

# Architecture of Quality Imaging

Mary K. Henne, MS, CNMT, RDMS, RVT  
Ultrasound Education Specialist  
GE Healthcare



imagination at work



# Architecture of Quality Imaging

Agile Acoustic Architecture  
E-Series and XDclear Transducers  
Acquisition Technologies  
Post-Acquisition Technologies



# Agile Acoustic Architecture

# Agile Acoustic Architecture

Designed to help meet the challenges of healthcare

Increasing obesity

Aging population

More difficult-to-image patients



# Agile Acoustic Architecture

powerful  
fast  
adaptable  
dynamic  
intuitive

LOGIQ\* 700 Good images.



LOGIQ 9 Great images.



LOGIQ E9 XDclear Extraordinary images.



# Agile Acoustic Architecture

LOGIQ ultrasound systems prior to  
Agile Acoustic Architecture

Rigid assumptions about how sound  
interacts with the body

Agile Acoustic Architecture

Flexible clinically based mathematical  
models of the body

Dynamically helps optimize image acquisition  
for many body types



# Agile Acoustic Architecture



## Generation of power

- Miniaturization technology
- Ultra fast communication
- Platform for future innovations

## Class of intelligence

- Distributed intelligence
- Dynamic models of anatomy & physics

## Level of performance

- Penetration ... large/difficult patient imaging
- Image Uniformity
  - High frequency at depth
- Few keystrokes needed –“plopable”



# The New LOGIQ E9 with XDclear

The biggest thing to happen to the LOGIQ E9 since the LOGIQ E9



2008

- ✓ Extraordinary images  
*Platform architecture*
- ✓ Easy workflow  
*Raw data, Ergonomics, Scan Assistant*
- ✓ Expert tools  
*Real time fusion with Volume Navigation*



Today

- + Stunning penetration & resolution  
*-XDclear transducer architecture*
- + Direct hemodynamic visualization  
*-Innovative B-Flow\* technology*
- + New workflow tools  
*-Compare Assistant for prior exams  
-Breast & Thyroid Productivity Packages*
- + Auto-registration for CT fusion
- + Platform enhancements  
*-Faster, more powerful computer  
-Easy speed of sound adjustment  
-New fully adjustable monitor*



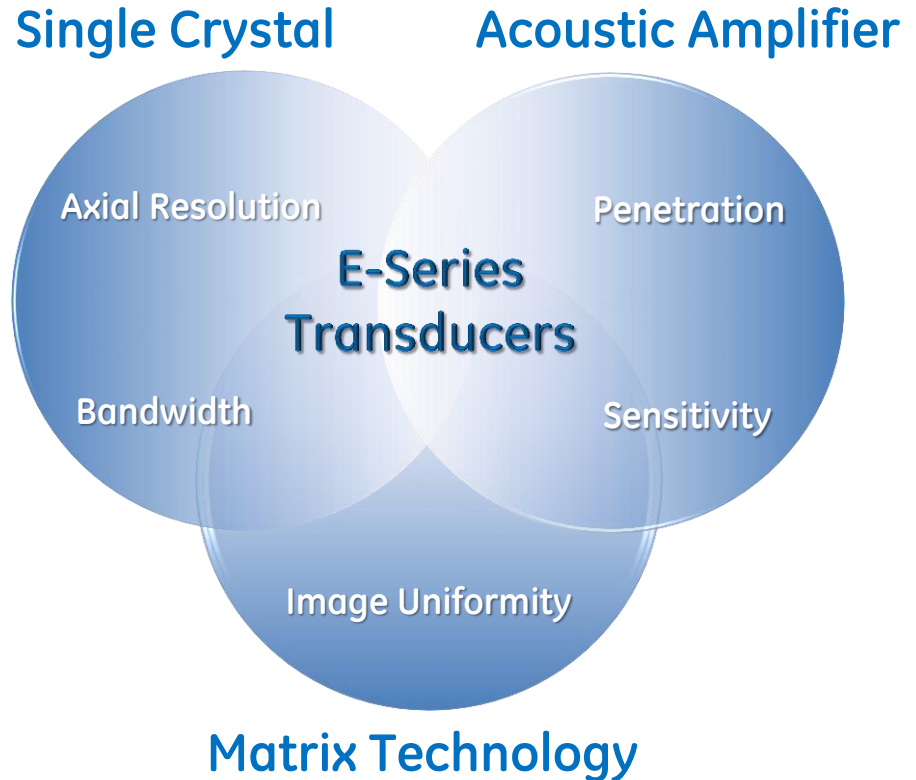
# E-Series Transducers

# E-Series Transducers

Designed for Agile  
Acoustic Architecture

Ergonomic

Wide range of  
applications

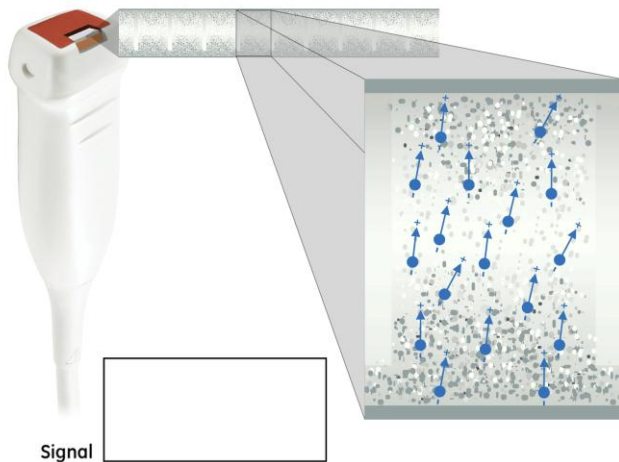


# E-Series Transducers

## Single crystal technology

### GE Traditional PZT Technology

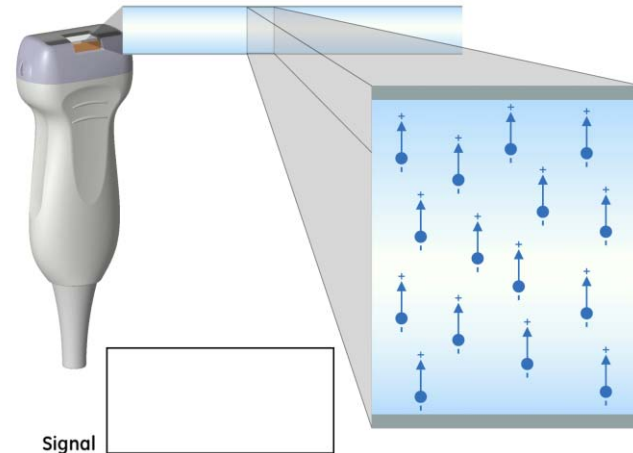
The variations of polarization in PZT affect its piezoelectric properties and signal to noise ratio



The electric dipoles of PZT are randomly oriented introducing signal noise

### GE Single Crystal Technology

A single crystal material exhibits fewer poling variations than those made from multiple crystals



Single Crystal exhibits enhanced dipole alignment

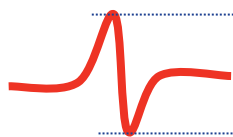
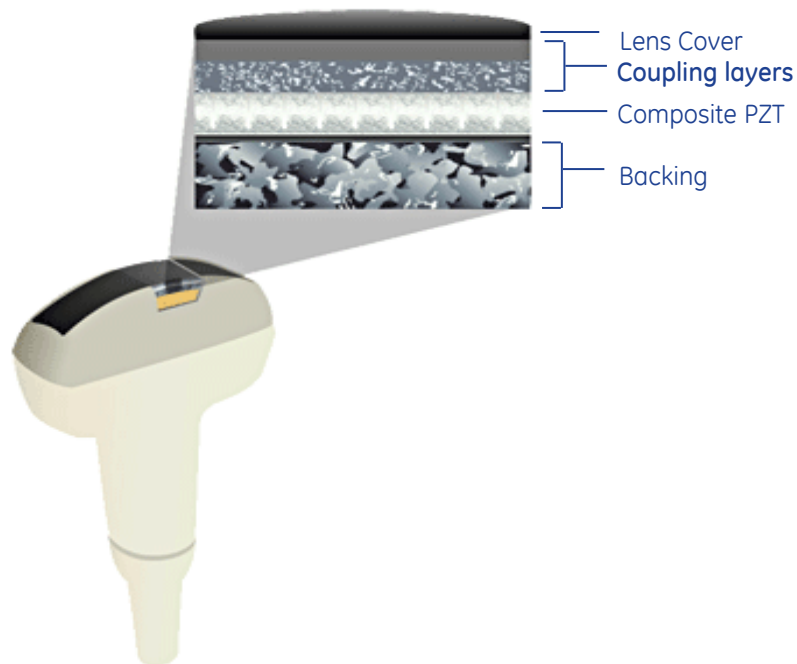
Using GE's Single Crystal Technology helps to:

- Enhance bandwidth
- Enhance signal-to-noise ratio
- Enhance axial resolution and penetration compared to GE's traditional PZT

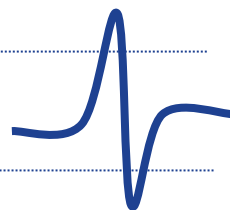
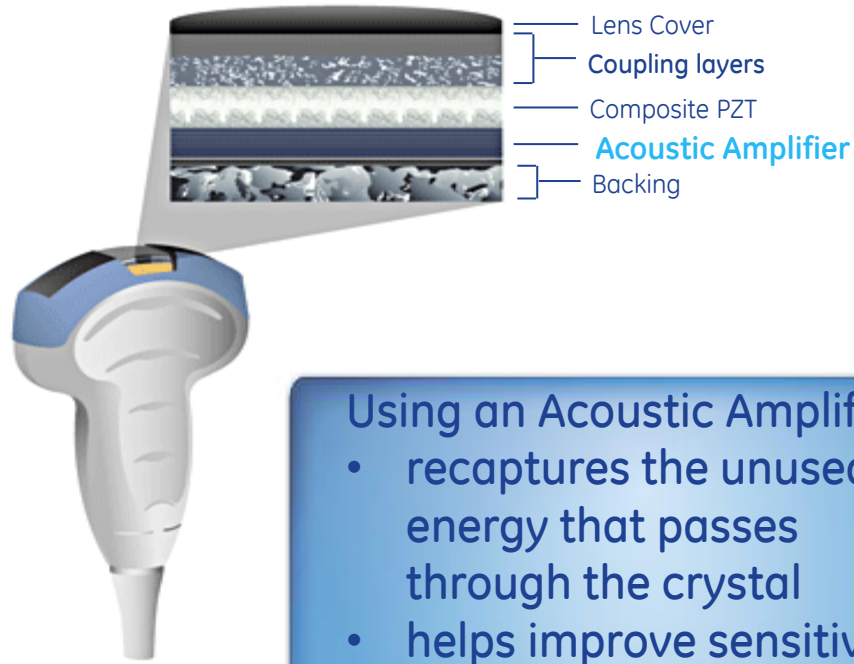
# E-Series Transducers

