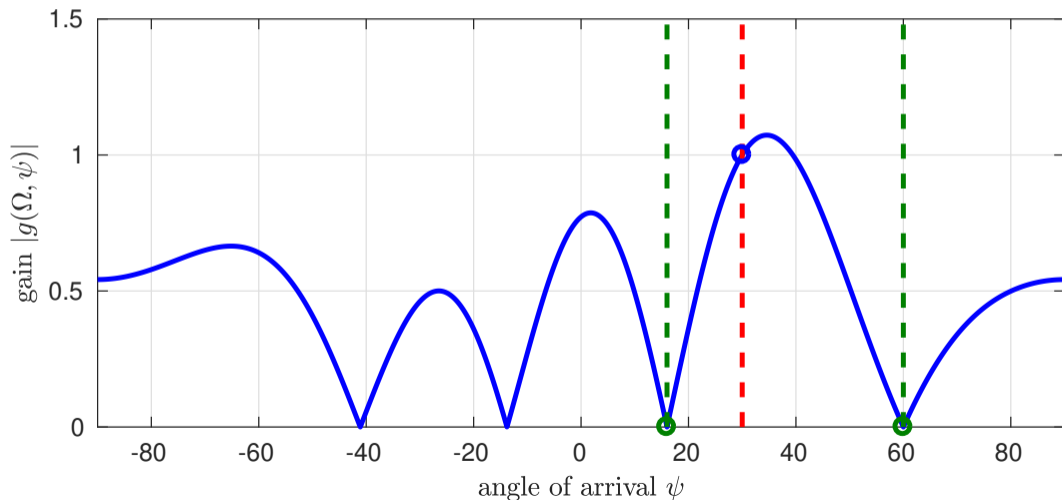
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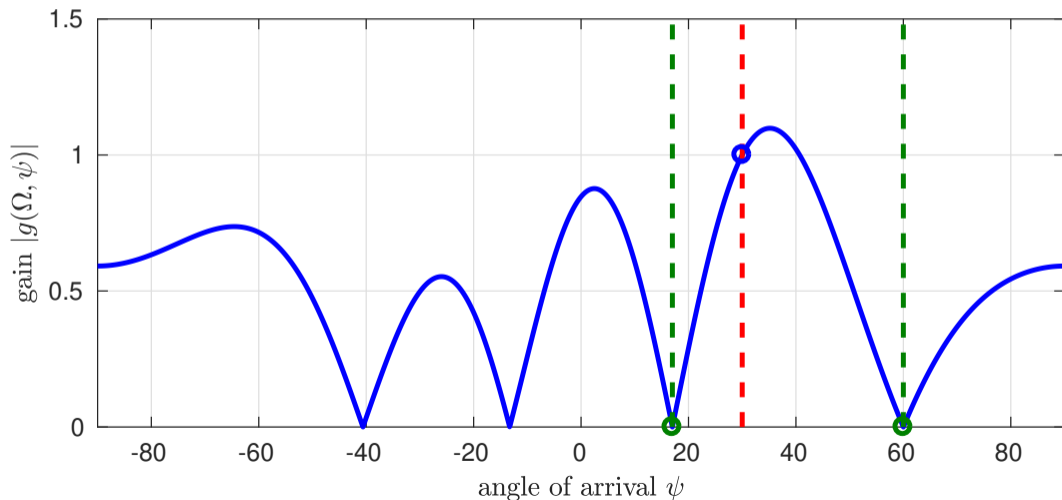
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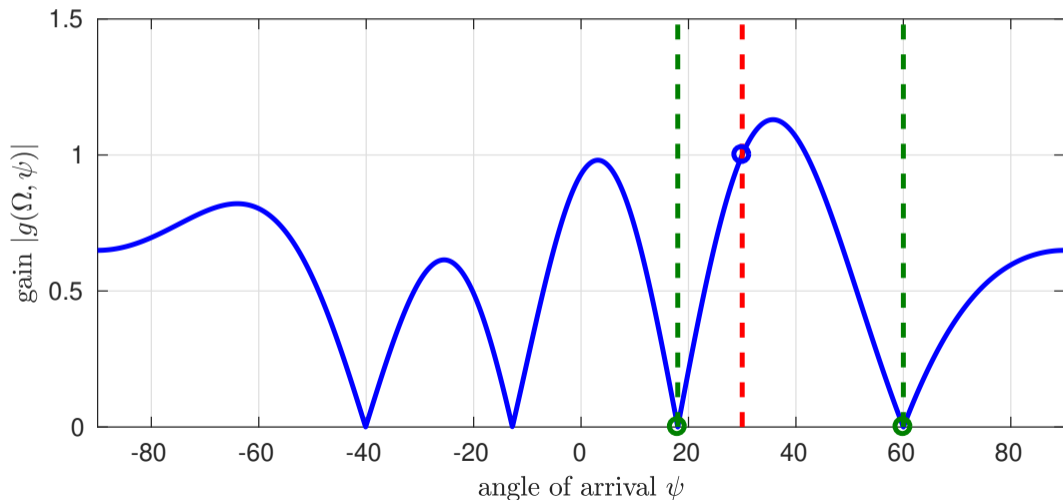
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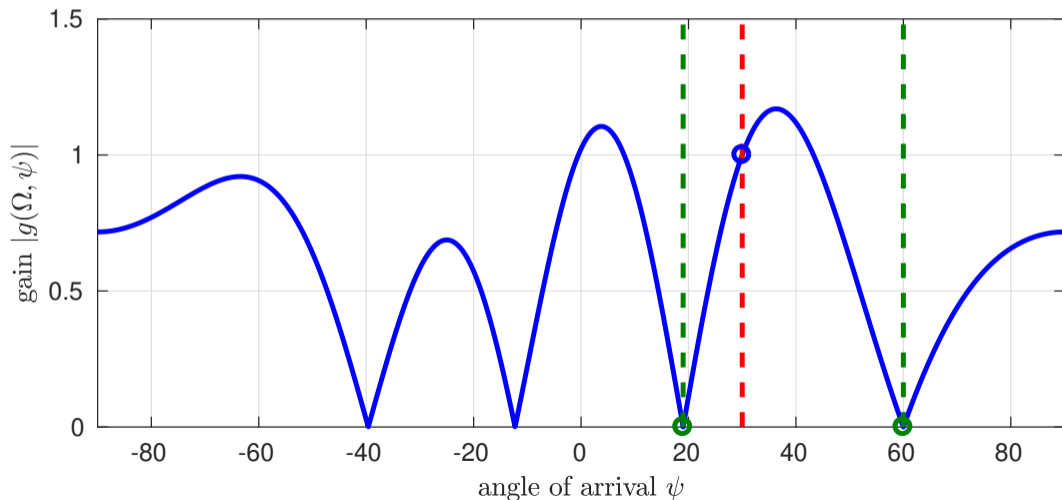
- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one fixed and one variable interferer:





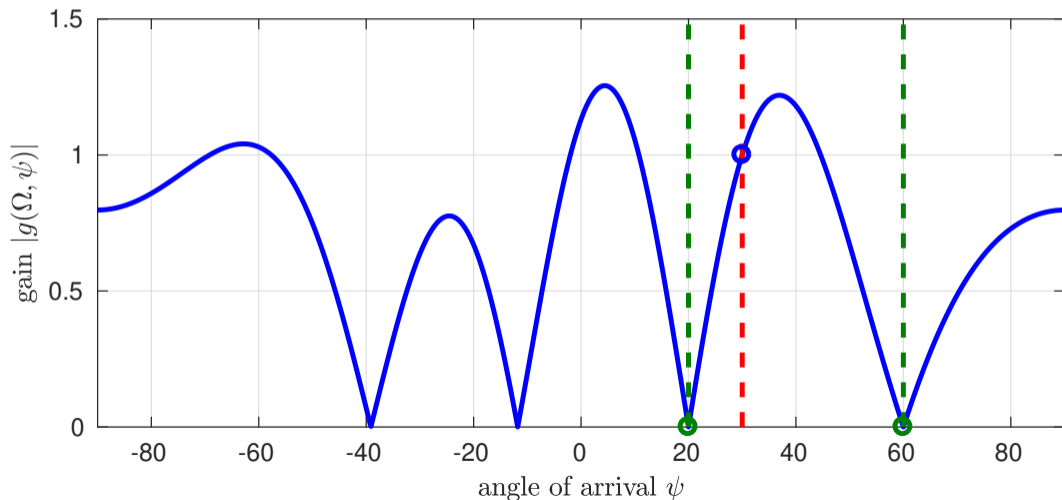
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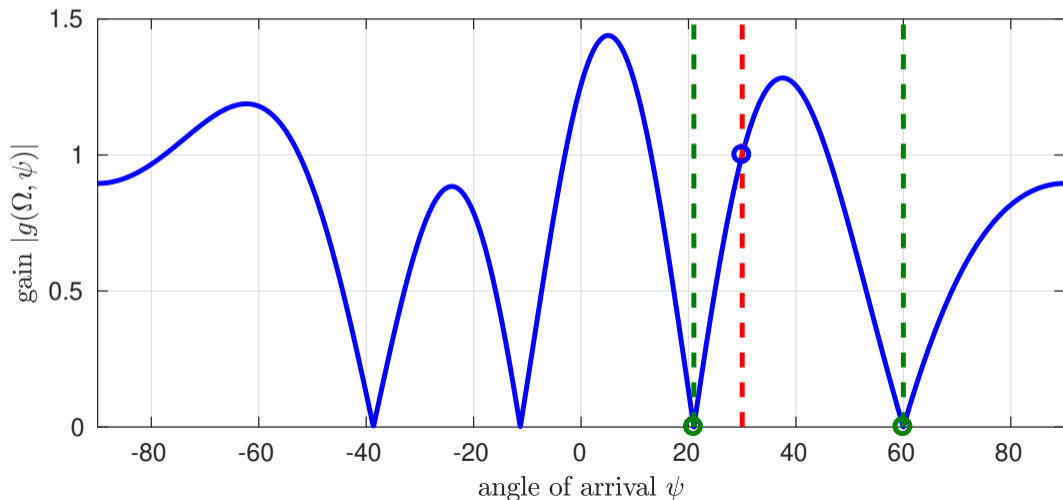
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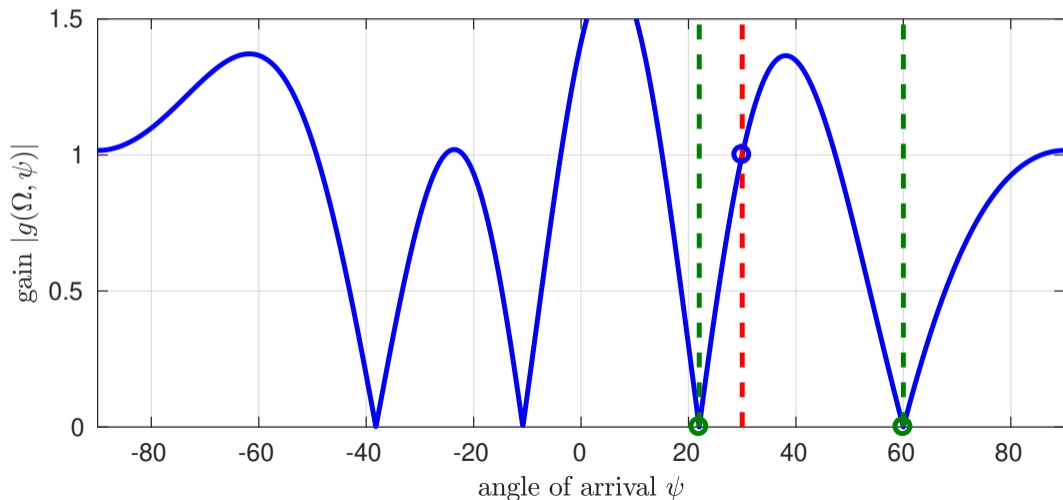
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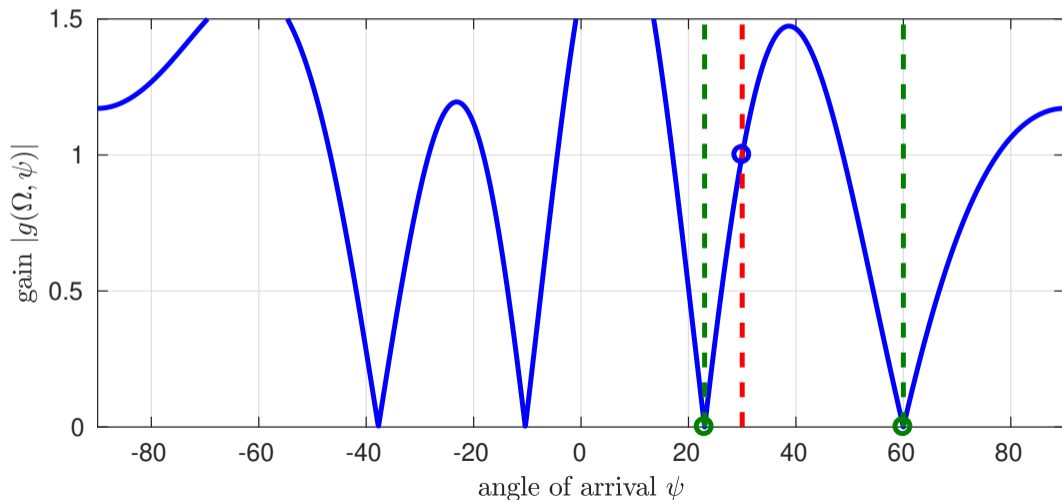
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- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one fixed and one variable interferer:



