

# Dedicated Diffraction Imaging for Sub-Seafloor Object Detection

## Viola Bihler

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# Fraunhofer IWES - Sub-Surface Investigation

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Rouven Brune	Viola Bihler
Geophysicist	Geophysicist
Scientific associate	Scientific associate
Integrated Site Characterization	Unconventional geophysical imaging
UHR 2D/3D Seismics	Object Detection



# Sub-Surface Investigation (SSI)

Main activities

- -< Offshore geophysical site characterization
- Integration of geophysical and geotechnical data in geological models
- -< Sub-seafloor object detection





# **Offshore Site Characterization**

Integrated soil model



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#### **Object Detection in Seismic Data**

#### Conventional reflection seismic data

- Optimized for structural/stratigraphic imaging
- $\prec$  Diffraction energy treated as noise

#### Sub-seafloor objects

- $\prec$  Hazards for infrastructure installation
  - Boulders
  - UxO
- Cables
  - $\prec$  Power export
  - -< Communication



Soil



#### **Boulder Occurrence**

- $\prec$  Variable sizes < 1 m 10 m
- ≺ Glaciated margins
  - -< Till units, outwash plains, moraines

-< Random distribution & difficult to include in ground models





Koppe, 2003



Huuse and Lykke-Andersen, 2000



## **Diffraction responses**

Strong diffractions if signal wavelength ~ object size

✓ Balance diffraction resolution and signal penetration





# **Diffraction Imaging**

- Diffractions are treated as signal, not as noise as in conventional reflection seismics
- -< Localization ambiguities in 2D
- Recent advances in diffraction imaging
- Geo-Hazard object identification, cable detection, UXO detection
- Non-magnetic objects can be detected



North Sea stacked seismic section





# **Diffraction Imaging**

Manta Ray G1 Object Detection

- Tailored data acquisition and processing for sub-seafloor diffraction imaging
  - Diffraction response from small objects sizes > 0.5 m to ~100 mbsf
  - Objects act as secondary sources
- Wave field recording at sufficient resolution & appropriate processing allows diffractor localization
- Fit-for-purpose risk assessment for WTG foundation planning
- Secondary high-resolution 2D/3D site survey data



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# **Diffraction Imaging**

Manta Ray G1 Object Detection

✓ Seismic source

- Appropriate bandwidth for expected target sizes
- -< Sufficient signal penetration
- ≺ Hydrophone tow-array
  - Kensure sufficient resolution
    - $\prec$  Array aperture & synthetic aperture
  - ≺ Swath imaging
    - → Beamforming
- $\prec$  Time-efficient surveying
  - ✓ Swath-surveying
  - -< Combination with other methods





## **Diffraction Data Processing**

Manta Ray G1 Object Detection

- Keflection-Diffraction separation
- A Data processing at pre-defined grid points
   A
- Summation of diffracted energy within grid cells
- 3D diffraction energy volume result

Diffraction hyperbola





Inlines

Weighted amplitude envelope

Boulder position

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## **Diffraction Data Results**

Manta Ray G1 Object Detection

- ✓ Baltic Sea trials
- Single-swath diffraction imaging shows maxima in glacial valleys





Stacked section





Spectral decomposition





#### **Diffraction Data Validation**

Manta Ray G1 Object Detection

- MBES seafloor targets imaged using seismic beamforming
- ✓ Efficient reflection suppression
- Off-Track target identification









# **Diffraction Data Interpretation**



Manta Ray G1 Object Detection



 Statistical evaluation of diffraction amplitudes for anomaly recognition



 Integrated target interpretation with local geology for foundation micro-siting



#### Thank you for the attention!

**Unconventional seismics** 

•Diffraction imaging

Object detection

•Soil monitoring (4D)

•Technology development

•MantaRay System

Site characterization

•UHR seismic (2D/3D)

•Survey Planning

•Tailored MCS processing solution

•Geological model building

• Proprietary software solution

properties from seismic inversion

Geotechnic & Rock physics

Geotechnical data

•Deriving Geophysical

integration

Synthetic CPT

Contact





SSI Contact

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