## Acoustic amplifier technology

### GE Traditional Technology



### GE Acoustic Amplifier Technology



#### Using an Acoustic Amplifier:

- recaptures the unused energy that passes through the crystal
  - helps improve sensitivity, axial resolution and penetration
- compared to not using an Acoustic Amplifier

# E-Series Transducers

## Matrix array technology

Matrix arrays provide multiple rows of crystals

Multiple rows allow focusing in the near, mid and far field

GE's 11L



GE's ML6-15-D



ML6-15-D has more uniform elevation slice thickness than the 11L

# E-Series Transducers

## ML6-15-D Focal Zones

### Focal zone above 2 cm

- Only center row used
- Narrow slice thickness for small vessels and cystic clarity

### Focal zone below 2 – 2.5 cm

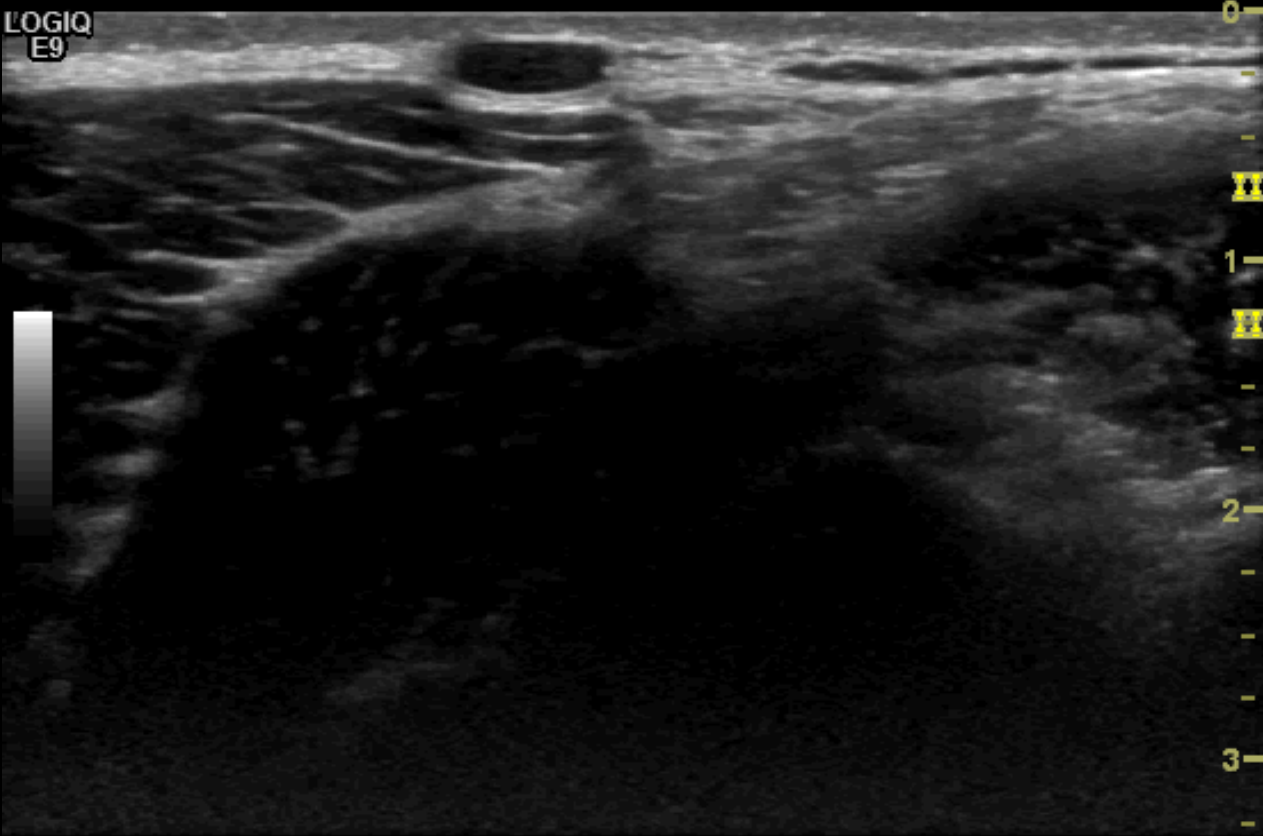
- All rows turned on
- Provides penetration, reduces far field noise

Models are set to use multiple zones spaced widely to ensure that appropriate number of rows are used



# E-Series Transducers

## ML6-15-D Focal Zones



# E-Series Transducers

9L-D

Vascular Probe for Carotid, Arterial and Venous

Complements Curved array probes in Abdomen, Pediatrics and Obstetrics

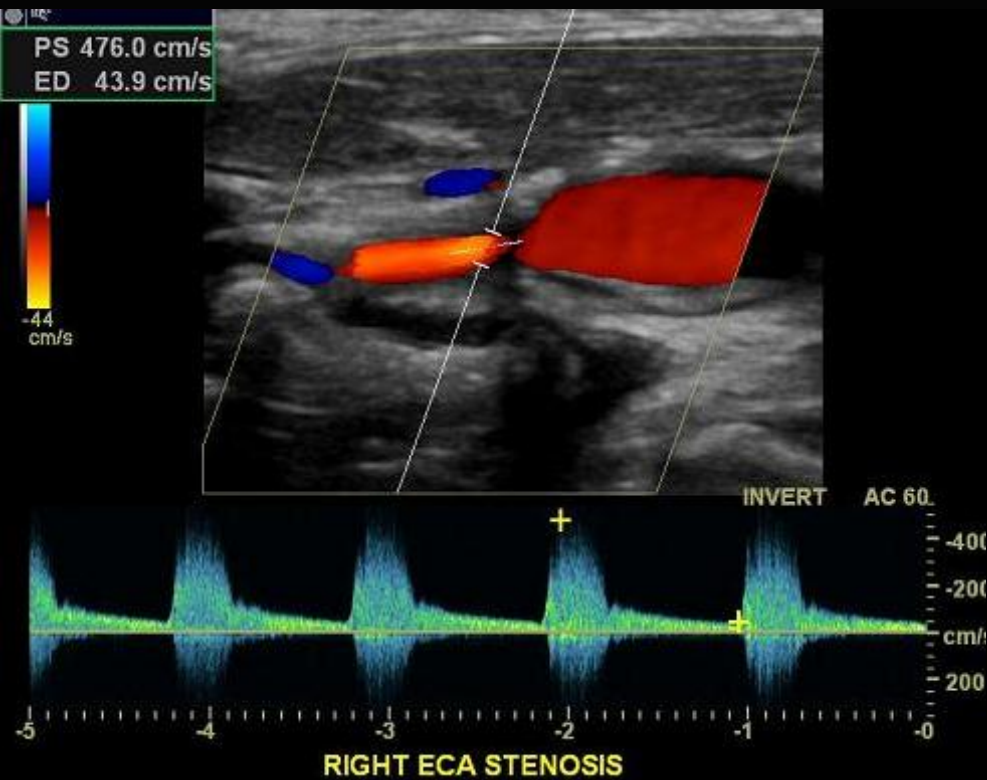
Uses all elements to provide enhanced penetration and resolution at depth