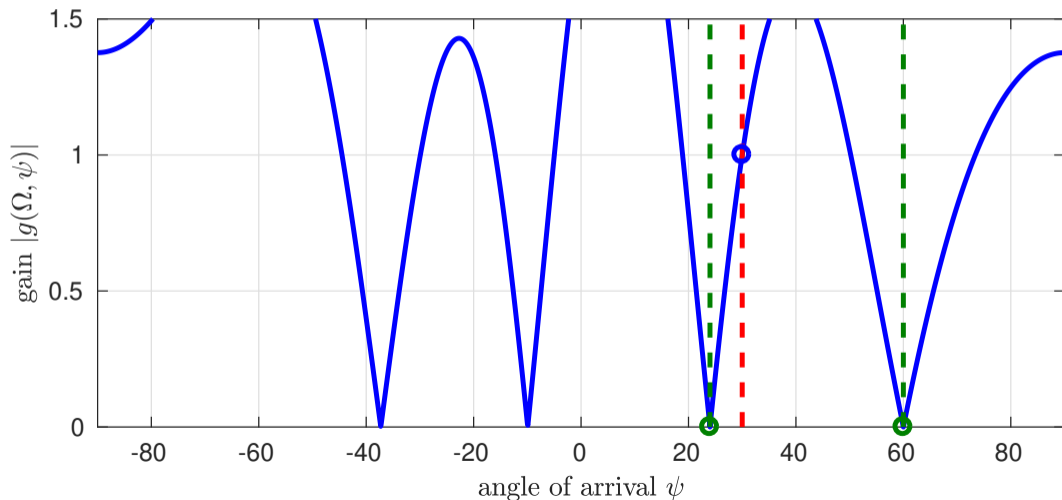
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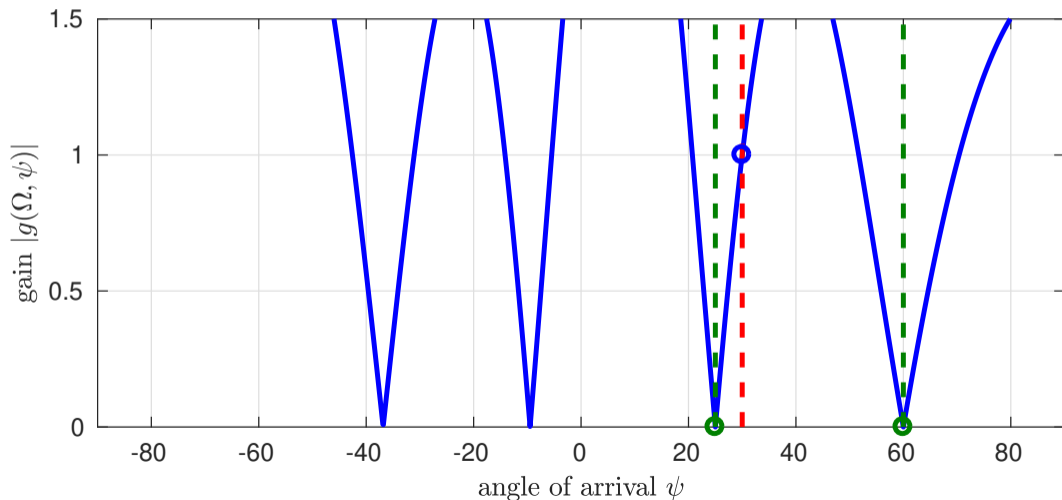
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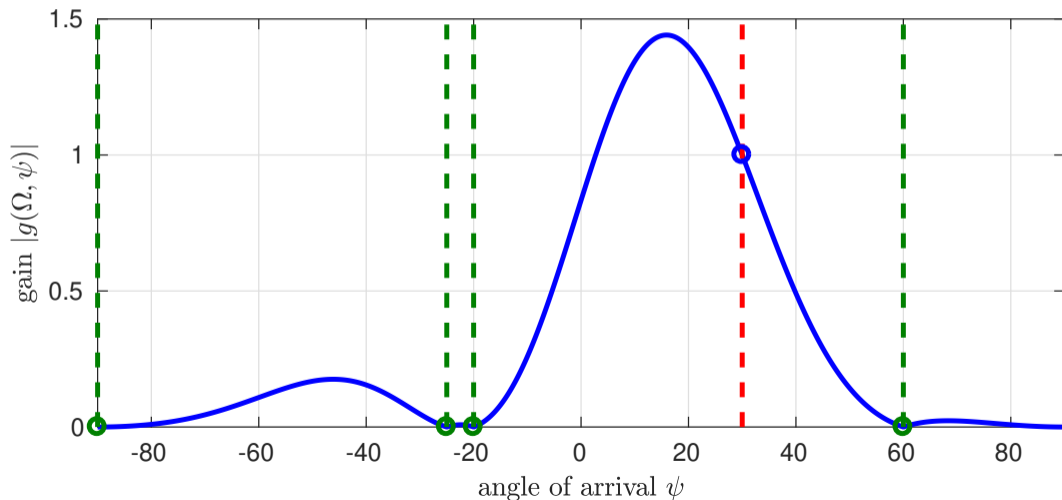
# Beamforming Example — Variable Interferer II

- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one fixed and one variable interferer:



## Beamforming Example — Variable Interferer III

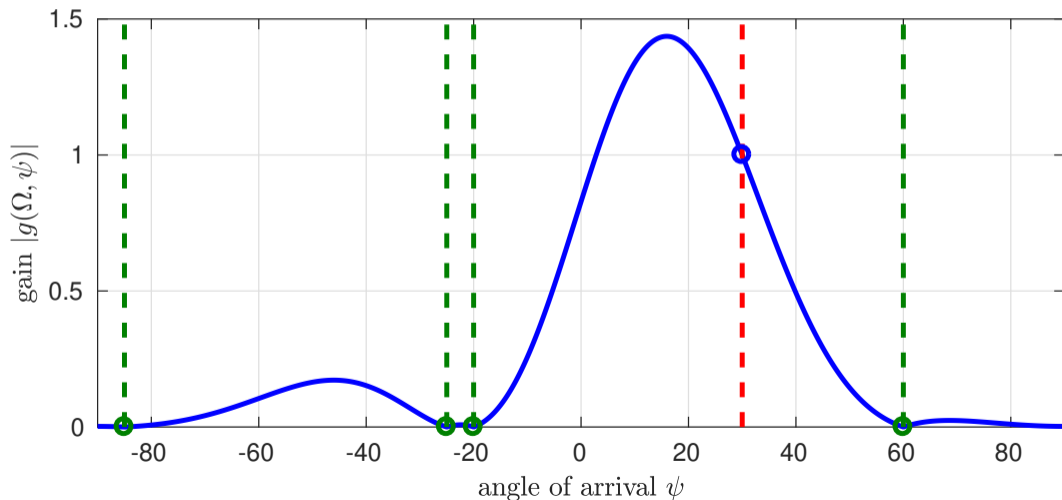
- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one variable and three fixed interferers:





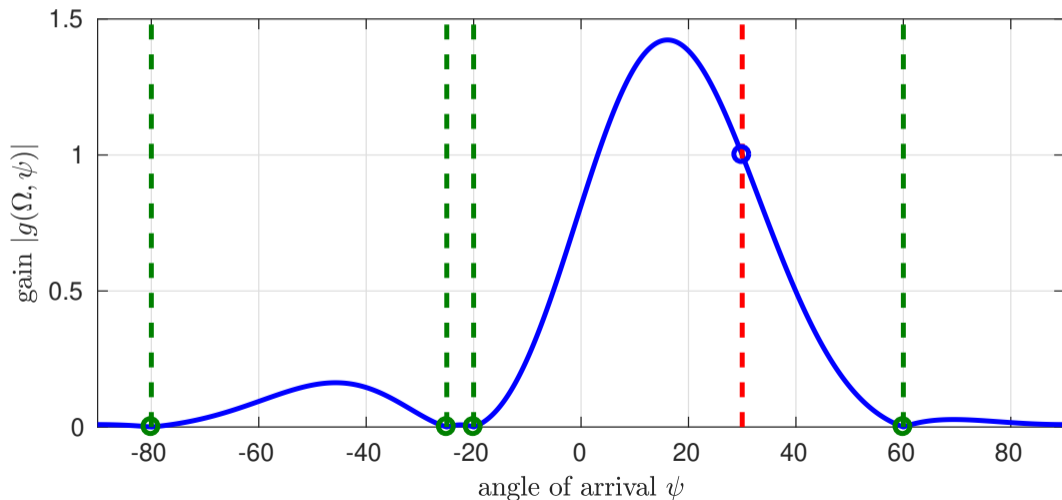
## Beamforming Example — Variable Interferer III

- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one variable and three fixed interferers:



