TWO-WAY RADAR EQUATION (BISTATIC)

The following table contains a summary of the equations developed in this section.

TWO-WAY RADAR EQUATION (BISTATIC)

Peak power at the radar receiver input is: $P_r = \dfrac{P_t G_t G_r \lambda^2 \sigma}{(4\pi)^3 R_{Tx}^2 R_{Rx}^2} = P_t G_t G_r \left[\dfrac{\sigma c^2}{(4\pi)^3 f^2 R_{Tx}^2 R_{Rx}^2}\right]^*$

Note: $\lambda = c/f$ and σ = *RCS*
$*$ *keep λ or c, σ, and R in the same units*

On reducing the above equation to log form we have:

$10\log P_r = 10\log P_t + 10\log G_t + 10\log G_r + 10\log \sigma - 20\log f + 20\log c - 30\log 4\pi - 20\log R_{Tx} - 20\log R_{Rx}$

or in simplified terms: $10\log P_r = 10\log P_t + 10\log G_t + 10\log G_r + G_\sigma - \alpha_{Tx} - \alpha_{Rx}$ (in dB)

Where α_{Tx} corresponds to transmitter to target loss and α_{Rx} corresponds to target to receiver loss.

Note: Losses due to antenna polarization and atmospheric absorption (Sections 3-2 and 5-1) are not included in these equations.

Target gain factor, $G_\sigma = 10\log \sigma + 20\log f_1 + K_2$ (in dB)

K_2 Values (dB)	RCS (σ) (units)	f_1 in MHz K_2 =	f_1 in GHz K_2 =
	m^2	-38.54	21.46
	ft^2	-48.86	11.14

One-way free space loss, $\alpha_{Tx\ or\ Rx} = 20\log (f_1 R_{Tx\ or\ Rx}) + K_1$ (in dB)

K_1 Values (dB)	Range (units)	f_1 in MHz K_1 =	f_1 in GHz K_1 =
	NM	37.8	97.8
	Km	32.45	92.45
	m	-27.55	32.45
	yd	-28.33	31.67
	ft	-37.87	22.13

BISTATIC RADAR

There are also true bistatic radars - radars where the transmitter and receiver are in different locations as is depicted in Figure 1. The most commonly encountered bistatic radar application is the semi-active missile. The transmitter is located on, or near, the launch platform (surface or airborne), and the receiver is in the missile which is somewhere between the launch platform and the target.

The transmitting and receiving antennas are not the same and are not in the same location. Because the target-to-radar range is different from the target-to-missile range, the target-to-radar and target-to-missile space losses are different.

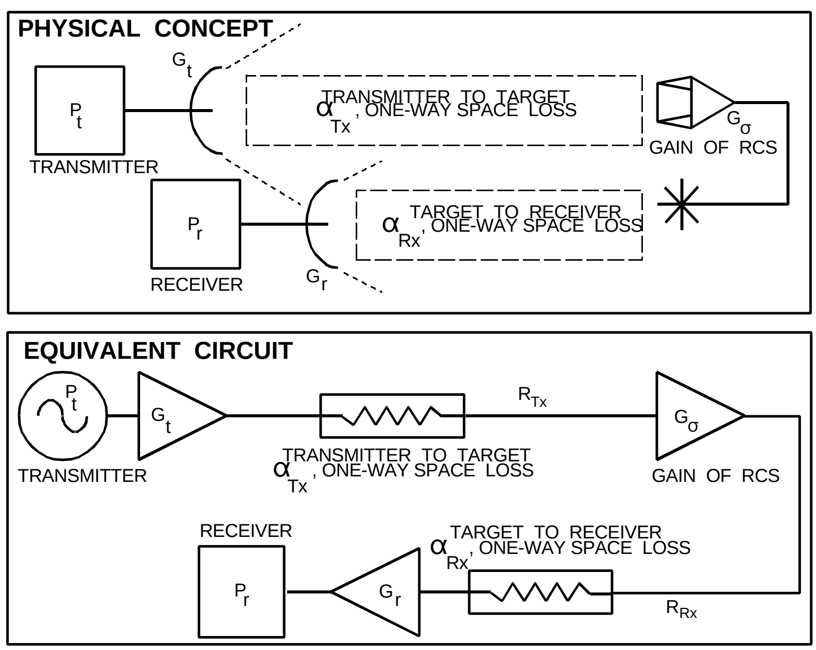

Figure 1. Bistatic Radar Visualized

The peak power at the radar receiver input is :