# E-Series Transducers

## 9L-D Vascular

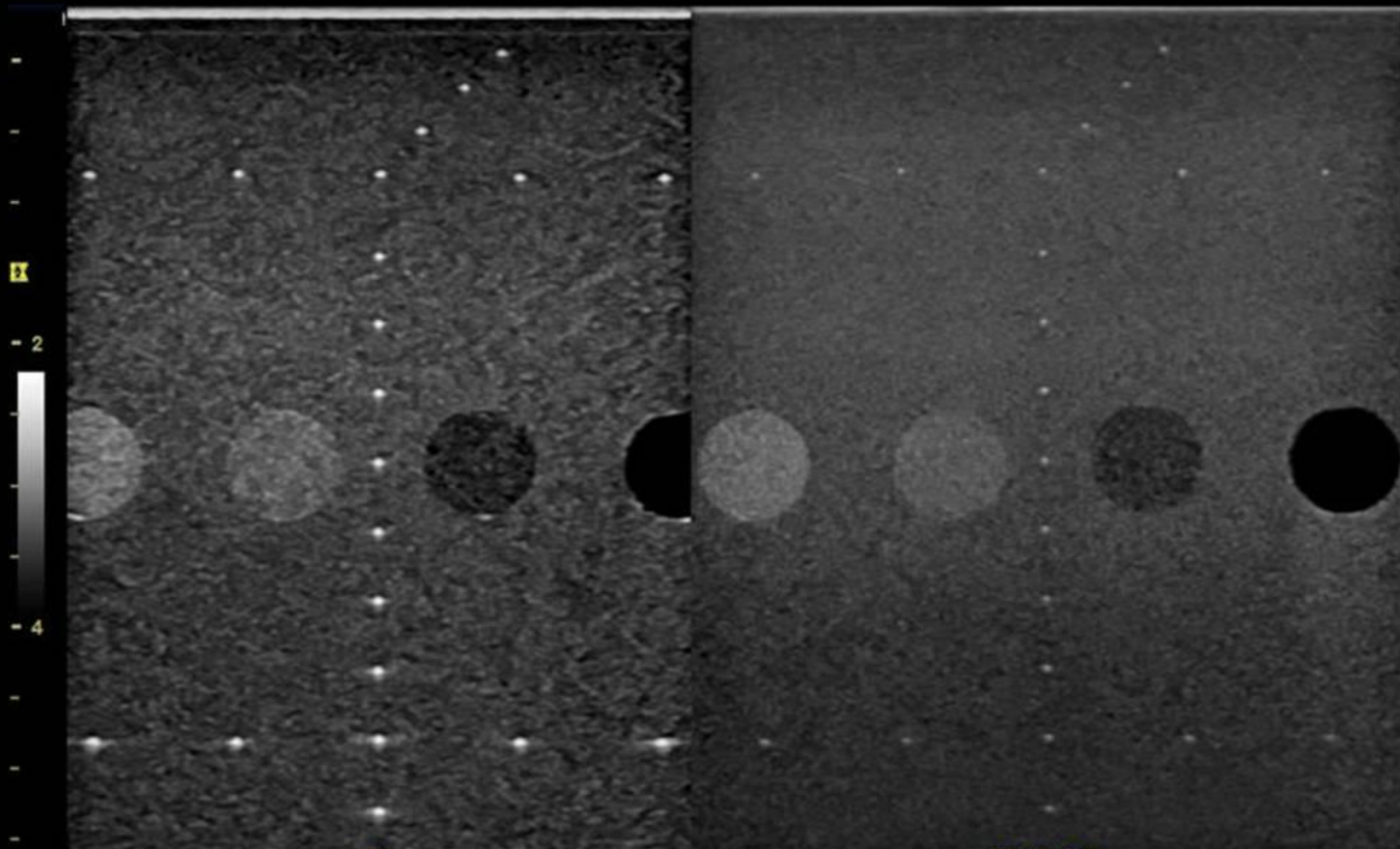
## OB - 16 weeks



# E-Series Transducers

## 9L-D / ML6-15-D

FR 33  
CHI  
Frq 9.0  
Gn 38  
S/A 2/1  
Map H/0  
D 6.0  
DR 69  
AO% 100



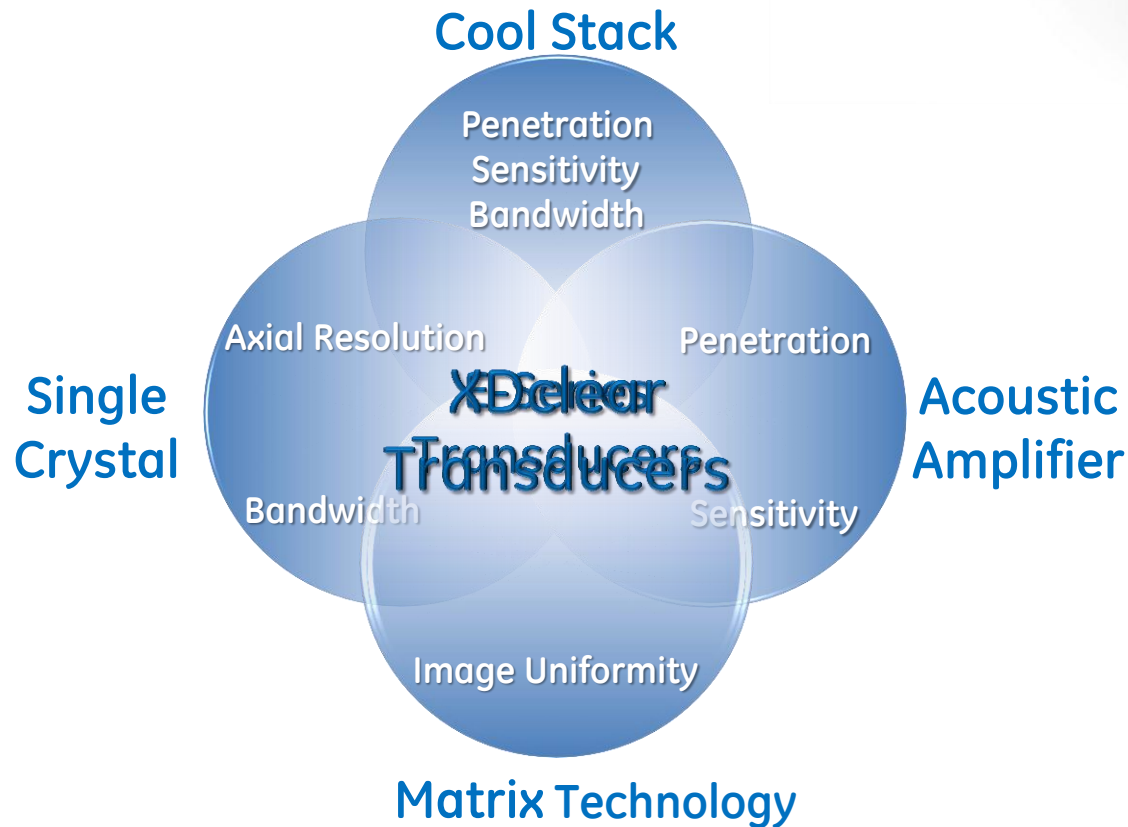
FR 15  
CHI  
Frq 15.0  
Gn 36  
S/A 1/1  
Map B/0  
D 6.0  
DR 72  
AO% 100

9L

ML6-15

# E-Series Transducers

## XDclear transducers

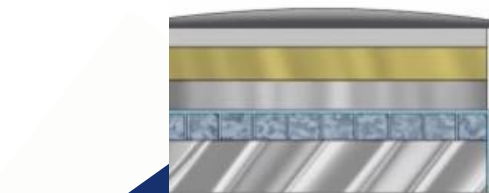


# XDclear Transducers

XDclear technology differentiates these probes from all others in GE's history

XDclear is a tuned and efficient combination of three major probe technologies:

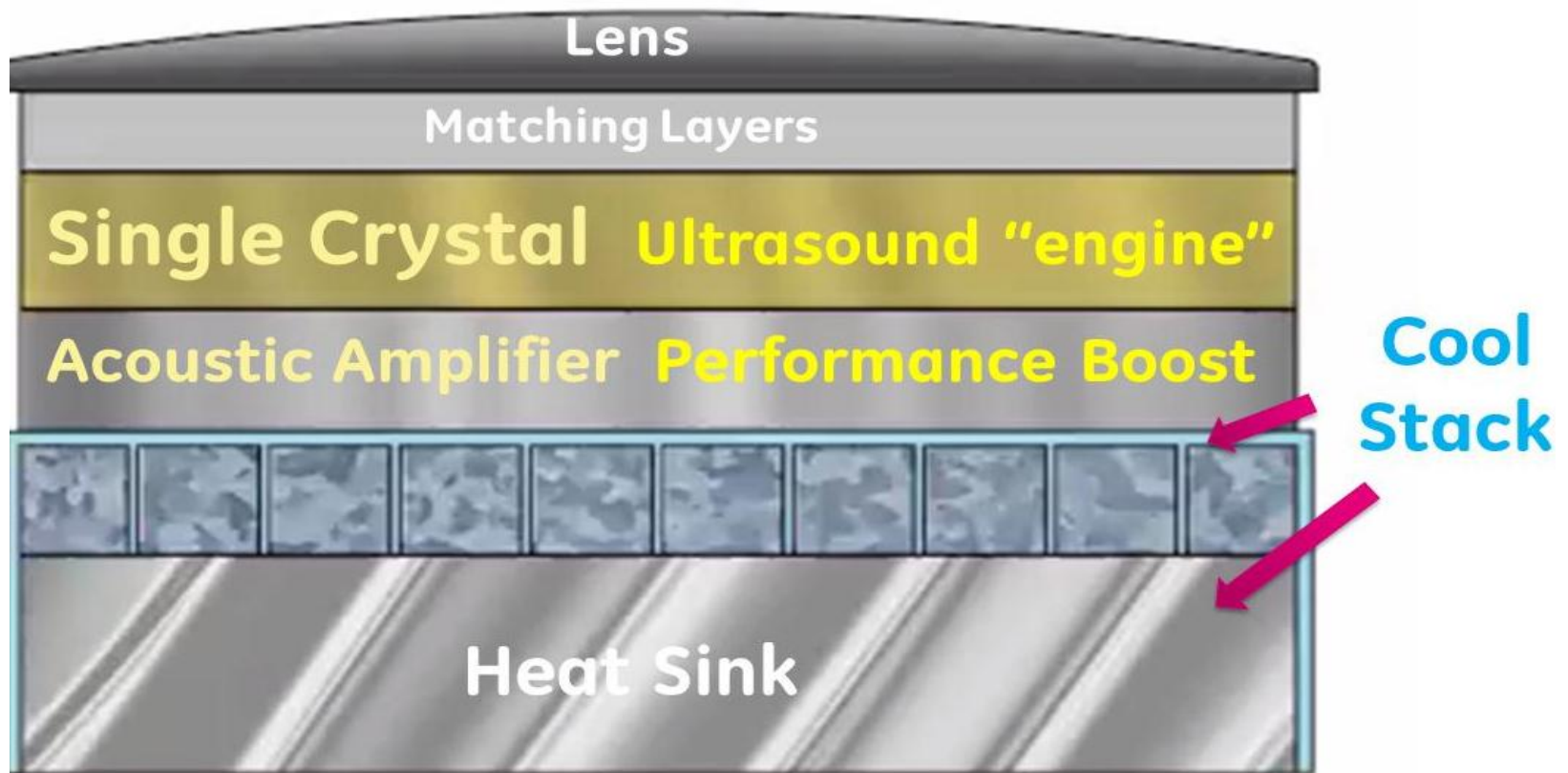
- Single Crystal
- Acoustic Amplifier
- Cool Stack