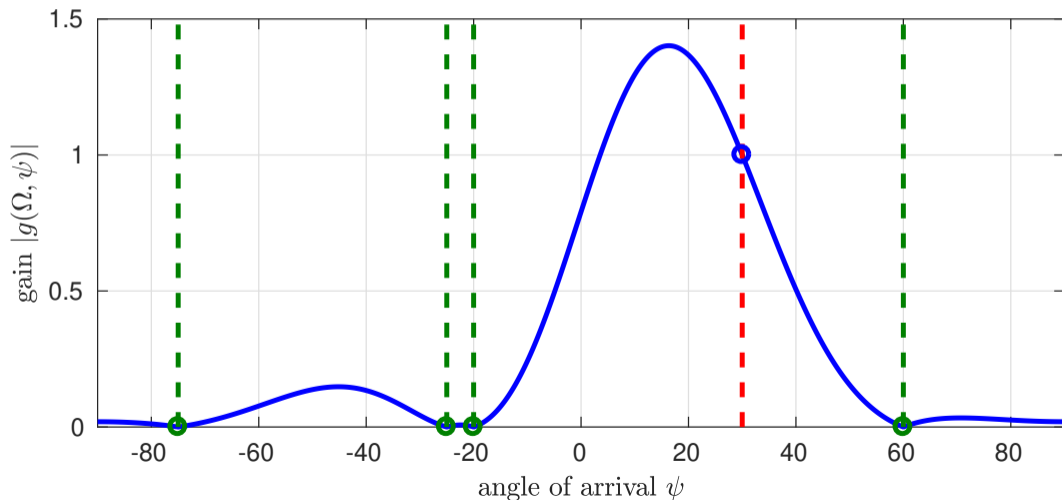
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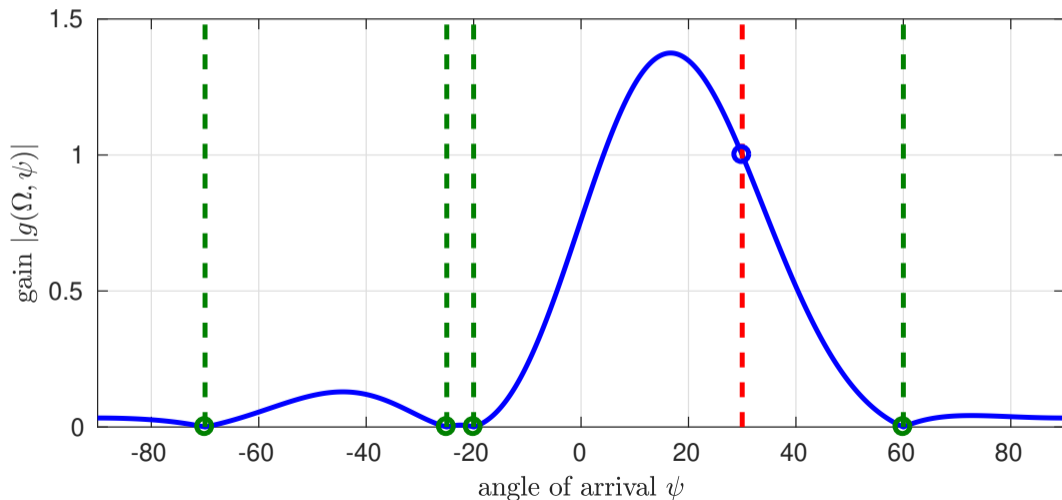
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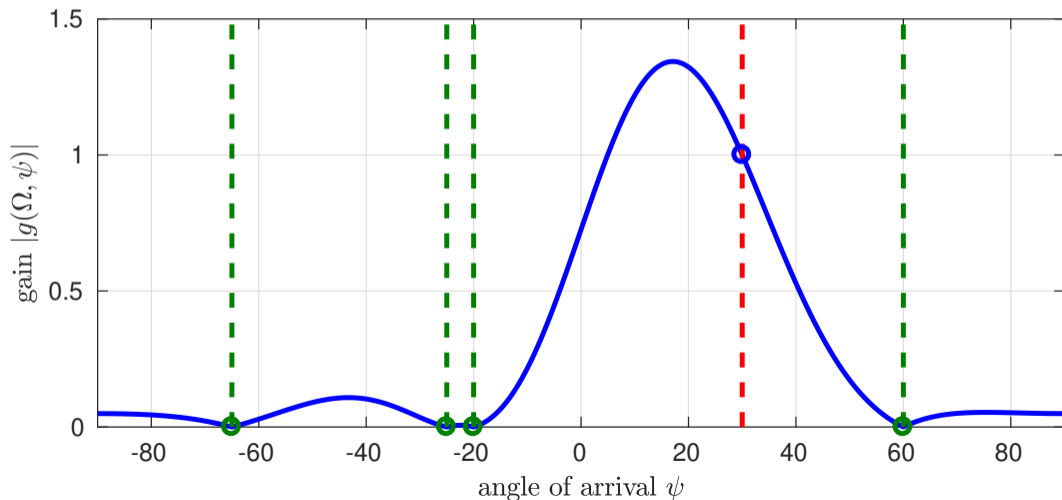
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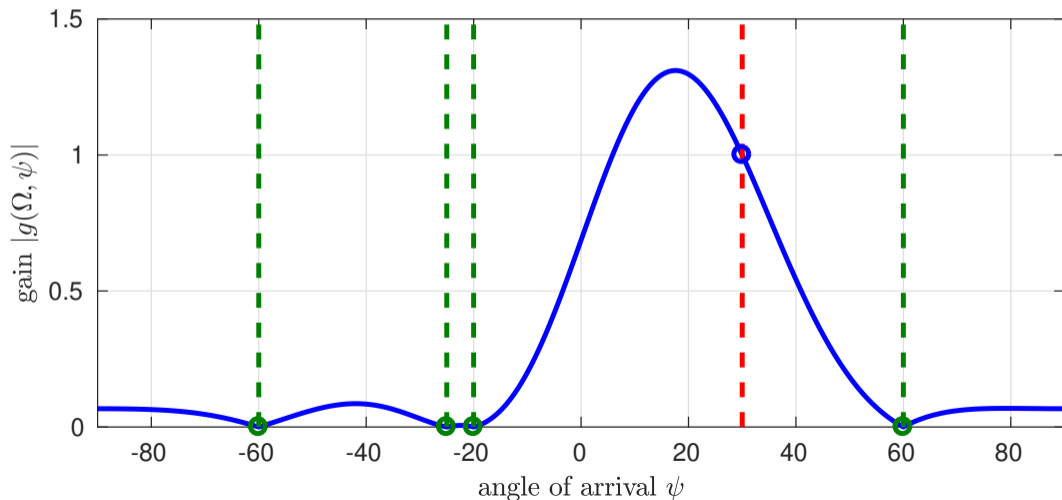
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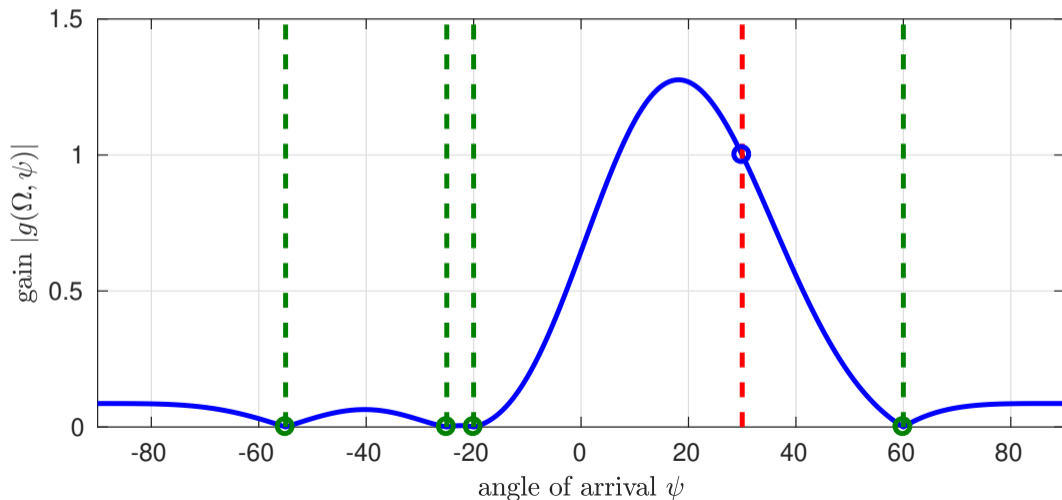
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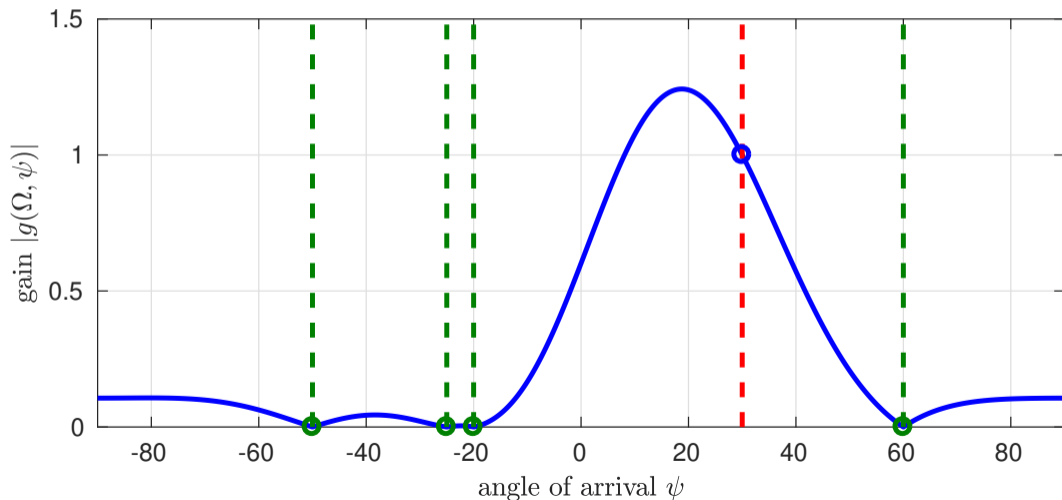
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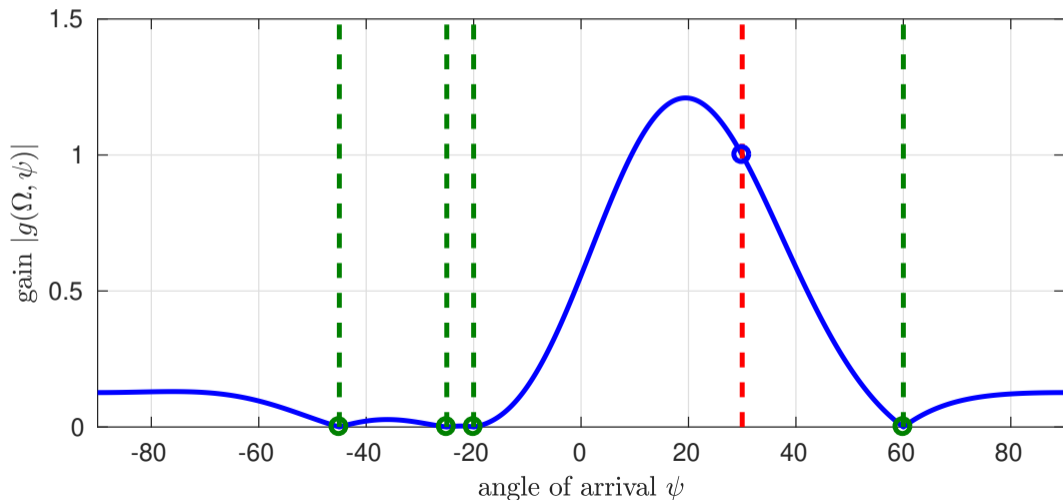
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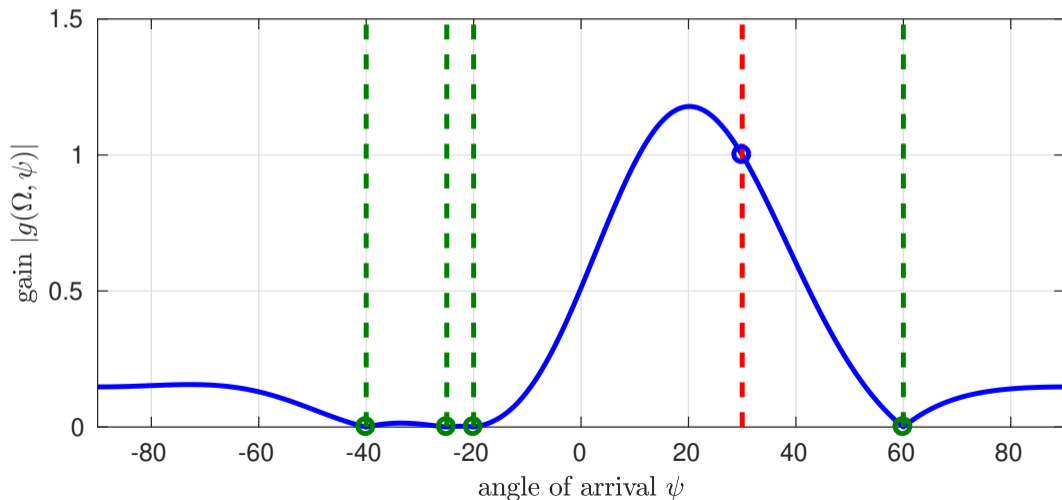
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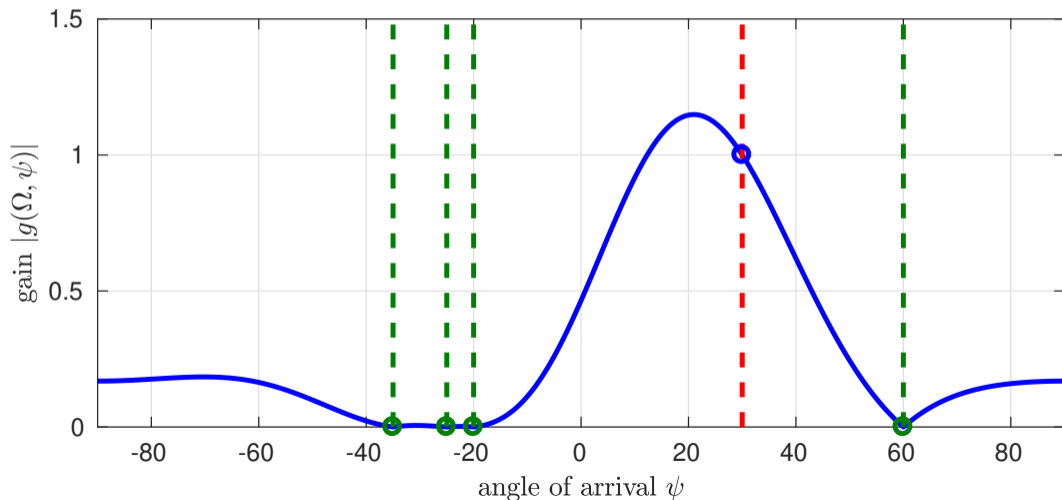
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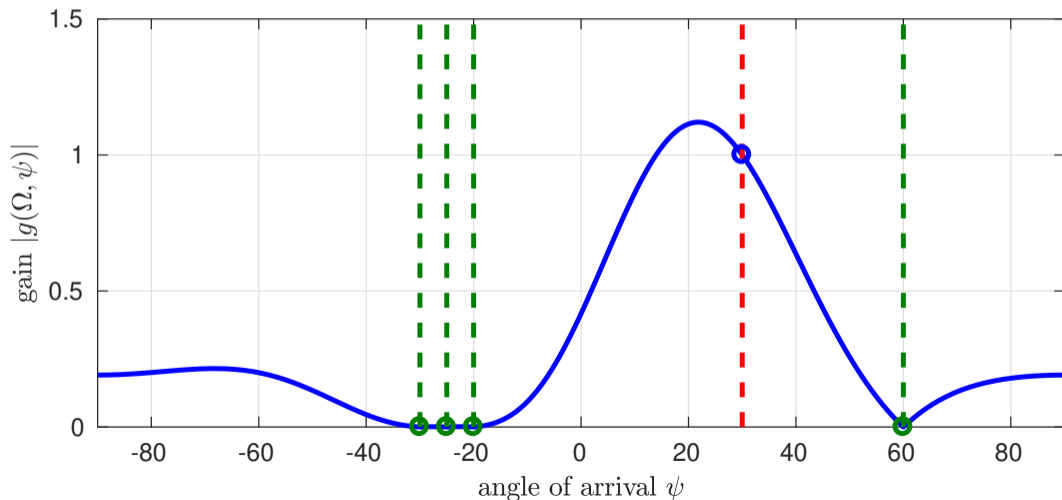
