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# Big-Data X-ray Phase Contrast Imaging System Simulation Challenges

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# Introduction

- Is it possible to create a big-data X-ray Phase Contrast Simulator?
  - Fine resolution
  - Wide field-of-view
  - Bremsstrahlung Radiation
- Specifically, a Talbot-Lau XPCI System
  - Three gratings and an object of interest
  - Source-to-Detector on the order of meters
  - 2x2 inch detector with 2048x2048 pixels

# Continued

- Why BDXPCI?
  - Predict and corroborate experimental results
  - Quantify influence of imperfections and variation of system
  - Forward-projector for iterative CT reconstruction algorithms
- Challenges
  - Computationally daunting
  - Numerical stability/accuracy
  - Big-data/Information movement across architecture

# Background

- A brief literature survey yielded no Talbot-Lau simulations
- Four efforts will be briefly discussed
  - Peterzol et. Al.
  - Wolf et. Al.
  - Cipiccia et. Al.
  - Peter et. Al.
- Although these efforts are not ideal fits for our objective, they help identify challenges in BDXPCI.

- Robust and deterministic implementation
  - Large FOV
  - Grating-free XPCI
- CAD Model object representation
  - Efficient
  - Large objects
  - NURBS
- Challenges
  - CAD limits representable objects
  - Can gratings be treated as objects?

- Fast XPCI
  - Parallelizable
  - Restructure computation from 2D plane wave to 1D lines.
- Acknowledges big-data problem
  - Only use information relative to give 1D line computation.
  - Full-scale representation example: >16TB
- Challenges
  - Will spherical waves add computational complexity?
  - Limited FOV
  - Although optimized, achieved 100 pixels processed per second.

# Cipiccia et. Al. and Peter et. Al.



- Both propose Monte-Carlo methods
  - Talbot imaging represented
  - Good agreement with experimental data
- Approximately  $10^9$  particles are simulated.
  - Small FOV
  - Short propagation
- Challenges:
  - MC is very computationally expensive
  - Parallelization is challenging