# XDclear Transducers

XDclear - 3 combined GE technologies



# XDclear Transducers

## What are the Benefits?

### Technology benefits

- Helps increase sensitivity
- Helps increase bandwidth

### Translate to clinical benefits

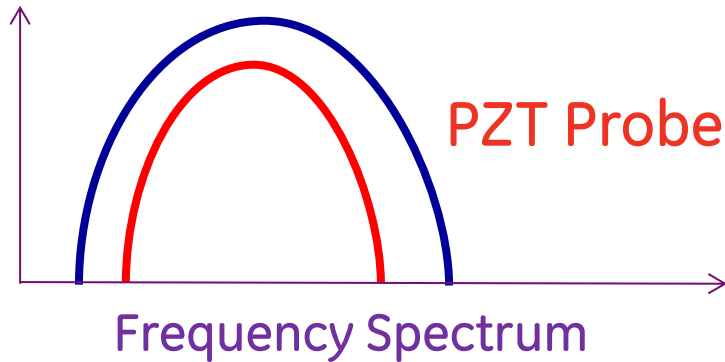
- Helps increase penetration
- Helps improve imaging in every mode



# XDclear Transducers

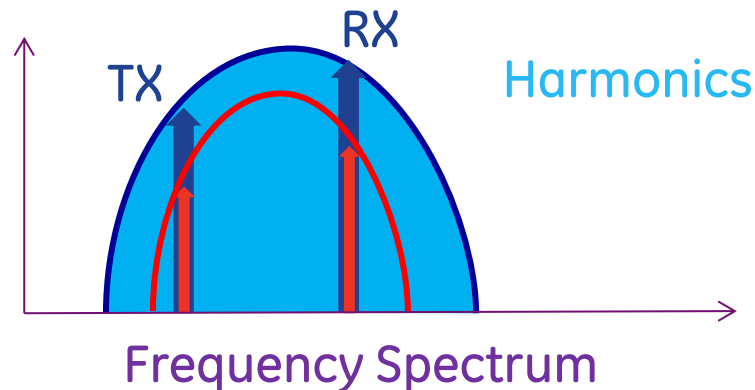
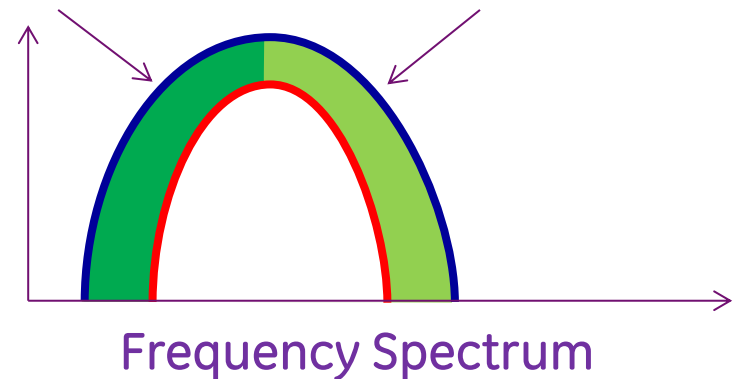
How does bandwidth translate to imaging?

XDclear Probe



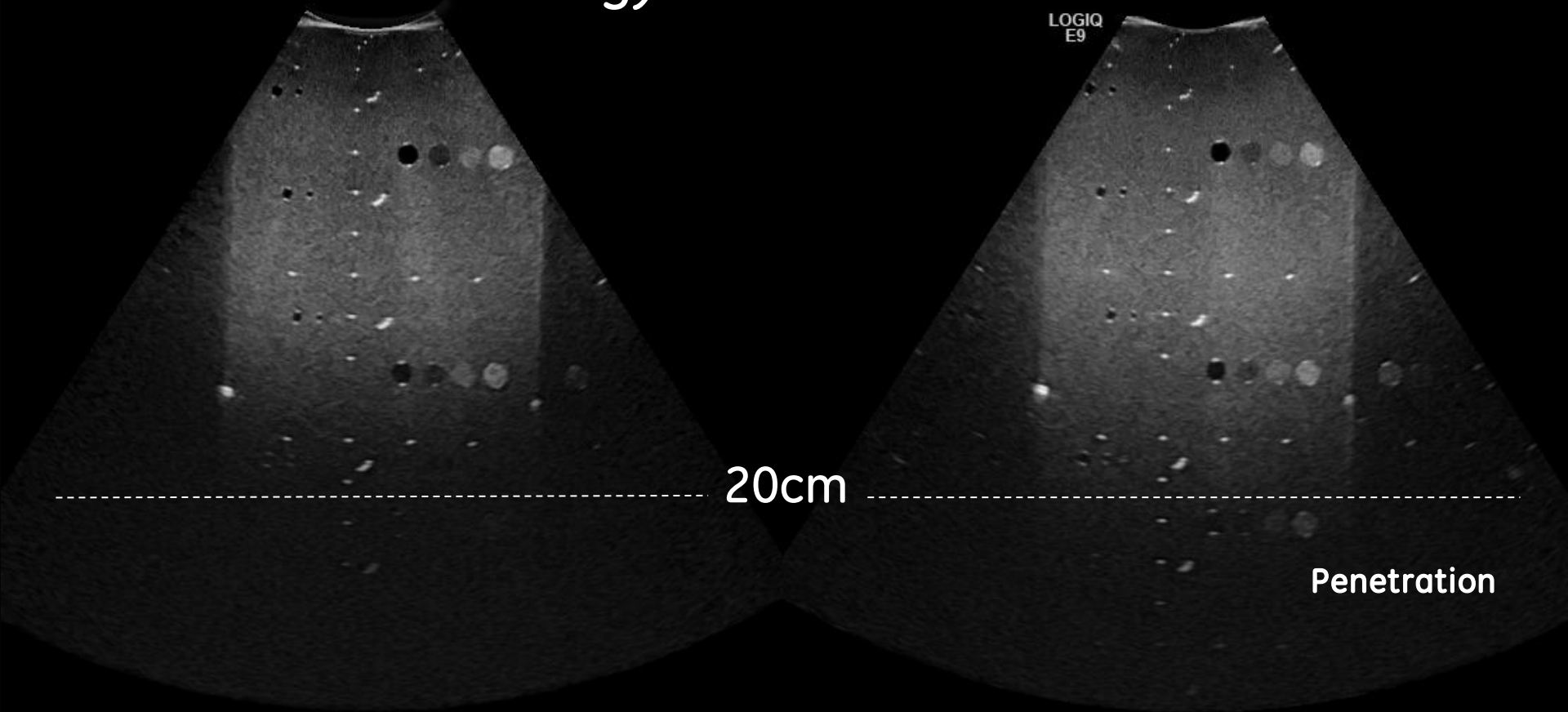
Doppler  
Penetration

B Mode  
Resolution



# XDclear Transducers

## Transducer technology evolution



Traditional<sup>†</sup>

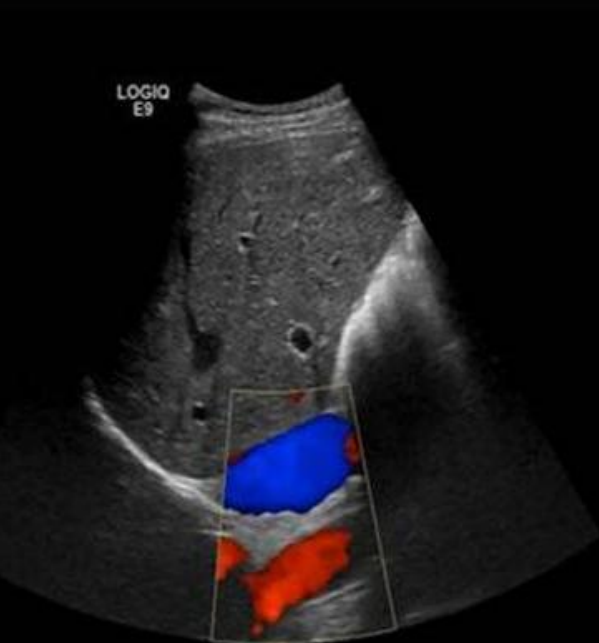
XDclear

# XDclear Transducers

C2-9-D intended uses

Pediatric, Small Adults, and OB imaging

Helps fill the gap between the C1-6-D and the 9L-D



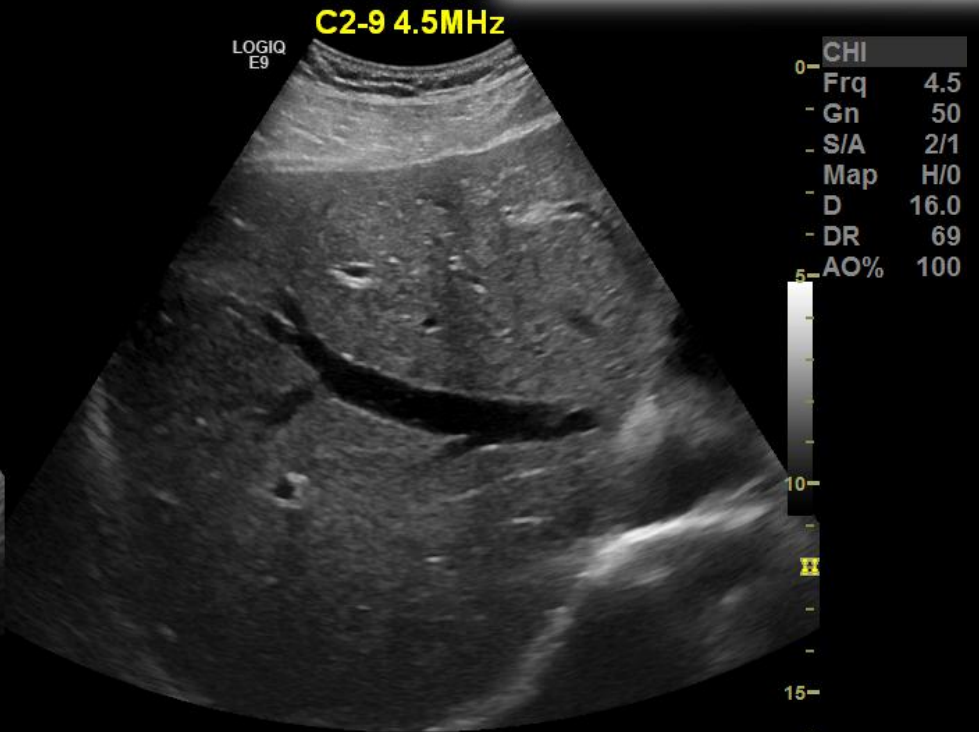
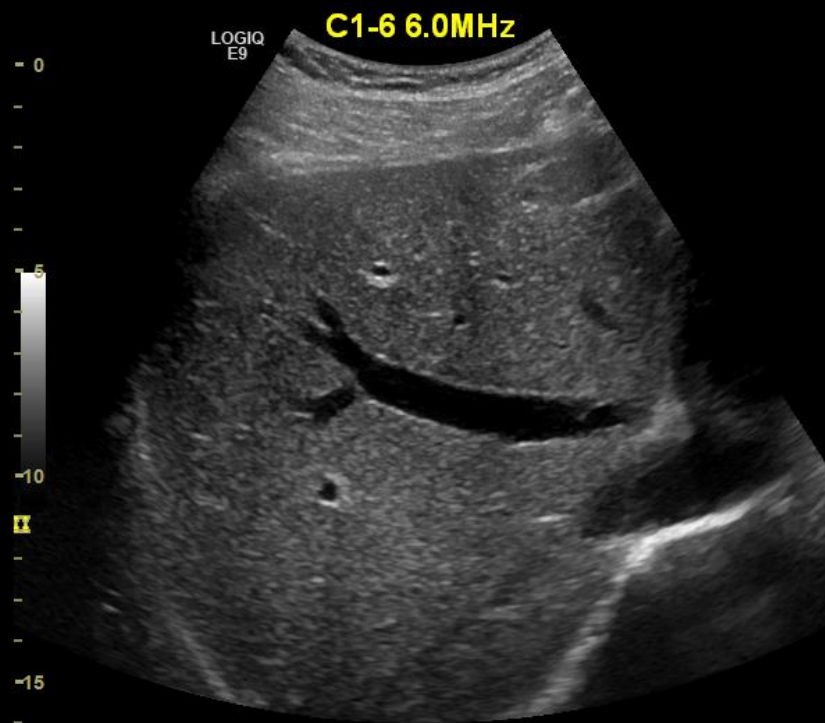
FR	9
CHI	
0- Frq	6.0
- Gn	50
- D	16.0
- AO%	100
CF	
5- Frq	2.5
- Gn	17.0
- L/A	1/4
- PRF	2.2
- WF	234
- S/P	4/12
- AO%	100