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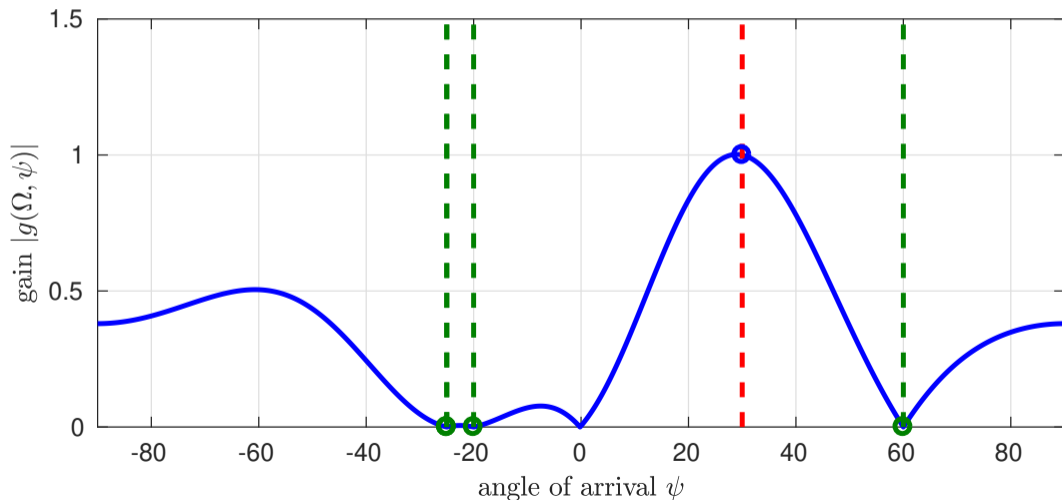
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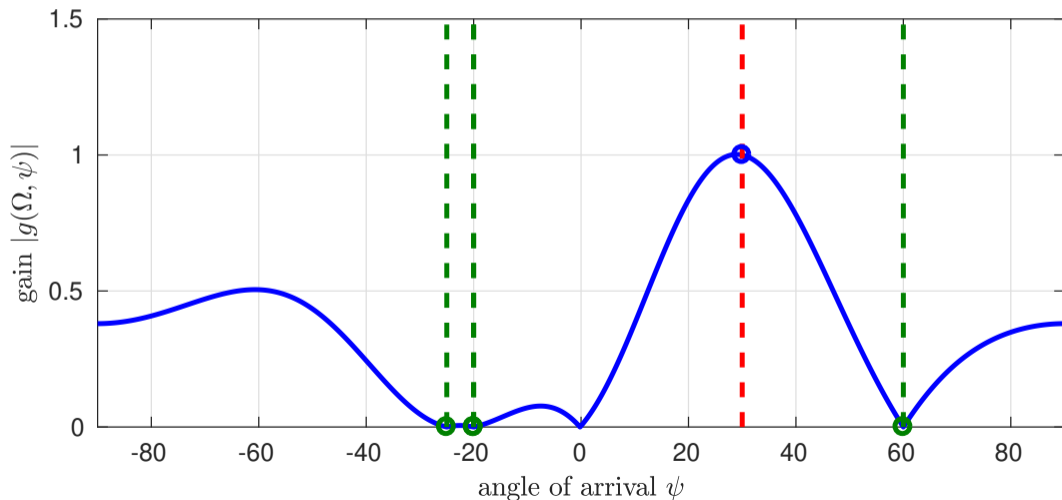
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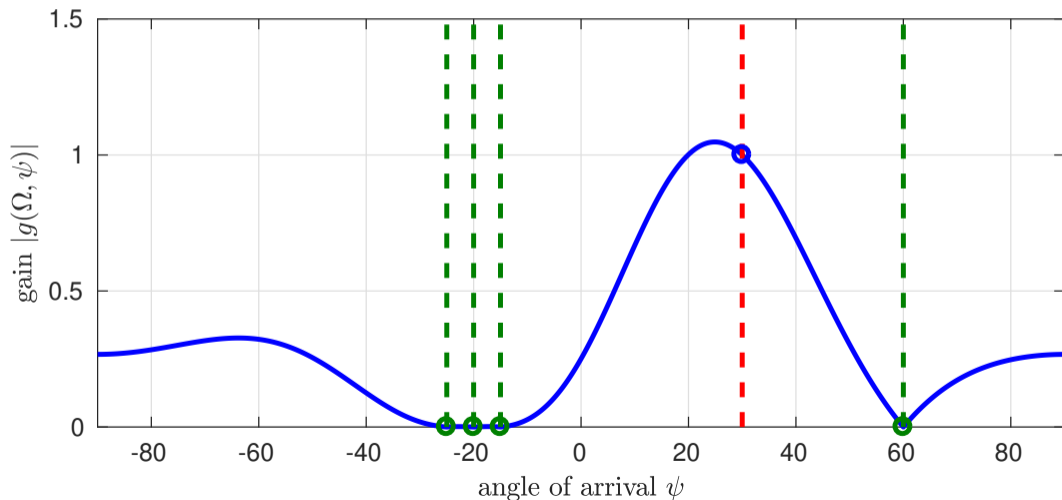
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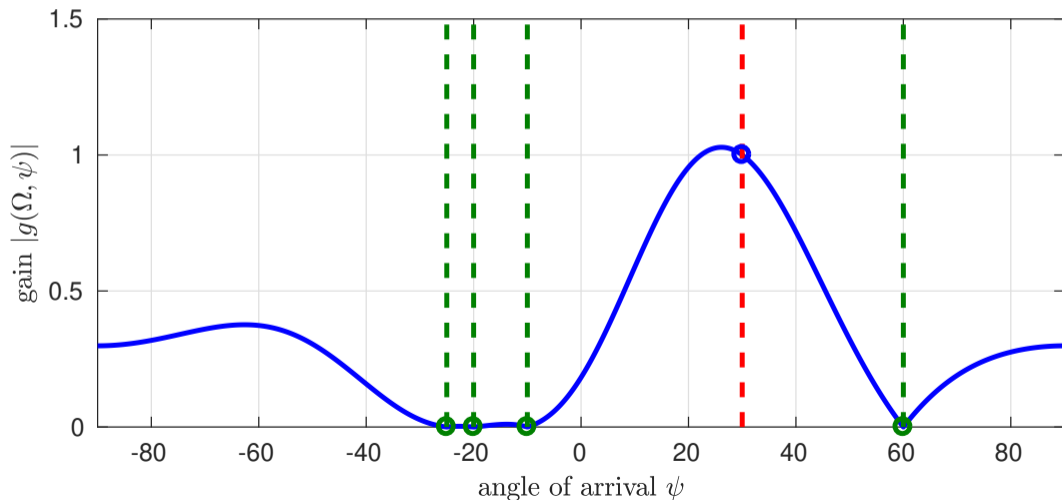
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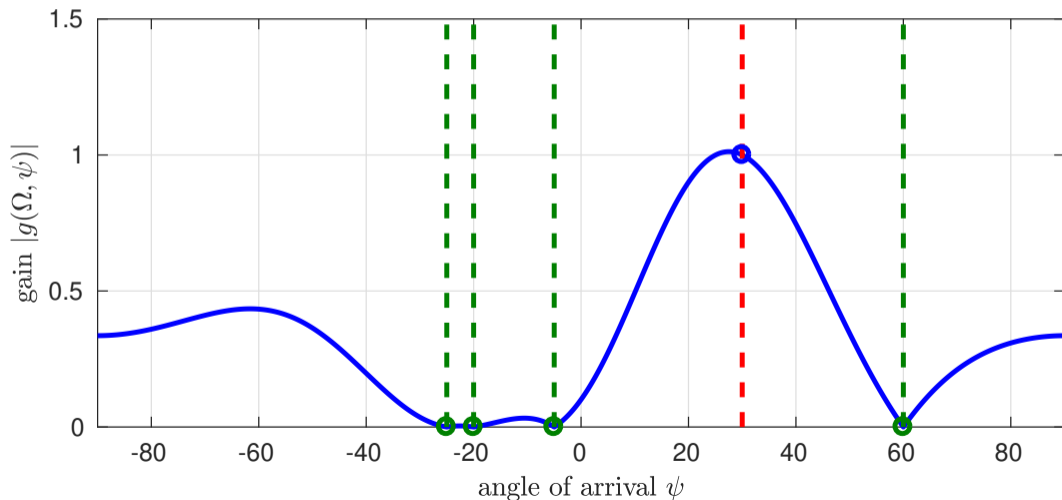
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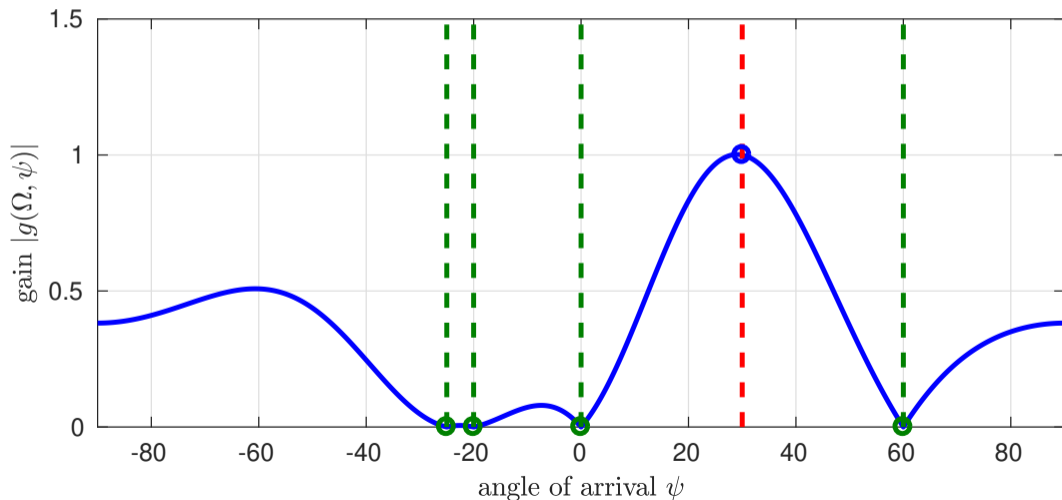
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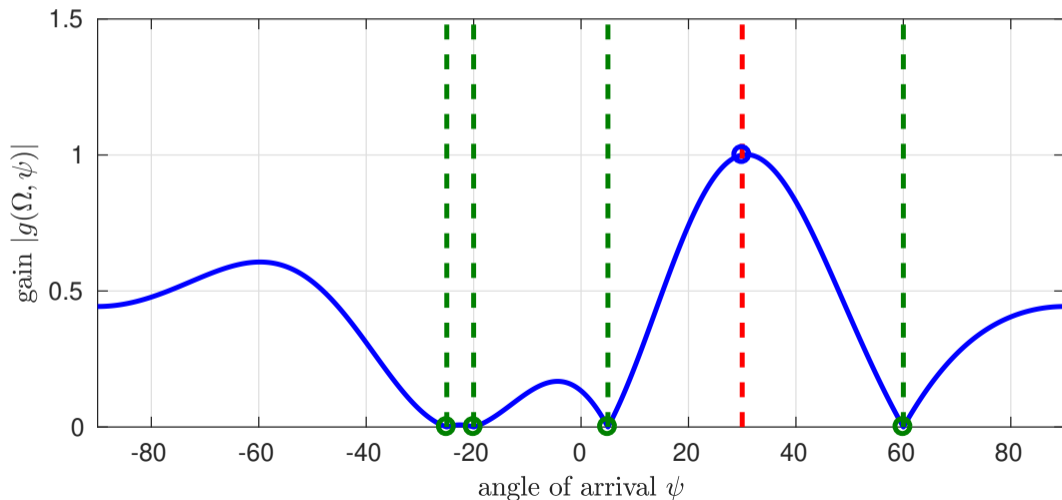
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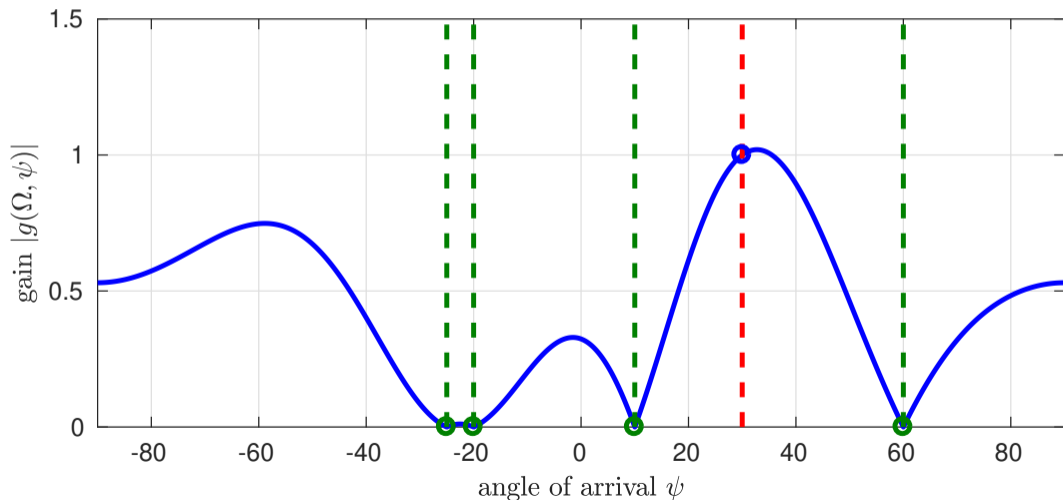
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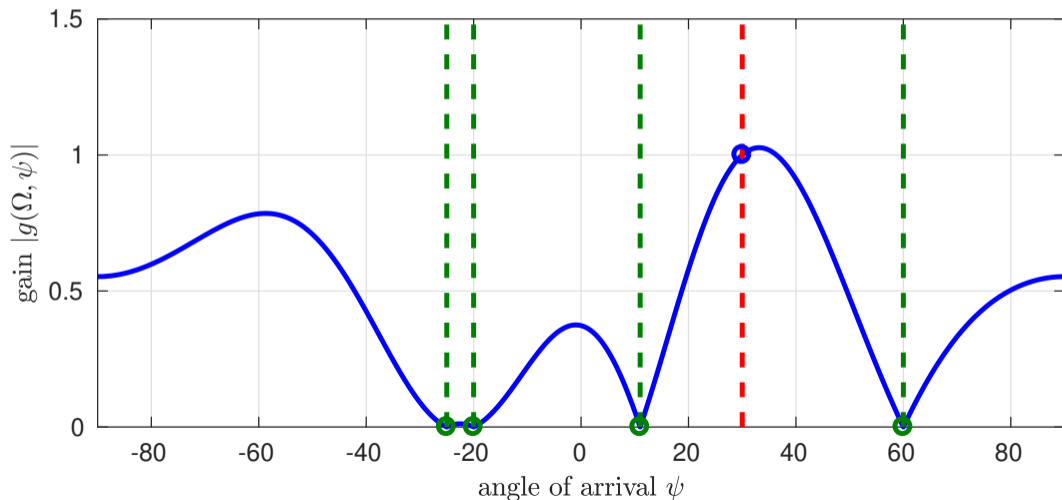
## Beamforming Example — Variable Interferer III

- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one variable and three fixed interferers:



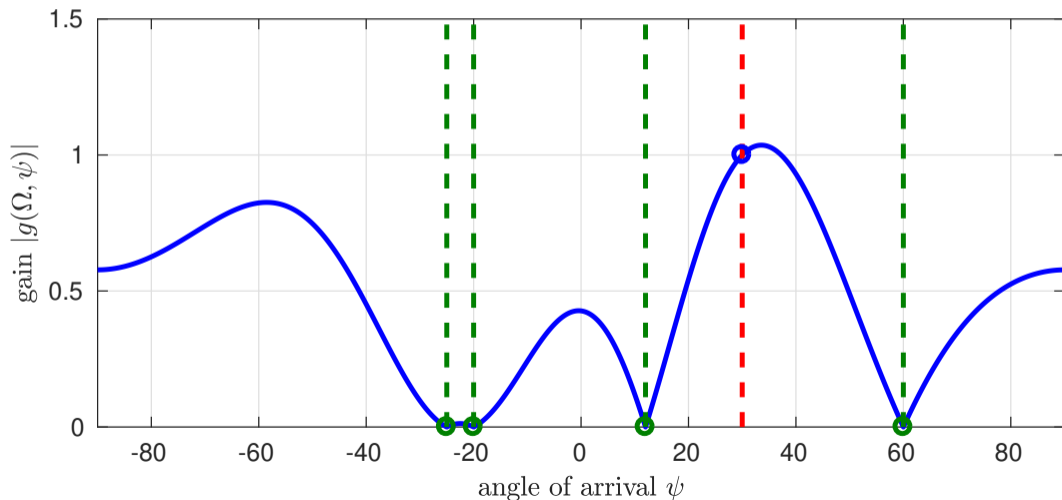
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- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one variable and three fixed interferers:



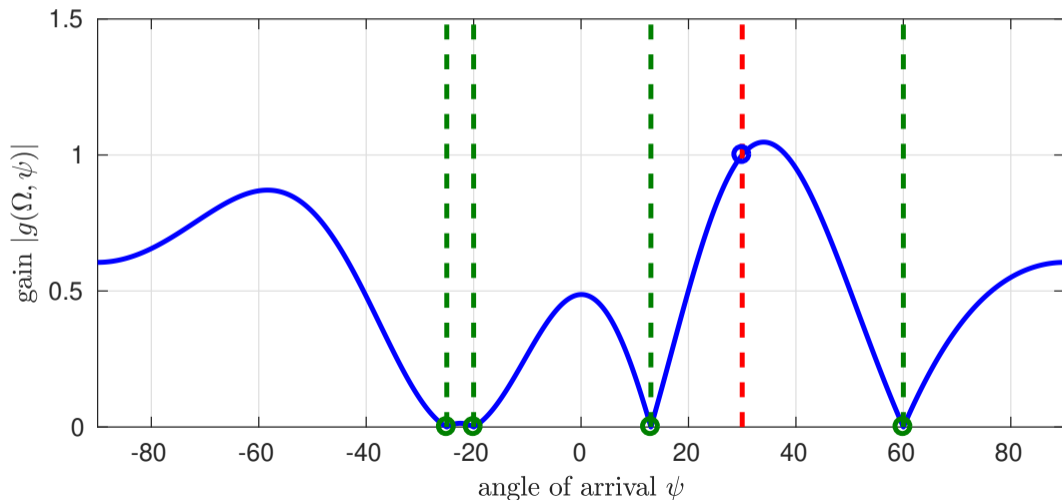
## Beamforming Example — Variable Interferer III

- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one variable and three fixed interferers:



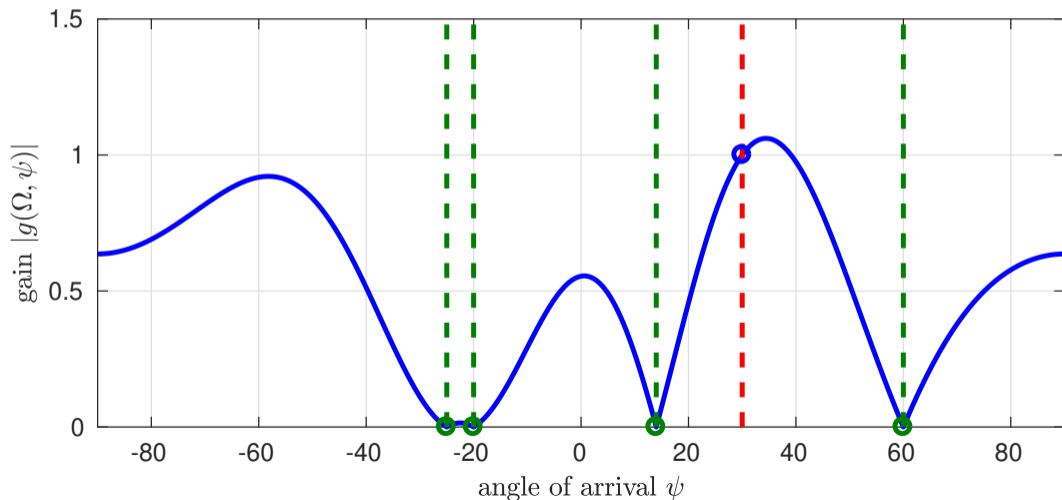
## Beamforming Example — Variable Interferer III

- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one variable and three fixed interferers:



# Beamforming Example — Variable Interferer III

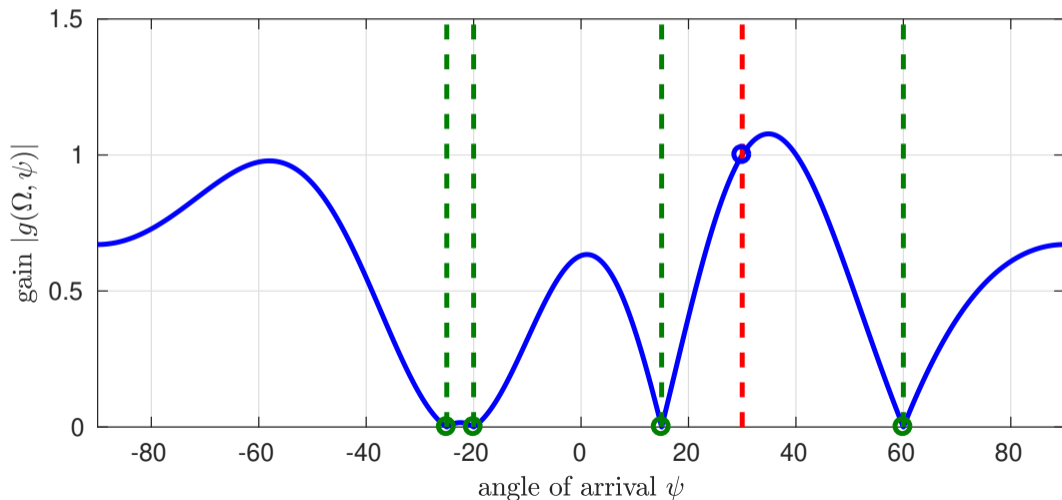
- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one variable and three fixed interferers:





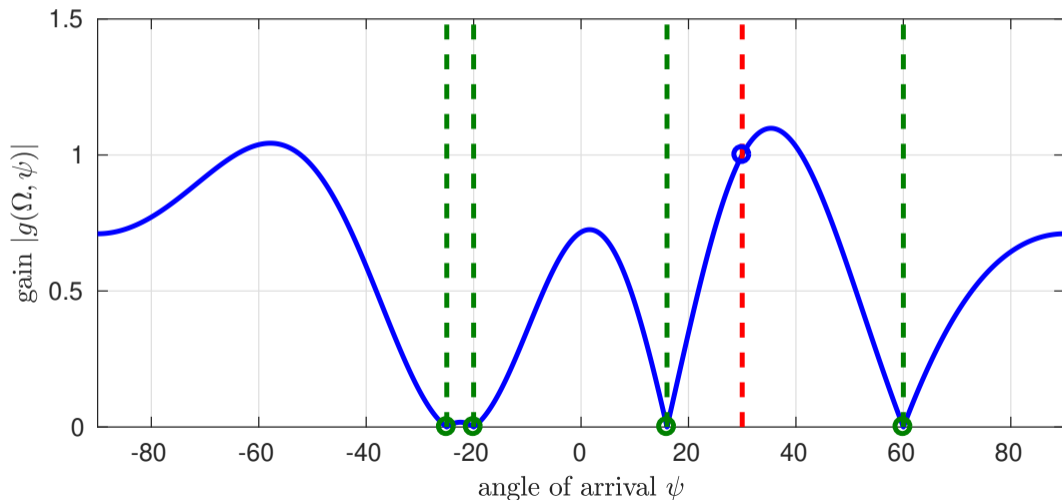
# Beamforming Example — Variable Interferer III

- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one variable and three fixed interferers:



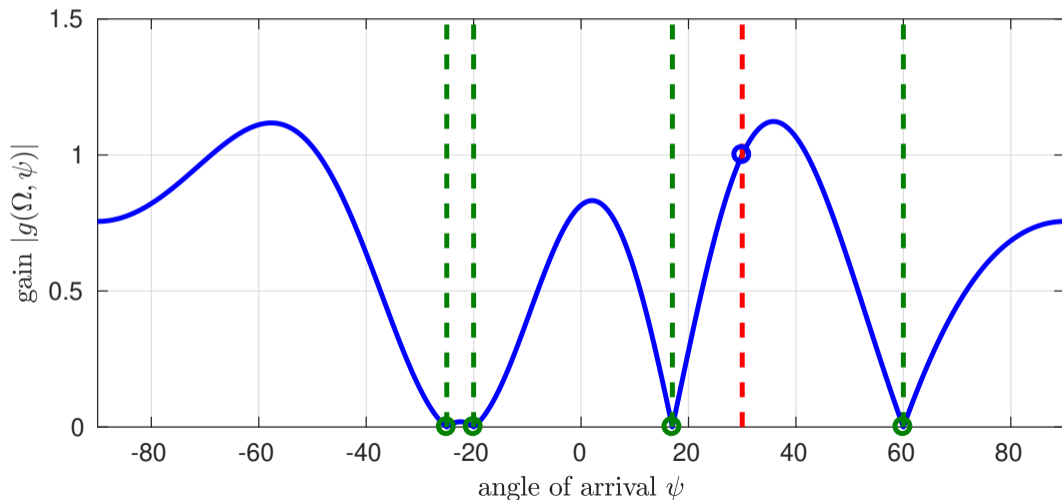
# Beamforming Example — Variable Interferer III

- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one variable and three fixed interferers:



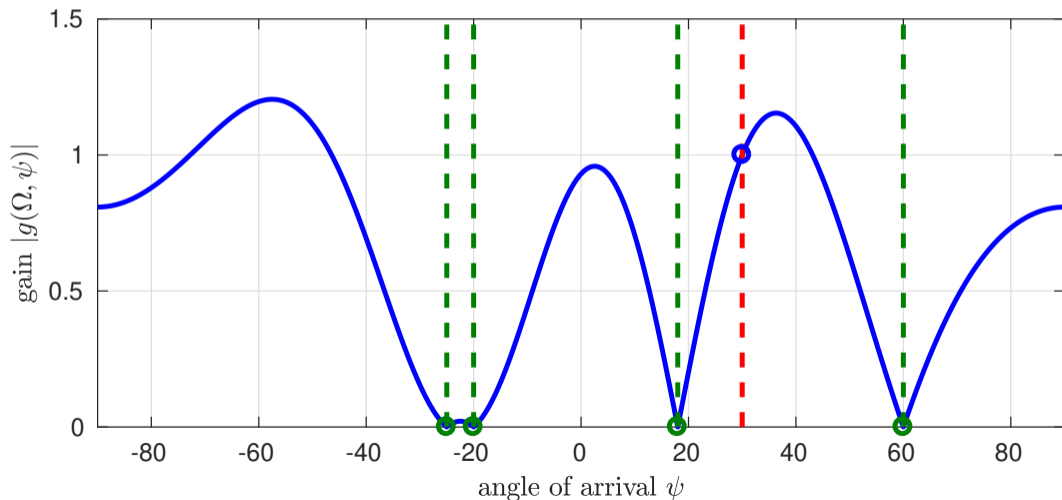
# Beamforming Example — Variable Interferer III

- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one variable and three fixed interferers:



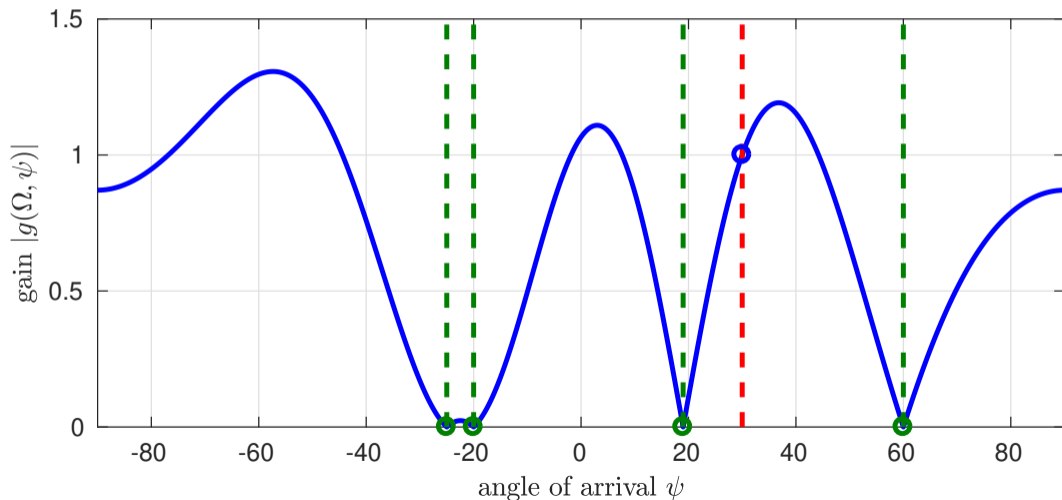
## Beamforming Example — Variable Interferer III

- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one variable and three fixed interferers:



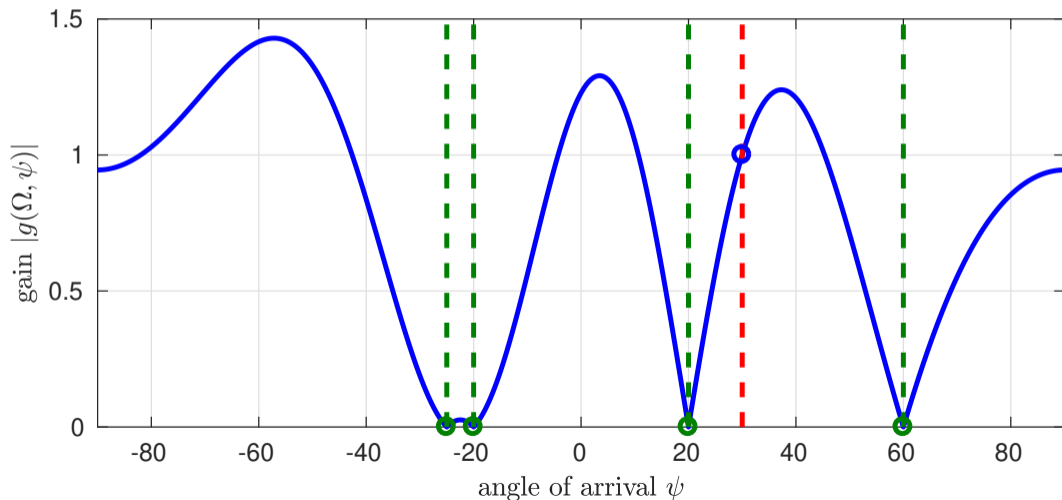
# Beamforming Example — Variable Interferer III

- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one variable and three fixed interferers:



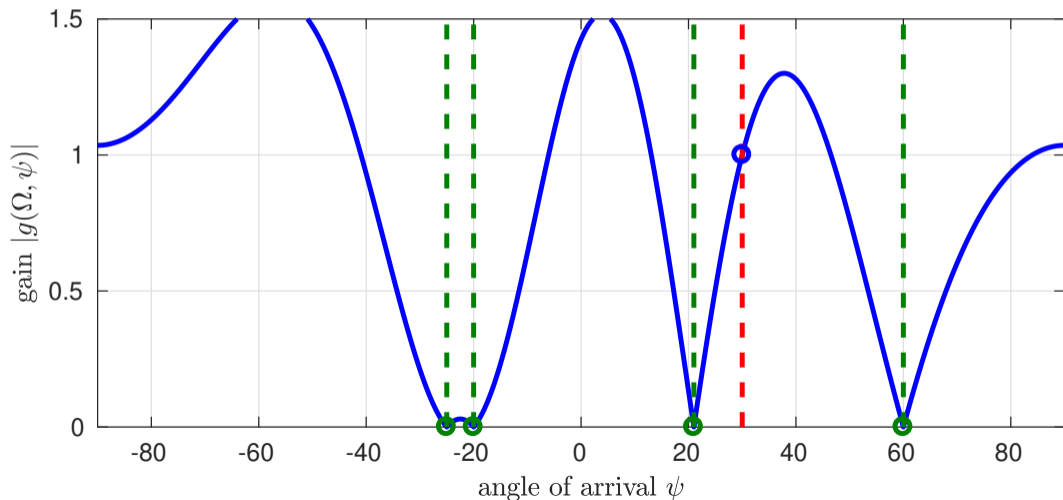
# Beamforming Example — Variable Interferer III

- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one variable and three fixed interferers:



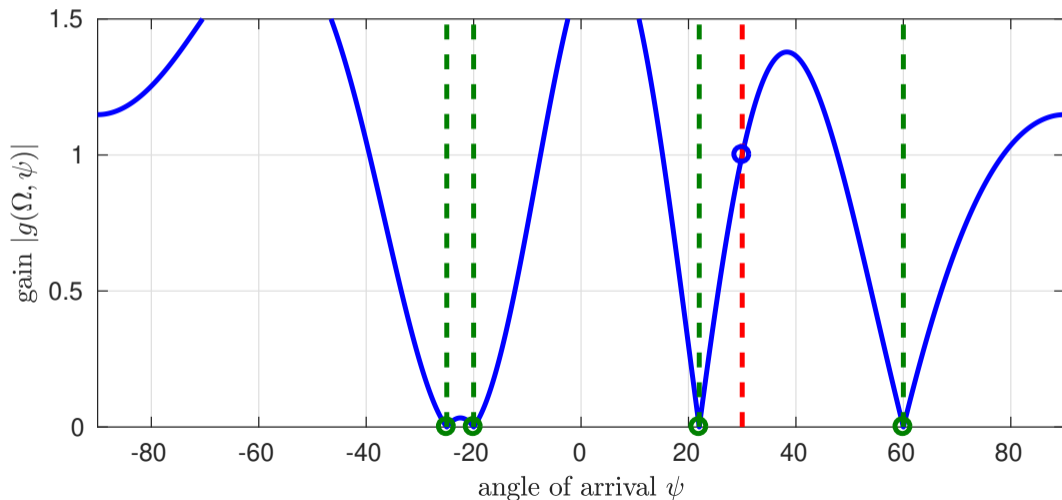
# Beamforming Example — Variable Interferer III

- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one variable and three fixed interferers:



# Beamforming Example — Variable Interferer III

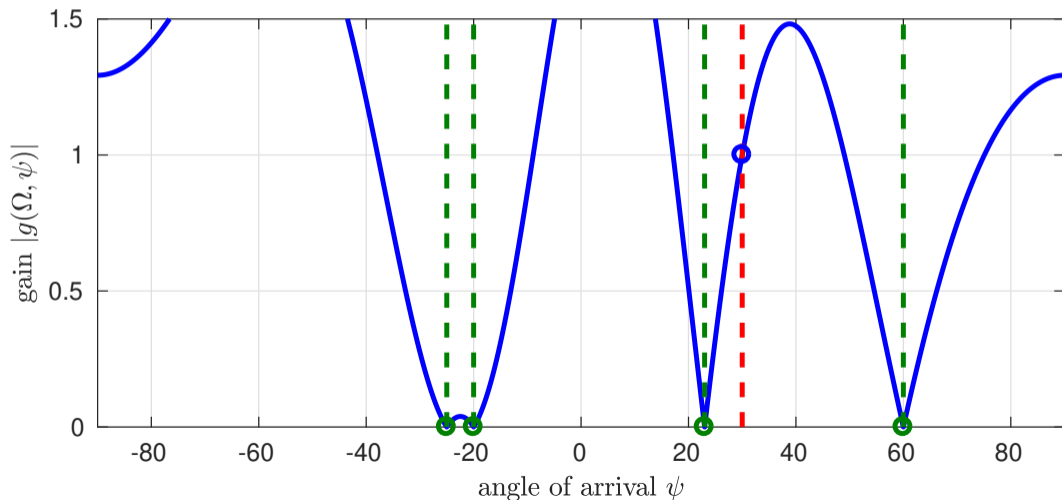
- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one variable and three fixed interferers:





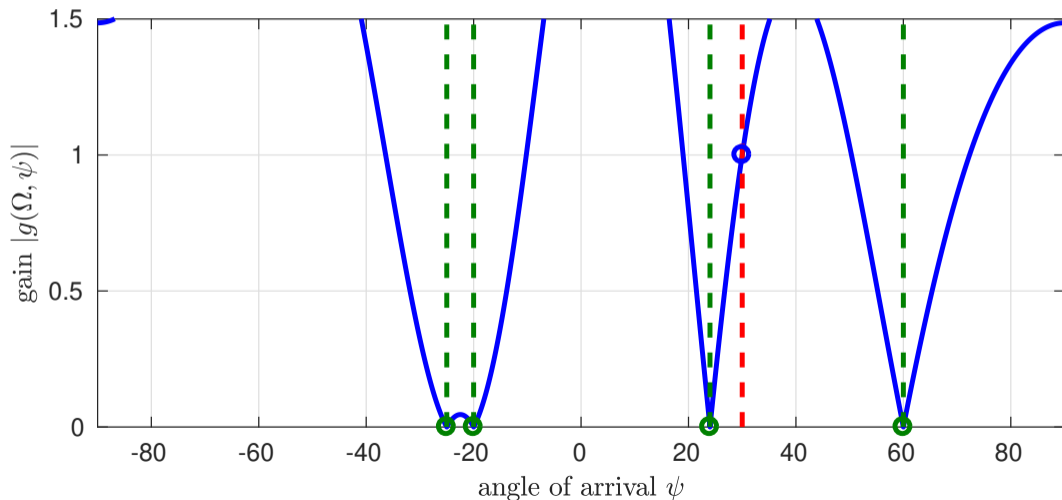
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- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one variable and three fixed interferers:



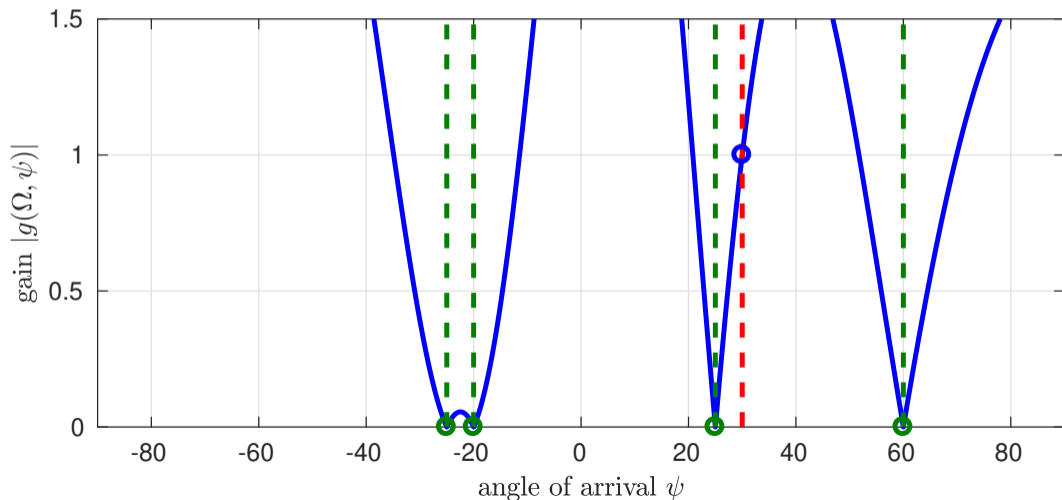
# Beamforming Example — Variable Interferer III

- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one variable and three fixed interferers:



# Beamforming Example — Variable Interferer III

- ▶  $M = 5$  sensors, SOI  $\theta_0 = 30^\circ$ , one variable and three fixed interferers:



# Data Independent Beamforming



- ▶ Previous beamformer designs were based on the knowledge of DoA of the signal of interest and of interfering sources;
- ▶ remaining degrees of freedom are invested to suppress spatially white noise;
- ▶ using the analogy between spatial and temporal processing, classical filter design techniques can be invoked to design arrays with a bandpass-type angular response;
- ▶ beamformers based on source parameters (frequency, DoA) rather than the actual received waveforms are termed **data independent beamformers**;
- ▶ this is in contrast to **statistically optimum beamformers**, which take the received signal statistics into account.