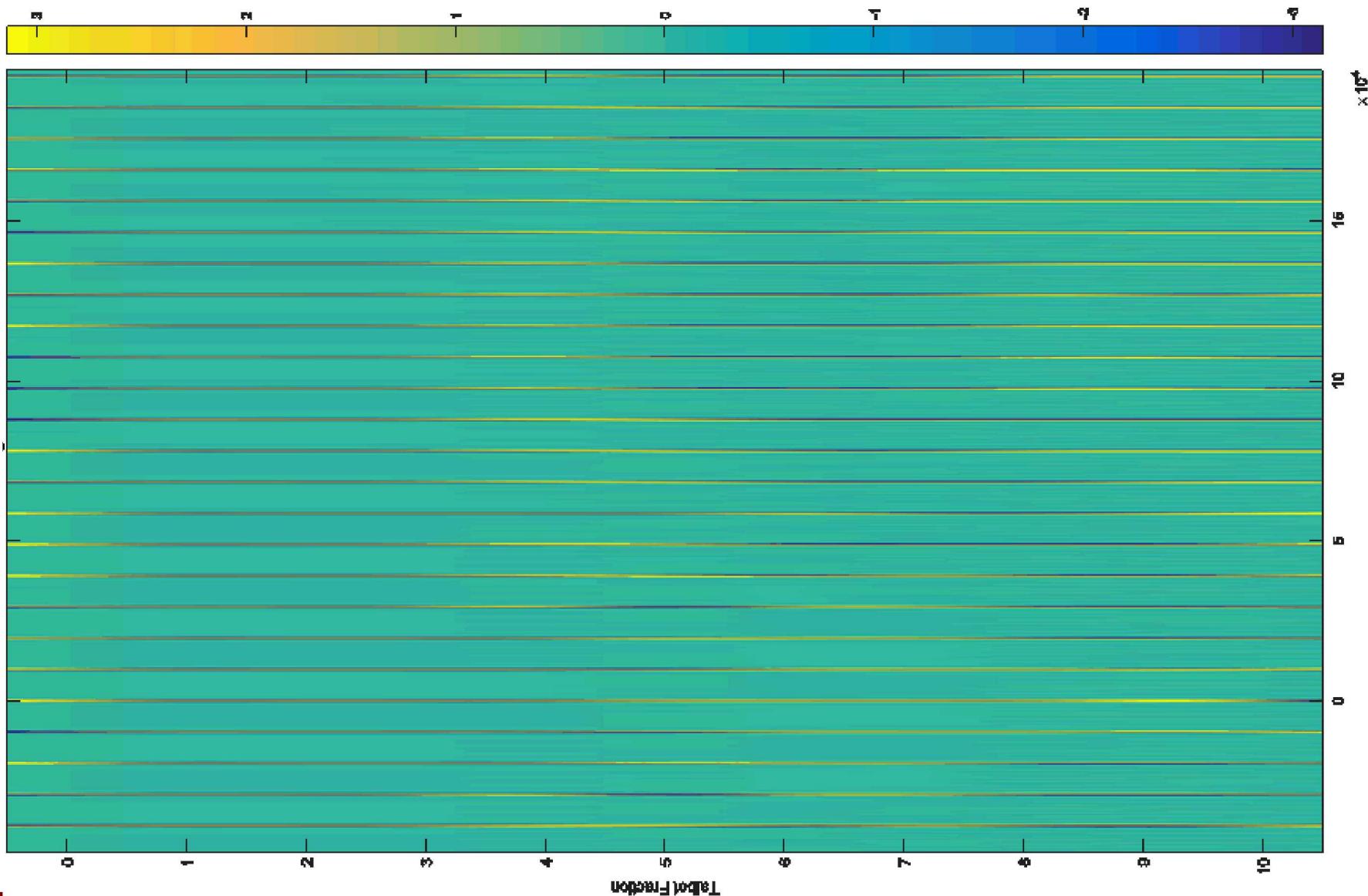
# Approach

- Try Talbot-Lau using Peterzol et. Al. inspired approach.
  - Most efficient approach identified
- Represent each grating and object of interest as a distinct object.
  - Is CAD sufficient.
  - Voxelized representation may be needed
- Very fine sampling is needed
  - Over large FOV, big data problem
  - Interpolation stability
- Propagation will require convolution
  - FFT essentially required.
  - FFT stability on large arrays/vectors is a problem.

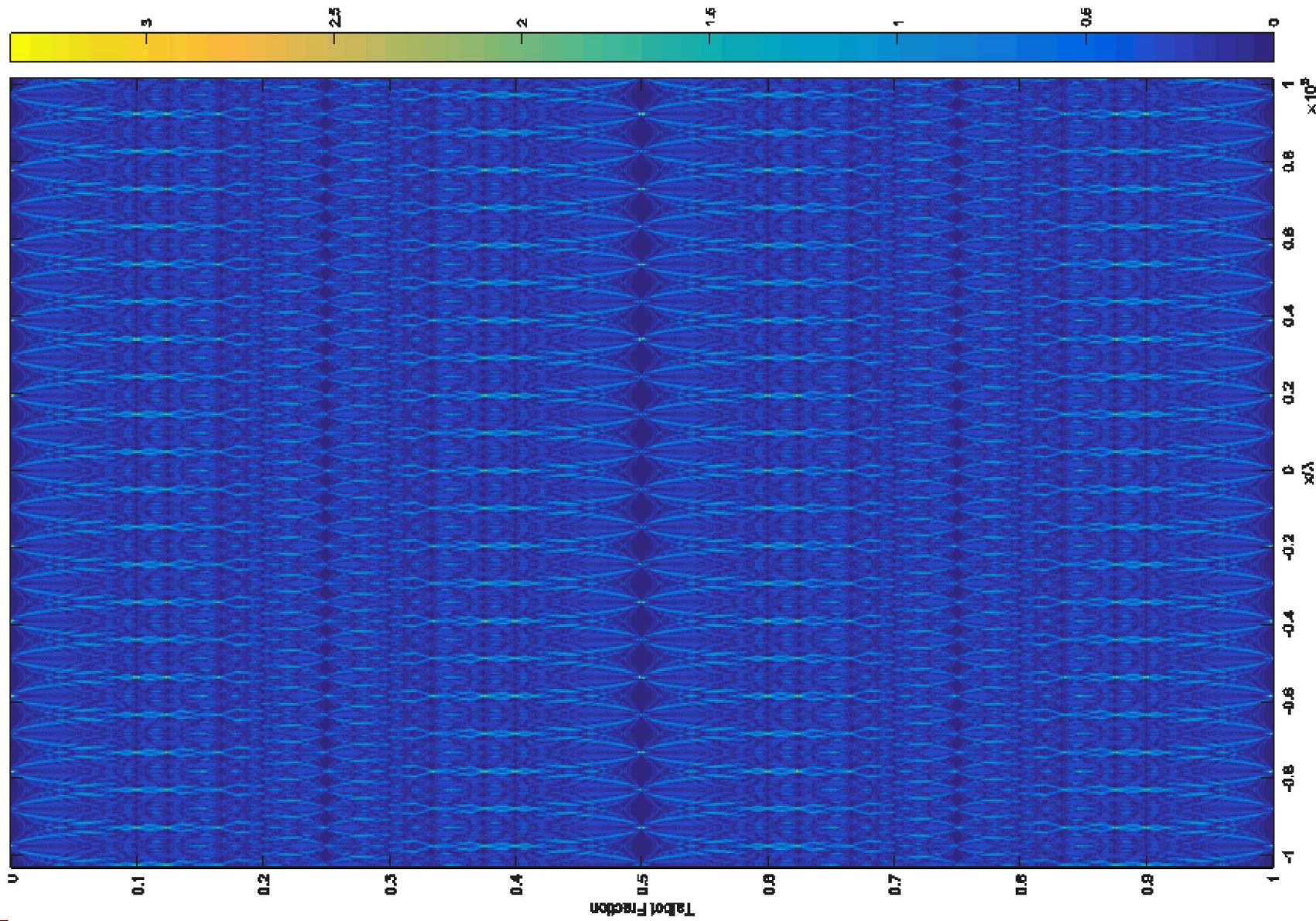
# Talbot Images

- To illustrate difficulty of Talbot imaging on big data, two demos will be presented
- Demo 1:
  - 1D Plane wave Talbot images propagated over 10 Talbot distances
    - $2^{13}$  sampled points
    - 3/40 aperture ratio
  - FFT numerical stability
- Demo 2:
  - Compare 2 Talbot images where input differs by  $10^{-16}$
  - Influence of error in object sampling.

# Demo 1



# Demo 2



# Conclusions

- Although challenges exist, BDXPCI may be feasible.
  - Algorithm Design
- Graphics processors may help
  - Not without challenges.
- Industrial NDT/NDE R&D will benefit
  - System characterization
  - Polychromatic Radiation
  - Reconstruction algorithms.