FR	23
CHI	
Frq	4.5
Gn	44
S/A	2/1
Map	H/O
- D	13.0
DR	69
5- AO%	100

# XDclear Transducers

## C1-6-D / C2-9-D

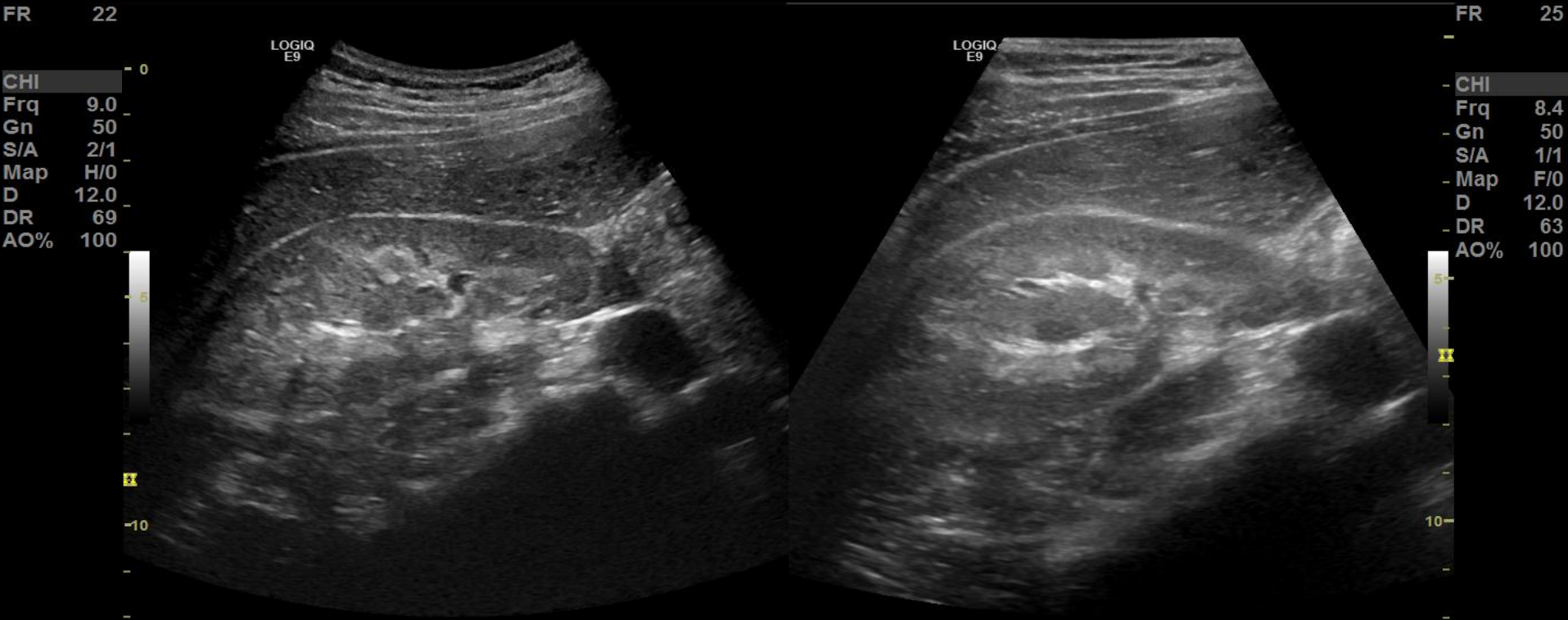


C2-9-D helps improve resolution



# XDclear Transducers

## 9L-D / C2-9-D



9L-D helps improve resolution

# Acquisition Technologies

Harmonics

B-Flow

CrossXBeam\*

Speed of Sound

Virtual Convex

LOGIQView\*

# Acquisition Technologies

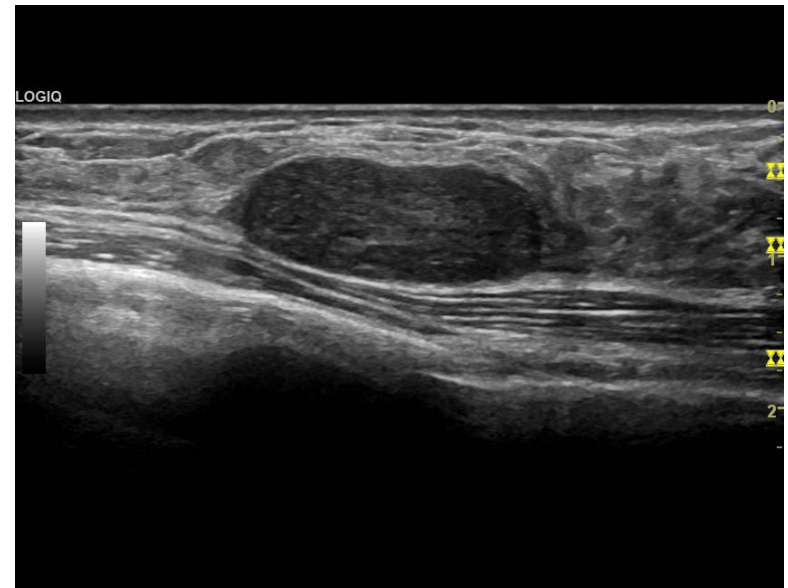
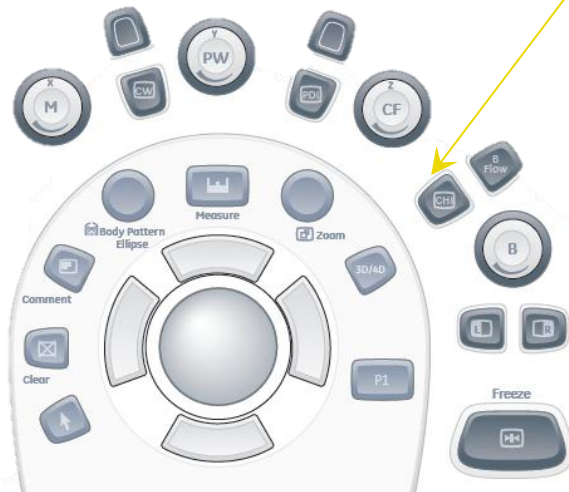
## Coded Harmonic Imaging



Directly addresses fundamental ultrasound limitations (penetration/resolution)