## 1.5 Statistically Optimum Beamforming



- ▶ Statistically optimum beamformer minimise e.g. the signal power of the beamformer output,  $y[n]$ ;
- ▶ to avoid the trivial solution  $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0}$ , the signal of interest needs to be protected by constraints;

- ▶ this results in e.g. the following constrained optimisation problem

$$\min_{\mathbf{w}^*} \mathcal{E}\{|y[n]|^2\} \quad \text{subject to} \quad \mathbf{s}_{\Omega, \vartheta}^H \mathbf{w} = 1 ;$$

- ▶ the solution to this specific statistically optimum beamformer is known as the **minimum variance distortionless response** (MVDR) [43].

# MVDR Beamformer

- ▶ Solving the MVDR problem: minimise the power of  $y[n] = \mathbf{w}^H \mathbf{x}$  subject to the constraint  $\mathbf{w}^H \mathbf{s}_{\Omega_0, \vartheta_0} = 1$ ;
- ▶ Formulation using a Lagrange multiplier  $\lambda$ :

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{w}^*} \left( \mathbf{w}^H \mathcal{E} \{ \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}^H \} \mathbf{w} - \lambda (\mathbf{w}^H \mathbf{s}_{\Omega_0, \vartheta_0} - 1) \right) = \mathbf{R}_{xx} \mathbf{w} - \lambda \mathbf{s}_{\Omega_0, \vartheta_0} = \mathbf{0}$$

- ▶ the solution  $\mathbf{w} = \lambda \mathbf{R}_{xx}^{-1} \mathbf{s}_{\Omega_0, \vartheta_0}$  is inserted into the constraint equation to determine  $\lambda$ :

$$\lambda \mathbf{s}_{\Omega_0, \vartheta_0}^H \mathbf{R}_{xx}^{-1} \mathbf{s}_{\Omega_0, \vartheta_0} = 1$$

- ▶ therefore

$$\mathbf{w}_{\text{MVDR}} = \left( \mathbf{s}_{\Omega_0, \vartheta_0}^H \mathbf{R}_{xx}^{-1} \mathbf{s}_{\Omega_0, \vartheta_0} \right)^{-1} \mathbf{R}_{xx}^{-1} \mathbf{s}_{\Omega_0, \vartheta_0}$$

- ▶ this statistically optimum beamformer has various other names, e.g. Capon beamformer [8, 42].

# MVDR Beamformer — Simple Case



- ▶ In the case of spatially white noise input, such that

$$\mathbf{R}_{xx} = \sigma_{xx}^2 \mathbf{I} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \mathbf{R}_{xx}^{-1} = \sigma_{xx}^{-2} \mathbf{I}$$

the MVDR solution reduces to

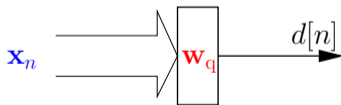
$$\mathbf{w}_{\text{MVDR}} = \frac{\mathbf{s}_{\Omega_0, \vartheta_0}}{\|\mathbf{s}_{\Omega_0, \vartheta_0}\|_2^2} = \frac{\mathbf{s}_{\Omega_0, \vartheta_0}}{M} \quad ;$$

- ▶ this is identical to the data independent beamformer in the absence of interference (i.e. no spatially structured noise);

# Generalised Sidelobe Canceller (GSC)

- ▶ The generalised sidelobe canceller is a specific implementation of the MVDR beamformer; it transforms the constrained MVDR problem into an **unconstrained optimisation problem**;
- ▶ a first guess at the solution is performed by the **quiescent beamformer**  $\mathbf{w}_q$ , which is identical to the previously defined data independent beamformer, obtained by inverting the constraint equation

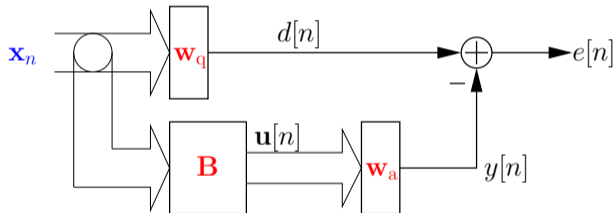
$$\mathbf{C}^H \mathbf{w}_q = \mathbf{f} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \mathbf{w}_q = (\mathbf{C}^H)^\dagger \mathbf{f}$$



- ▶ the quiescent beamformer eliminates interferers captured by  $\mathbf{C}$  and  $\mathbf{f}$ , but passes the signal of interest, any interferers unaccounted for in the constraints, and spatially distributed noise.



- ▶ GSE idea: produce array signals that are free of any contribution from the signal of interest, and use the resulting signal vector  $\mathbf{u}[n]$  to eliminate remaining interference from the quiescent output:



- ▶ the blocking matrix  $\mathbf{B}$  eliminates the signal of interest and any interferers captured by the constraints;
- ▶ the vector  $\mathbf{w}_a$  will be based on the statistics of  $\mathbf{u}[n]$  and  $d[n]$  to minimise the beamformer output variance  $\mathcal{E}\{|e[n]|^2\}$ .

# GSC — Blocking Matrix

- ▶ In order to project away from the constraints,

$$\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{C} = \mathbf{B} \cdot \left[ \mathbf{s}_{\Omega_0, \vartheta_0} \quad \mathbf{s}_{\Omega_1, \vartheta_1} \quad \dots \quad \mathbf{s}_{\Omega_{r-1}, \vartheta_{r-1}} \right] = \mathbf{0}$$

- ▶ assuming that the  $r$  constraints are linearly independent, the singular value decomposition of the constraint matrix yields

$$\mathbf{B} \cdot \left[ \mathbf{U}_0 \quad \mathbf{U}_0^\perp \right] \left[ \begin{array}{c|c} \sigma_0 & \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots & \mathbf{0} \\ \hline \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{array} \right] \cdot \mathbf{V}^H = \mathbf{0}$$

- ▶ the matrix  $\mathbf{U}_0^\perp \in \mathbb{C}^{M \times (M-r)}$  spans the nullspace of  $\mathbf{C}^H$ , and

$$\mathbf{B} = (\mathbf{U}_0^\perp)^H \in \mathbb{C}^{(M-r) \times M}$$

has the required property, as  $(\mathbf{U}_0^\perp)^H \cdot \left[ \mathbf{U}_0 \quad \mathbf{U}_0^\perp \right] \boldsymbol{\Sigma} = \left[ \mathbf{0} \quad \mathbf{I} \right] \cdot \boldsymbol{\Sigma} = \mathbf{0}$ .

# GSC — Unconstrained Optimisation

- ▶ The beamforming vector  $\mathbf{w}_a$  is adjusted to minimise the output power;
- ▶ the MMSE or Wiener solution is given by

$$\mathbf{w}_a = \mathbf{R}_{uu}^{-1} \cdot \mathbf{p} = \frac{\mathbf{B}\mathbf{R}_{xx}(\mathbf{C}^H)^\dagger \mathbf{f}}{\mathbf{B}\mathbf{R}_{xx}\mathbf{B}^H}$$

with the covariance matrix

$$\mathbf{R}_{uu} = \mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{u}[n] \cdot \mathbf{u}^H[n]\} = \mathbf{B} \mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{x}[n] \cdot \mathbf{x}^H[n]\} \mathbf{B}^H = \mathbf{B}\mathbf{R}_{xx}\mathbf{B}^H$$

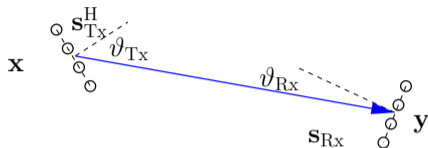
and the cross-correlation vector

$$\mathbf{p} = \mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{u}[n] \cdot d^*[n]\} = \mathbf{B}\mathbf{R}_{xx}\mathbf{w}_q$$

- ▶ iterative optimisation schemes, such as the least mean squares (LMS) algorithm [16, 64] may be used to approximate the MMSE solution.

## 1.6 Beamforming and MIMO Processing

- ▶ Assume a transmission scenario with an  $M$ -element transmit (Tx) antenna array and an  $N$ -element receive (Rx) array;



- ▶ in the absence of scatterers and any attenuation, the farfield transmission from the transmit antenna is characterised by a steering vector  $\mathbf{s}_{Tx}^H$ ;
- ▶ the incoming waveform at the Rx device is described by another steering vector  $\mathbf{s}_{Rx}$ ;
- ▶ the overall MIMO system between a Tx vector  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^M$  and an Rx vector  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{C}^N$  is described as

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{s}_{Rx} \cdot \mathbf{s}_{Tx}^H \cdot \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{x}$$

- ▶ the MIMO system matrix  $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{s}_{Rx} \cdot \mathbf{s}_{Tx}^H$  is rank one only.

- ▶ The farfield assumption is convenient for beamforming, but leads to a rank one MIMO system matrix which is incompatible with the desire to extract multiple independent subchannels or with to achieve diversity;
- ▶ **rich scattering** in connection with MIMO usually implies multiple reflections of signals;
- ▶ together with a sufficiently **large antenna spacing** means that the farfield assumption is invalid and the MIMO system matrix is **not rank deficient**;
- ▶ some suggestions of “sufficiently large spacing” imply an antenna element distance of  $d > 10\lambda$ ;
- ▶ recall spatial sampling requires  $d < \frac{1}{2}\lambda$  !

# Beamforming with Spatial Aliasing

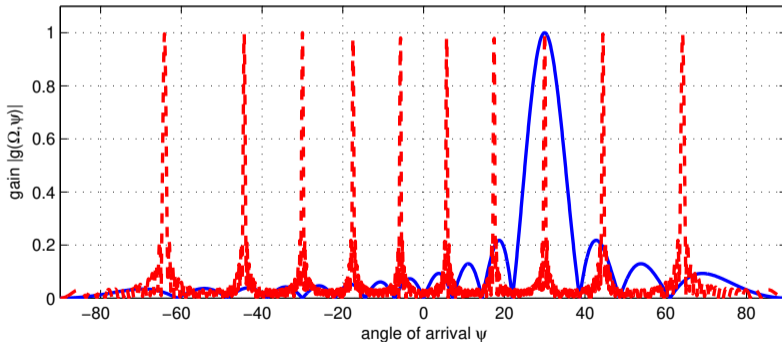
- ▶ For a flexible spatial sampling with  $d = \alpha\lambda$ ,  $0 < \alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ , the steering vector for a waveform with normalised angular frequency  $\Omega$  and DoA  $\vartheta$  is

$$\mathbf{y} = e^{j\Omega n} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ e^{j2\alpha\Omega \sin(\vartheta)} \\ \vdots \\ e^{j2\alpha(M-1)\Omega \sin(\vartheta)} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{s}_{2\alpha\Omega, \vartheta} \cdot e^{j\Omega}$$

- ▶ inspecting  $\mathbf{s}_{2\alpha\Omega, \vartheta}$  the steering vector is aliased to a different frequency  $2\alpha\Omega$ ;
- ▶ although the correct frequency can be retrieved unambiguously from temporal sampling of any array element, at  $\Omega$  various different angles could provide the same steering vector  $\mathbf{s}_{2\alpha\Omega, \vartheta}$ ;
- ▶ the array performs **spatial undersampling**, resulting in **spatial aliasing**.

# Spatial Undersampling Example

- ▶ Beamforming parameters: signal of interest with  $\Omega = \frac{\pi}{2}$ , direction of arrival  $\vartheta = 30^\circ$ ,  $M = 32$  array elements;
- ▶ data independent beamformer design with **correct spatial sampling** ( $d = \lambda/2$ ) and **incorrect spatial sampling** ( $d = 10\lambda$ ):



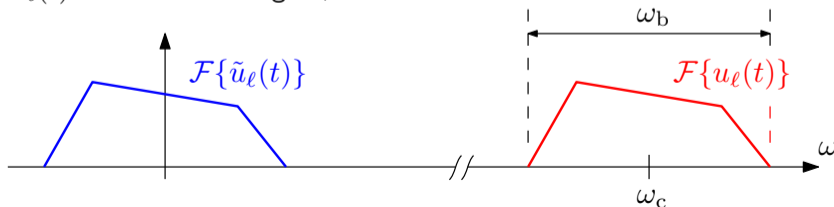
- ▶ MIMO systems perform beamforming, but may dissipate energy into aliased directions.