$$P_r = \frac{P_t G_t G_r \lambda^2 \sigma}{(4\pi)^3 R_{Tx}^2 R_{Rx}^2} = P_t G_t G_r \left[\frac{\sigma c^2}{(4\pi)^3 f^2 R_{Tx}^2 R_{Rx}^2}\right] \qquad \left(\textit{Note}:\ \lambda = \frac{c}{f}\ \textit{and}\ \sigma = RCS\right) \qquad \textbf{[1]}$$

* Keep λ or c, σ, and R in the same units.

On reducing the above equation to log form we have:

$$10\log P_r = 10\log P_t + 10\log G_t + 10\log G_r + 10\log \sigma - 20\log f + 20\log c - 30\log 4\pi - 20\log R_{Tx} - 20\log R_{Rx} \qquad \textbf{[2]}$$

or in simplified terms:

$$10\log P_r = 10\log P_t + 10\log G_t + 10\log G_r + G_\sigma - \alpha_{Tx} - \alpha_{Rx} \quad \text{(in dB)} \qquad \textbf{[3]}$$

Where α_{Tx} corresponds to transmitter to target loss and α_{Rx} corresponds to target to receiver loss, or:

$\alpha_{Tx} = 20\log(f_1 T_{Tx}) + K_1$ (in dB) and $\alpha_{Rx} = 20\log(f_1 T_{Rx}) + K_1$ (in dB)

with K_1 values provided on page 4-6.1 and with f_1 being the MHz or GHz value of frequency.

Therefore, the difference between monostatic and bistatic calculations is that two α's are calculated for two different ranges and different gains may be required for transmit and receive antennas.

To avoid having to include additional terms for these calculations, always combine any transmission line loss with antenna gain.

As shown in Figure 2, it should also be noted that the bistatic RCS received by the missile is not always the same as the monostatic RCS. In general, the target's RCS varies with angle. Therefore, the bistatic RCS and monostatic RCS will be equal for receive and transmit antennas at the same angle to the target (but only if all three are in a line, as RCS also varies with elevation angle).

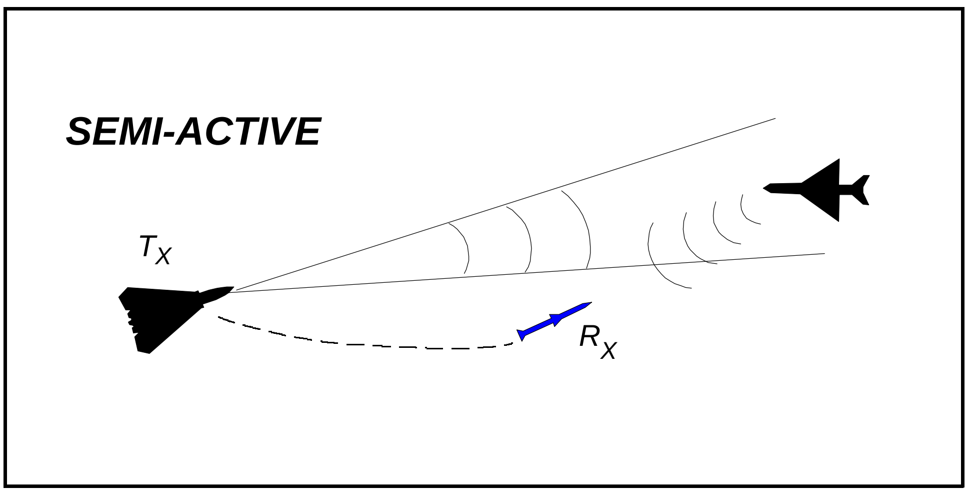

Figure 2. Bistatic RCS Varies