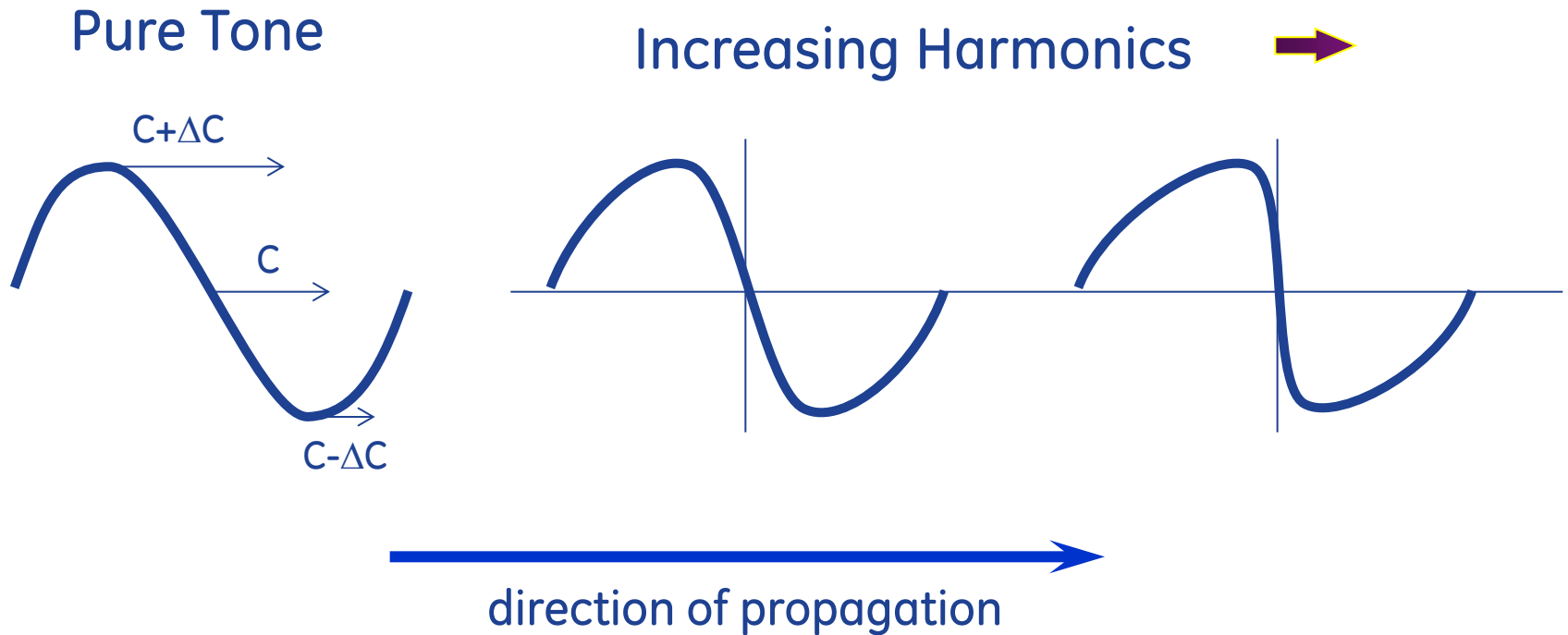
Helps improve signal to noise ratio

Helps reduce noise



# Acquisition Technologies

## Harmonics – Sound Wave Distortion



# Acquisition Technologies

## Harmonics

A 3.0 MHz signal that would produce maximum penetration will return a Harmonics frequency of 6.0 MHz

This returning high frequency signal only has to travel one direction (back to the probe)

The displayed image now benefits from the attributes of high frequency and a one-way travel effect



# Acquisition Technologies

## 9L-D with and without harmonics



# Acquisition Technologies

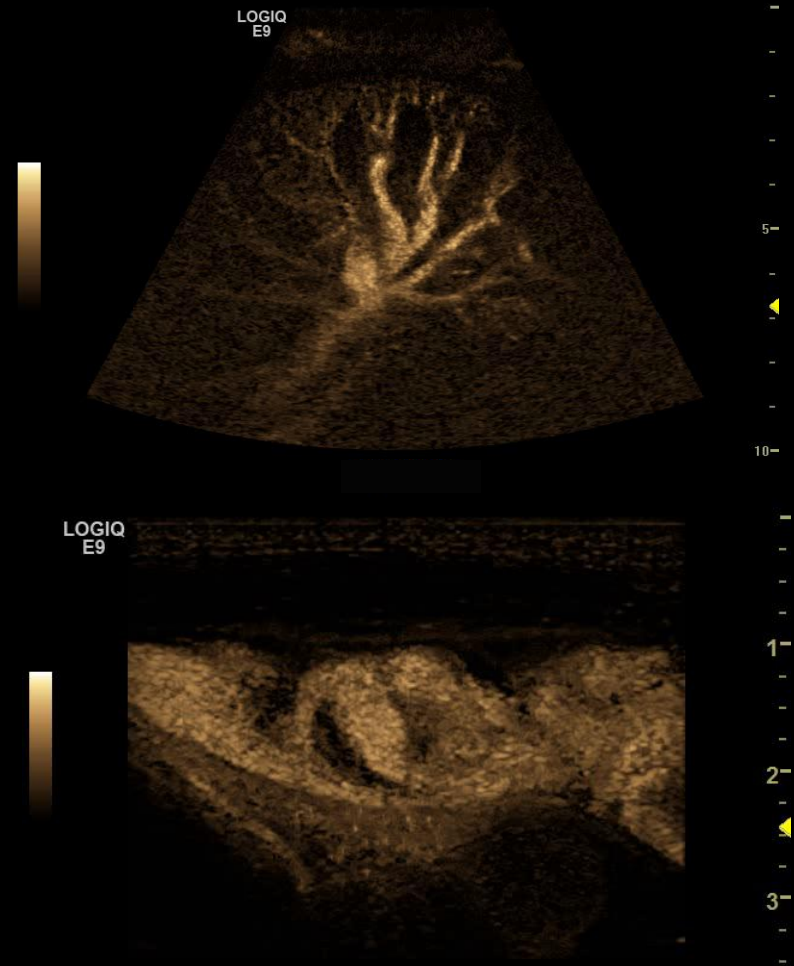
## B-Flow

Spatial resolution similar to 2D

Temporal resolution closer to true hemodynamics of blood flow

No ROI, bleeding or color on brights

No Doppler Effect or angle dependency



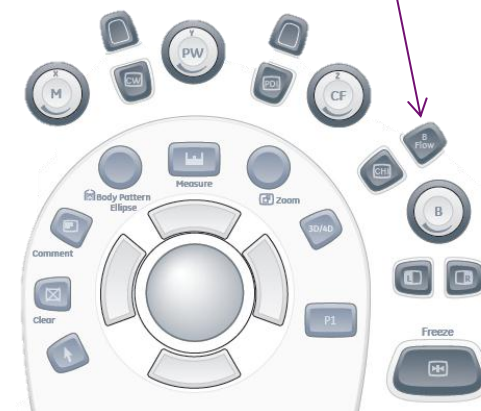


# Acquisition Technologies

## B-Flow user interface



B-Flow  
B-Flow Color  
switch



**Supported Probes: C1-6-D, 9L-D, ML6-15-D, L8-18i-D**

# Acquisition Technologies

## Pulse repetition interval

LOGIQ  
E9

PRI=6

PRI=6

LOGIQ  
E9

PRI=22

PRI=22

LOGIQ  
E9

PRI=40

PRI=40

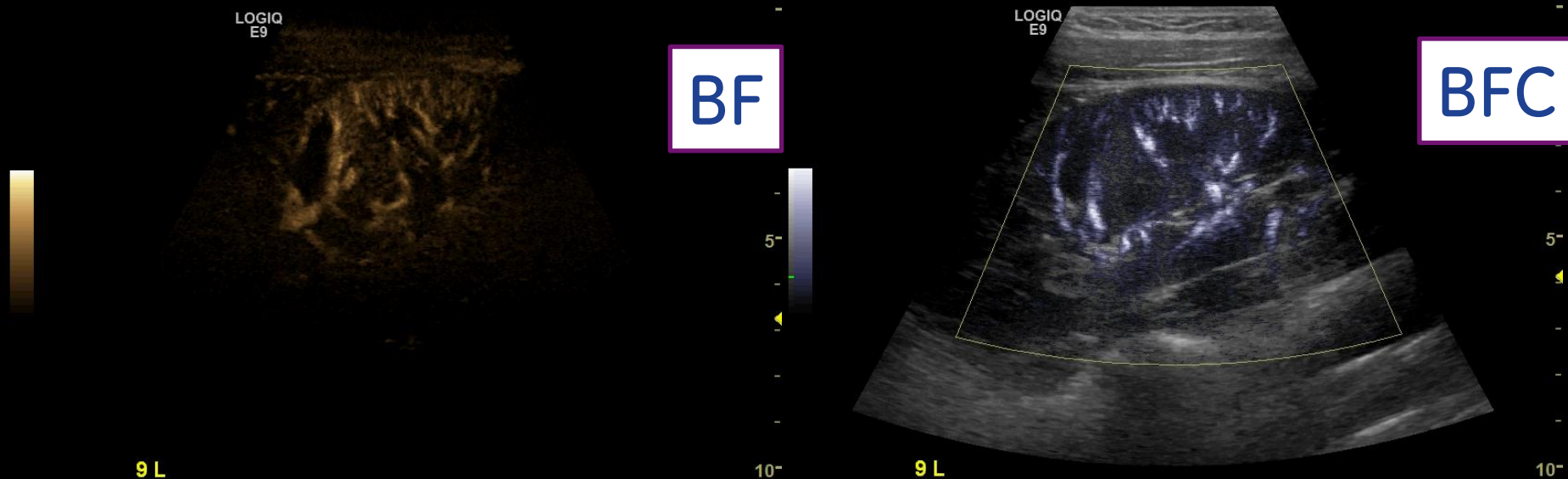
↑ for small vessels or  
slow flow states  
↓ for high flow states or  
to reduce flash

# Acquisition Technologies

## Wideband PDI using Codes

### Compared to PDI, B-Flow Color

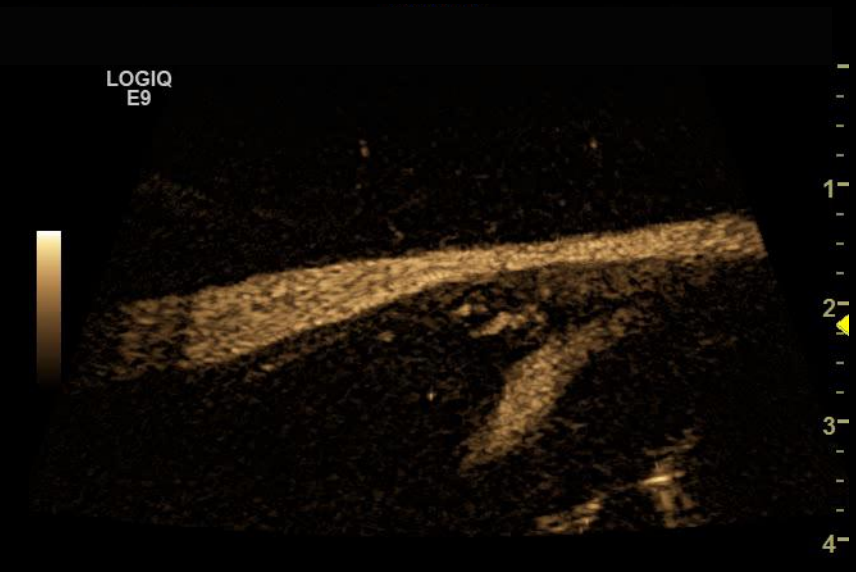
- Helps improve spatial resolution
- Helps improve temporal resolution