## 1.7 Narrowband Signals

- ▶ We have previously assumed that a narrowband signal is a complex exponential,  $e^{j\Omega n}$ ;
- ▶ this permitted to characterise the signal received at the array by means of a steering vector that only depends on  $\Omega$  and the direction of arrival;
- ▶ we now relax this restriction: in practice, we deal with bandpass signals of finite bandwidth  $\omega_b$  and centre frequency  $\omega_c$ ;
- ▶ for the  $l$ th source:

$$u_\ell(t) = \tilde{u}_\ell(t) \cdot e^{j\omega_c t}, \quad (1)$$

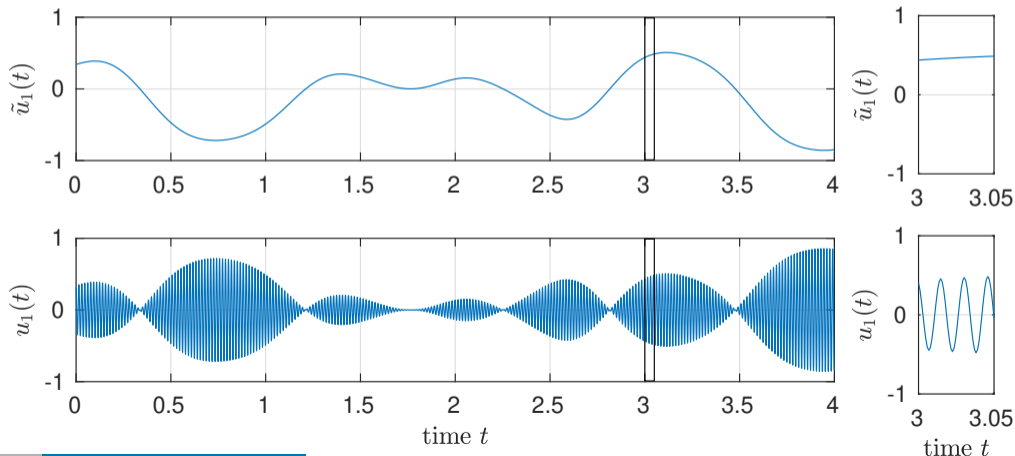
where  $\tilde{u}_\ell(t)$  is a baseband signal;





# Narrowband Assumption

- ▶ For a signal to be considered narrowband, the propagation delay across the array must be small w.r.t. any changes in the baseband signal  $\tilde{u}_\ell(t)$  (or of the envelope of  $u_\ell(t)$ );



# Received Narrowband Array Signal

- ▶ An array receives a single modulated bandpass signal  $u_\ell(t)$ :

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} u_\ell(t - \tau_1) \\ \vdots \\ u_\ell(t - \tau_M) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{u}_\ell(t - \tau_1) \\ \vdots \\ \tilde{u}_\ell(t - \tau_M) \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} e^{j\omega_c(t-\tau_1)} \\ \vdots \\ e^{j\omega_c(t-\tau_M)} \end{bmatrix} \approx \tilde{u}_\ell(t - \tau_1) e^{j\omega_c t} \mathbf{s}_{\vartheta_\ell, \omega_c} \quad (2)$$

- ▶ after sampling:  $\mathbf{x}[n] = \tilde{u}_\ell[n] \cdot e^{j\omega_c n T} \cdot \mathbf{s}_{\vartheta_\ell, \Omega_c}$ ;
- ▶ for the narrowband covariance matrix:

$$\mathbf{R} = \mathcal{E} \{ \mathbf{x}[n] \mathbf{x}^H[n] \} = \mathcal{E} \{ \tilde{u}_\ell[n] \tilde{u}_\ell^*[n] \} \mathbf{s}_{\vartheta_\ell, \Omega_c} \mathbf{s}_{\vartheta_\ell, \Omega_c}^H = \sigma_\ell^2 \mathbf{s}_{\vartheta_\ell, \Omega_c} \mathbf{s}_{\vartheta_\ell, \Omega_c}^H \quad (3)$$

- ▶ for  $L$  independent source signals,  $\mathcal{E} \{ \tilde{u}_\ell[n] \tilde{u}_k^*[n] \} = 0$  for  $\ell \neq k$ ; therefore in the noise-free case:

$$\mathbf{R} = \sum_{\ell=1}^L \sigma_\ell^2 \mathbf{s}_{\vartheta_\ell, \Omega_c} \mathbf{s}_{\vartheta_\ell, \Omega_c}^H \quad (4)$$

# Narrowband versus Broadband

How long can a array signal be regarded as narrowband?

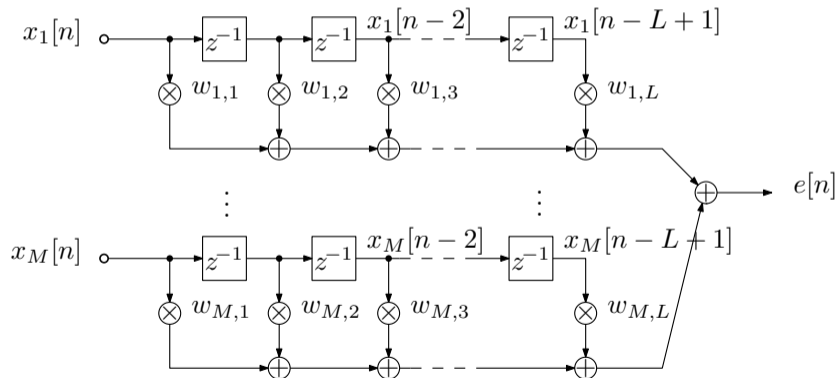
- ▶ Compton [9]: signals at opposite ends of the array must not be decorrelated;
- ▶ some rule of thumb: fractional bandwidth  $\omega_b/\omega_c \ll 1$  (typically smaller than 5%);
- ▶ these rules are somewhat 'fuzzy'; recall that

$$\mathbf{R} = \sum_{\ell=1}^L \sigma_{\ell}^2 \mathbf{s}_{\vartheta_{\ell}, \Omega_c} \mathbf{s}_{\vartheta_{\ell}, \Omega_c}^H ;$$

- ▶ this matrix possesses rank  $L$  as long as the steering vectors are linearly independent;
- ▶ if the narrowband assumption is no longer satisfied, the approximation in (2) becomes inaccurate, and the rank of  $\mathbf{R}$  will increase [65, 66];
- ▶ this can also be tied to the array performance [10, 44, 38, 37];
- ▶ when must a signal be considered broadband? John McWhirter's "If you need a tap delay line." captures the ambiguity well!

## 1.8 Broadband MVDR Beamformer

- ▶ Each sensor is followed by a tap delay line of dimension  $L$ , giving a total of  $ML$  coefficients in a vector  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{C}^{ML}$  [6]



# Broadband MVDR Beamformer Constraints



- ▶ A larger input vector  $\mathbf{x}_n \in \mathbb{C}^{ML}$  is generated, also including lags;
- ▶ the general approach is similar to the narrowband system, minimising the power of  $e[n] = \mathbf{v}^H \mathbf{x}_n$ ;
- ▶ however, we require several constraint equations to protect the signal of interest, e.g.

$$\mathbf{C} = [\mathbf{s}(\vartheta_s, \Omega_0), \mathbf{s}(\vartheta_s, \Omega_1) \dots \mathbf{s}(\vartheta_s, \Omega_{L-1})] \quad (5)$$

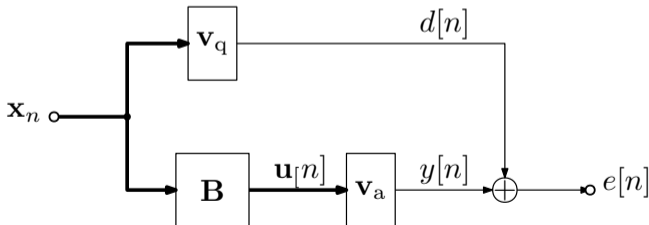
- ▶ these  $L$  constraints pin down the response to unit gain at  $L$  separate points in frequency:

$$\mathbf{C}^H \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{1} ; \quad (6)$$

- ▶ generally  $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{C}^{ML \times L}$ , but simplifications can be applied if the look direction is towards broadside.

## Broadband Generalised Sidelobe Canceller

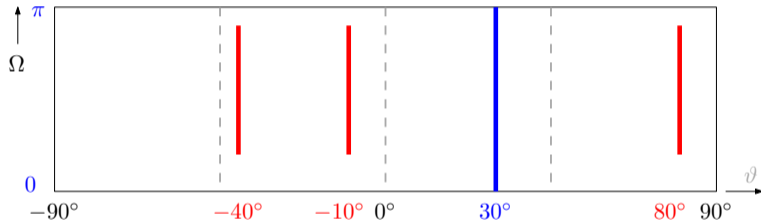
- ▶ A quiescent beamformer  $\mathbf{v}_q = (\mathbf{C}^H)^{\dagger} \mathbf{1} \in \mathbb{C}^{ML}$  picks the signal of interest;
- ▶ the quiescent beamformer is optimal for AWGN but generally passes structured interference;
- ▶ the output of the blocking matrix  $\mathbf{B}$  contains interference only, which requires  $[\mathbf{B}\mathbf{C}]$  to be unitary; hence  $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{C}^{ML \times (M-1)L}$ ;
- ▶ an adaptive noise canceller  $\mathbf{v}_a \in \mathbb{C}^{(M-1)L}$  aims to remove the residual interference:



- ▶ note: all dimensions are determined by  $\{M, L\}$ .

## Broadband Beamformer Example

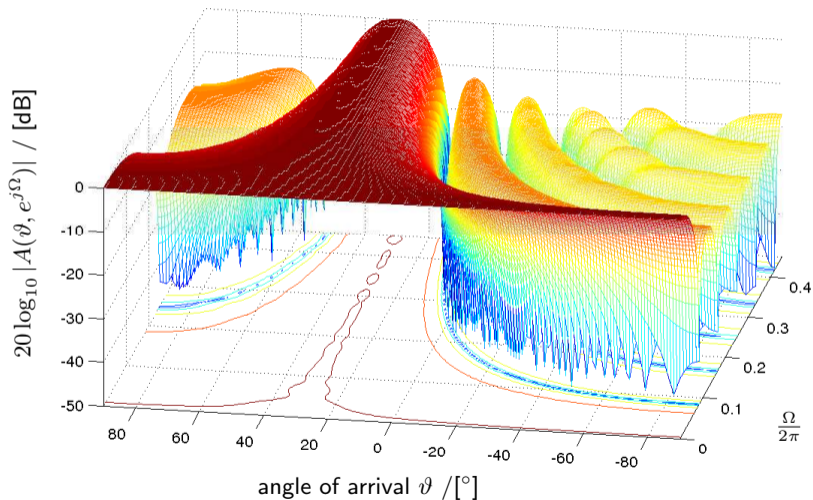
- ▶ We assume a **signal of interest** from  $\vartheta = 30^\circ$ ;
- ▶ three **interferers** with angles  $\vartheta_i \in \{-40^\circ, -10^\circ, 80^\circ\}$  active over the frequency range  $\Omega = 2\pi \cdot [0.1; 0.45]$  at signal to interference ratio of -40 dB;



- ▶  $M = 8$  element linear uniform array is also corrupted by spatially and temporally white additive Gaussian noise at 20 dB SNR;
- ▶ tap-delay-line length:  $L = 150$ ;
- ▶ cost per iteration: approx. 2 MMACs (standard), can be reduced to 10 kMACs when efficiently implemented.

# Broadband Quiescent Beamformer

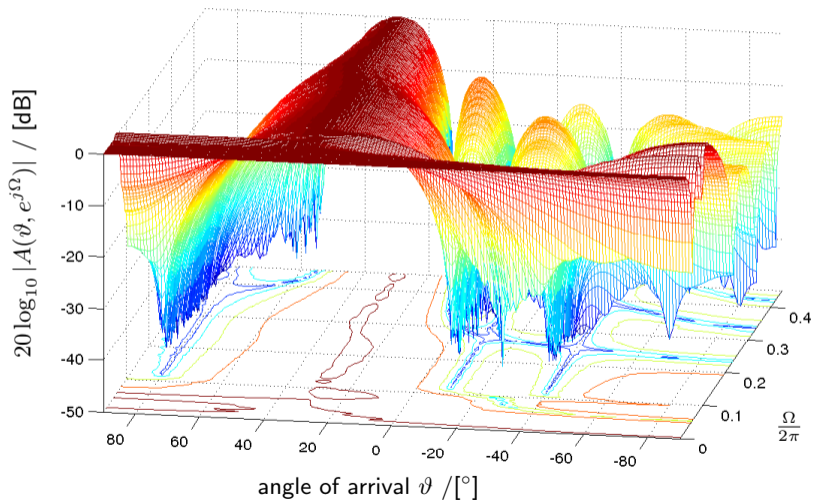
- ▶ Directivity pattern of quiescent standard broadband beamformer:





# Optimised Broadband Beamformer

- ▶ Directivity pattern of the broadband beamformer:



## 1.9 Summary



- ▶ Spatial sampling by an array of sensors (e.g. antenna elements) has been explored;
- ▶ the spatial data window of a narrowband source is characterised by the steering vector;
- ▶ appropriate data independent beamformers can be designed based on the steering vectors of desired sources and interferers;
- ▶ statistically optimum beamformers are based on the signal statistics;
- ▶ a specific statistically optimum beamformer, the generalised sidelobe canceller, has been reviewed — it uses signal statistics to improve the performance of a data independent beamformer derived from the constraint equations;
- ▶ some similarities and differences between beamforming and MIMO systems have been highlighted;
- ▶ broadband beamforming requires the inclusion of tap delay lines.

## 1.10 Related Broadband Beamforming Work



- ▶ General wideband beamforming: [23];
- ▶ time domain adaptive broadband beamforming: [6, 7, 15, 18, 27, 35, 43];
- ▶ discrete Fourier transform domain processing: [21, 36, 11, 55]
- ▶ subband domain beamforming [25, 45, 60, 61, 62, 63, 59, 55];
- ▶ frequency-invariant broadband beamforming [22, 26, 27, 49];
- ▶ polynomial matrix-based beamforming related work [1, 2, 3, 4, 12, 13, 19, 20, 29, 30, 34, 33, 32, 46, 47, 48, 54, 31] based on polynomial eigenvalued decomposition theory [51, 52, 5] and algorithms [28, 39, 41, 40, 58, 53, 57, 56]

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