# Acquisition Technologies

## B-Flow summary

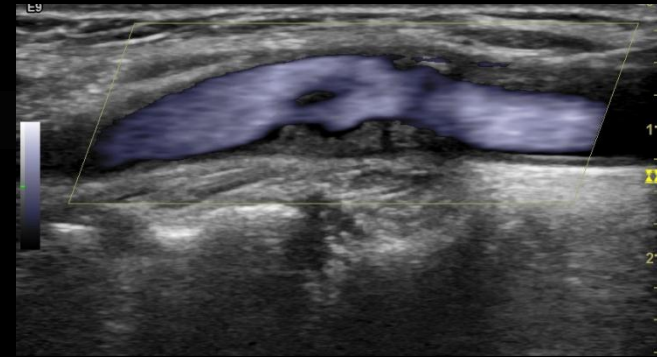
- Clinical Advantages
  - Increased Sensitivity as compared to PDI
  - No ROI needed
  - True hemodynamics
  - No angle dependence
- Clinical Uses
  - High grade stenosis
  - Soft Plaque
  - Perfusion, small vessel identification
  - Early thrombus/DVT
- Challenges
  - Background tissue not easily visualized
  - Flash artifact from tissue motion
  - Penetration limits



# Acquisition Technologies

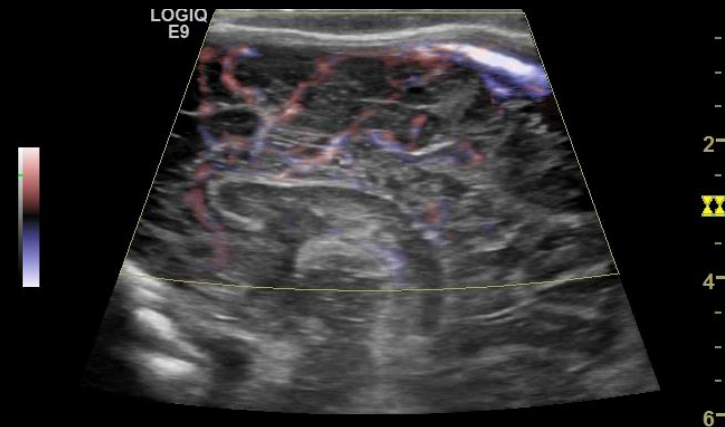
## B-Flow Color summary

- Clinical Advantages
  - Dynamic Flow appearance
  - High Frame rate
  - Clear Background tissue with vessel hemodynamics
- Clinical Uses
  - High Grade stenosis
  - Soft Plaque
  - Early Thrombus formation
  - Aneurysm
  - Access graft
  - Perfusion in Placenta, Spleen, and Kidney



### Challenges

- Tissue vibration,
- Penetration Limits
- ROI angle, BFC is less angle dependent than PDI or CF





# Acquisition Technologies

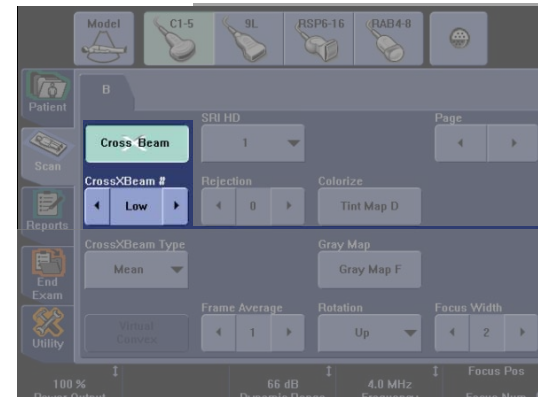
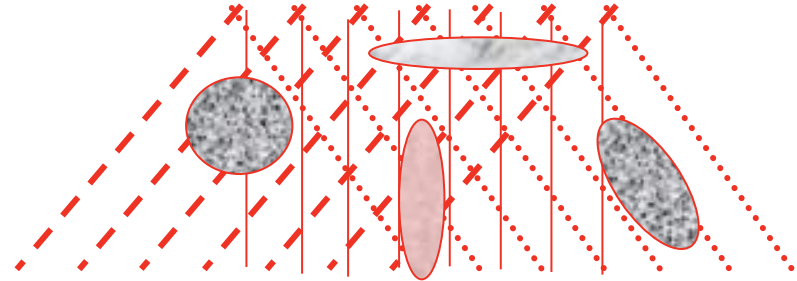
## CrossXBeam

What it is:

Multiple co-planar images from different angles combined into a single image in real time

Why it works:

Successive frames help average out noise and smooth borders



# Acquisition Technologies

## CrossXBeam

### Results:

Helps improve Border definition

Helps improve Contrast resolution

Helps reduce Angular dependence of border or edge

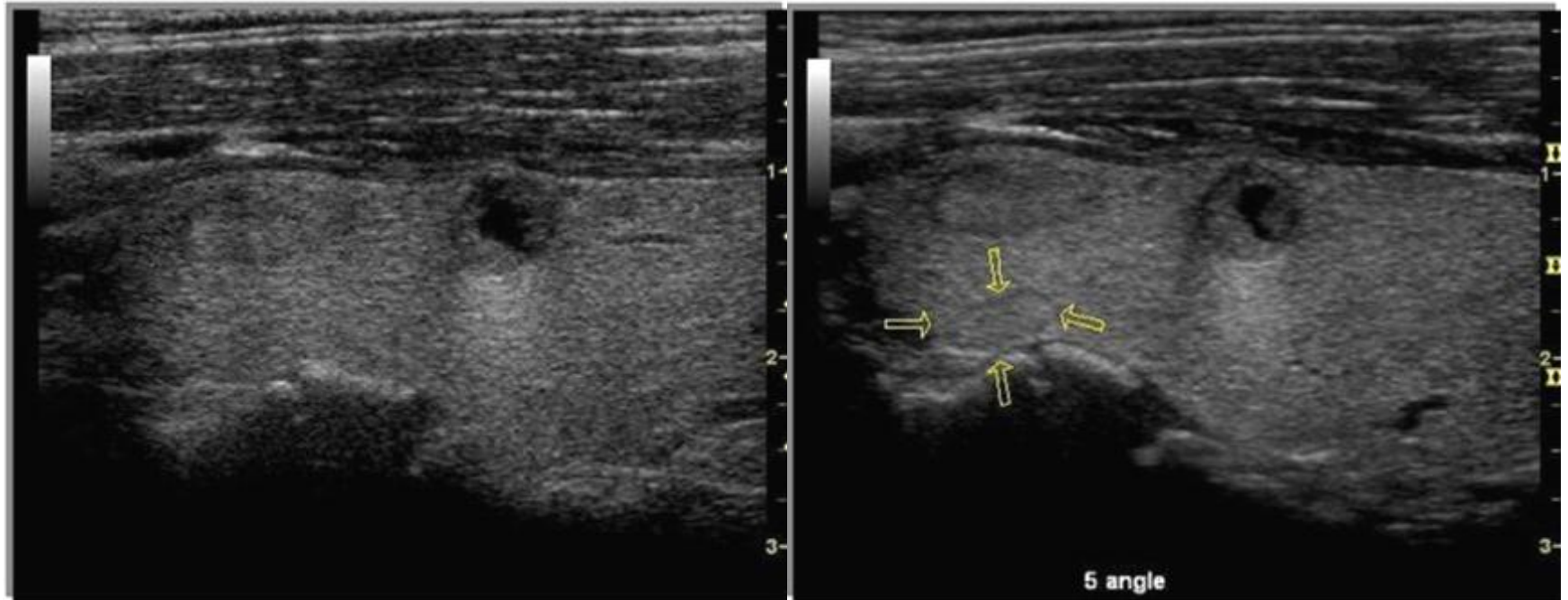
Helps reduce Speckle / Clutter

Helps increase visualization of biopsy needles



# Acquisition Technologies

## CrossXBeam – Benefits



# Acquisition Technologies

## CrossXBeam – Visualizing Transmit



Straight Fire on  
straight structure

Echo **Reaches**  
probe

Straight Fire on  
Angled structure

Echo **Misses**  
probe

Angled Fire on  
Angled structure

Echo **Reaches**  
probe

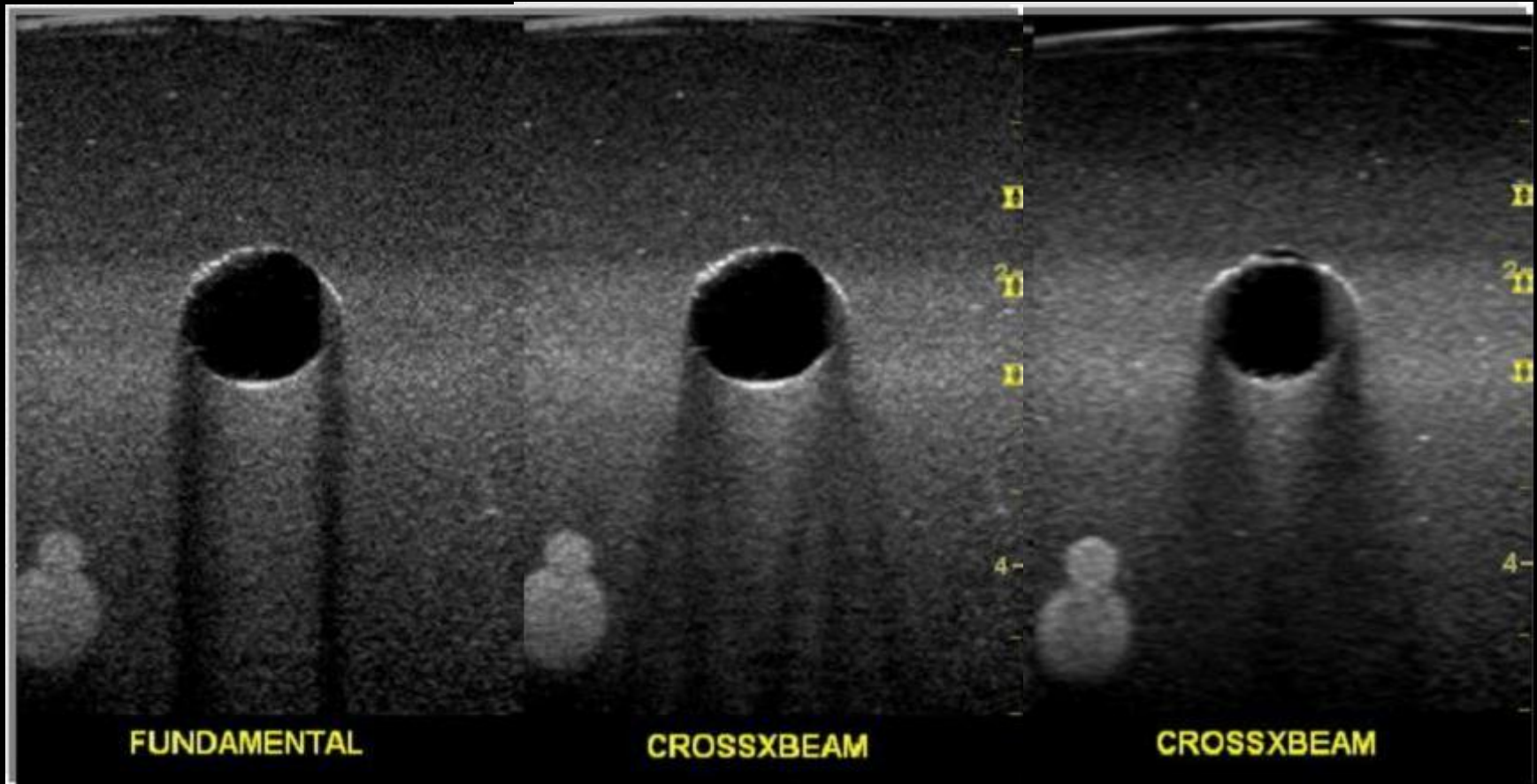
# Acquisition Technologies

## CrossXBeam

off

3 angles

7 angles



# Acquisition Technologies

## Speed of Sound

### What it is:

An additional control to help optimize image resolution

In applications where tissue types are diverse, it allows the user to choose settings that are well suited for that particular patient

### Clinical impacts:

Adjusting the speed of sound can help improve:

- Resolution
  - A sharp image, especially in breast
- Signal-to-Noise
  - Adjustable focusing helps improve SNR

# Acquisition Technologies

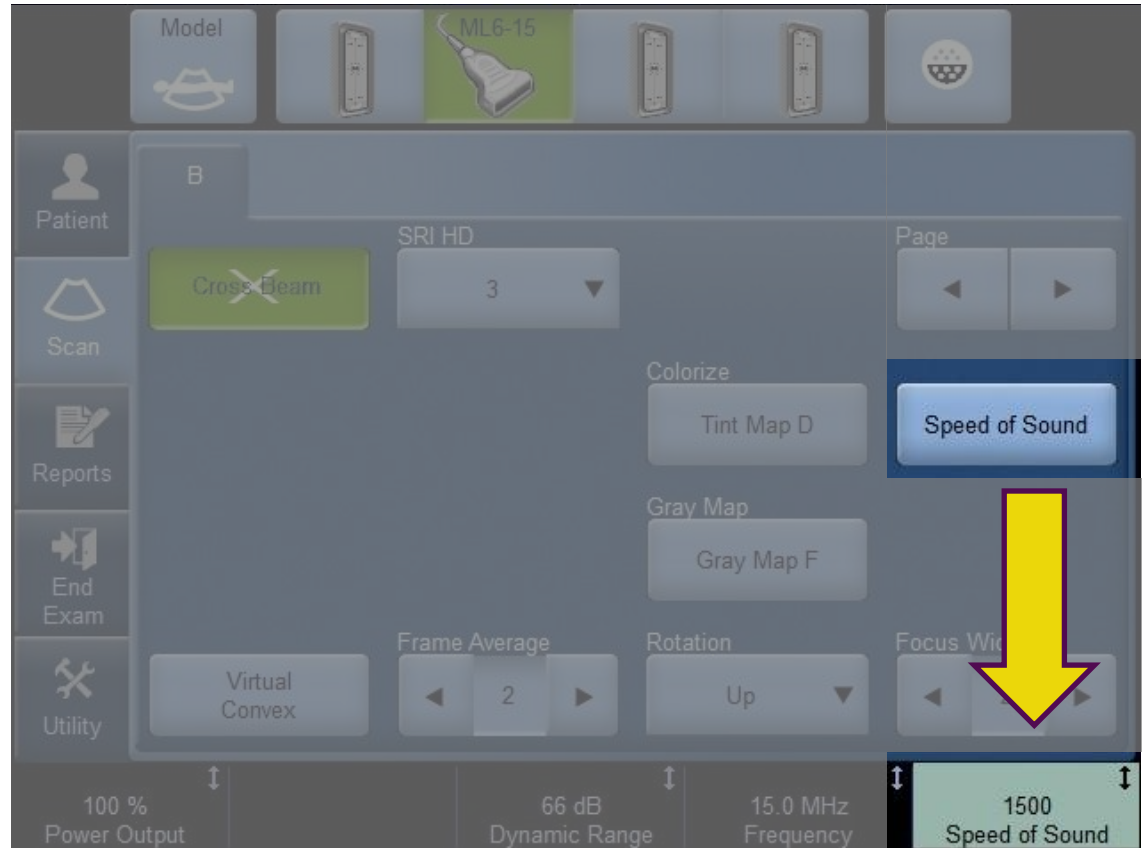
## Speed of Sound Applications

Breast

Abdomen

Abdomen 2

Renal



# Acquisition Technologies

Speed of Sound breast example

1420 m/s has enhanced contrast & resolution in this case



# Acquisition Technologies

## Speed of Sound

### Breast

Useful to help handle a variety of breast types

Fatty tissue tends to image better at low speed of sound

Dense tissue tends to image better close to 1500/1540

Default is 1500

### Liver

Available, but unlikely to offer significant benefit



# Acquisition Technologies

## Speed of Sound



9L CHI 9MHz 1420SoS



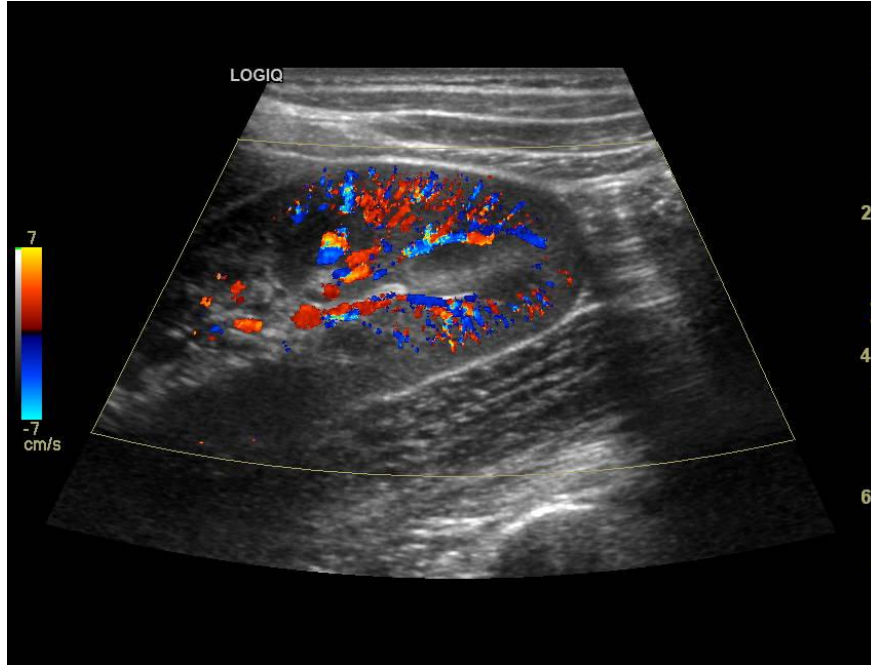
9L CHI 9MHz 1540SoS

# Acquisition Technologies

## Virtual Convex

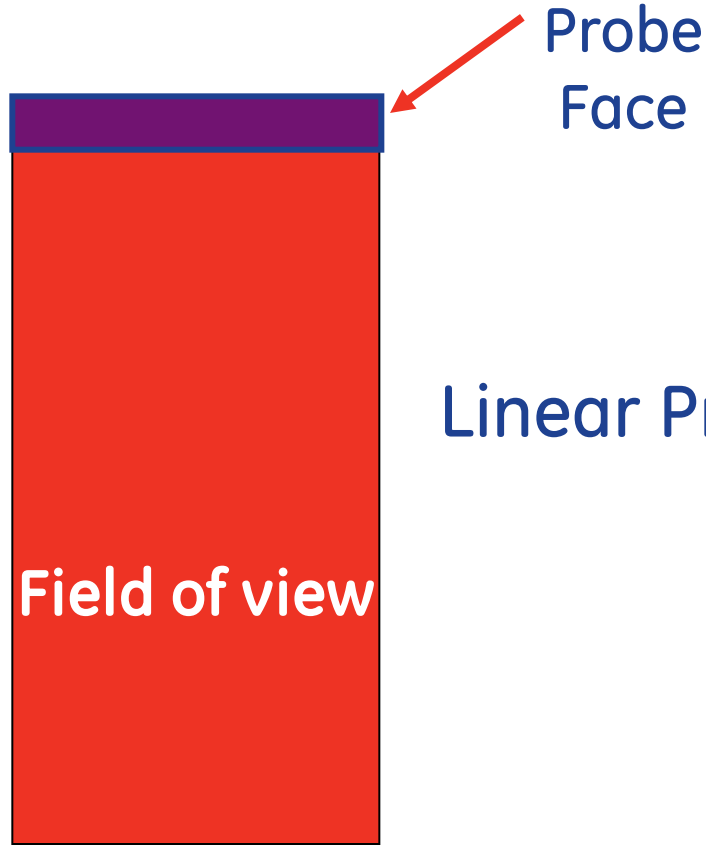
Expands the field of view of linear array probes

Available on the B mode tab for linear array transducers

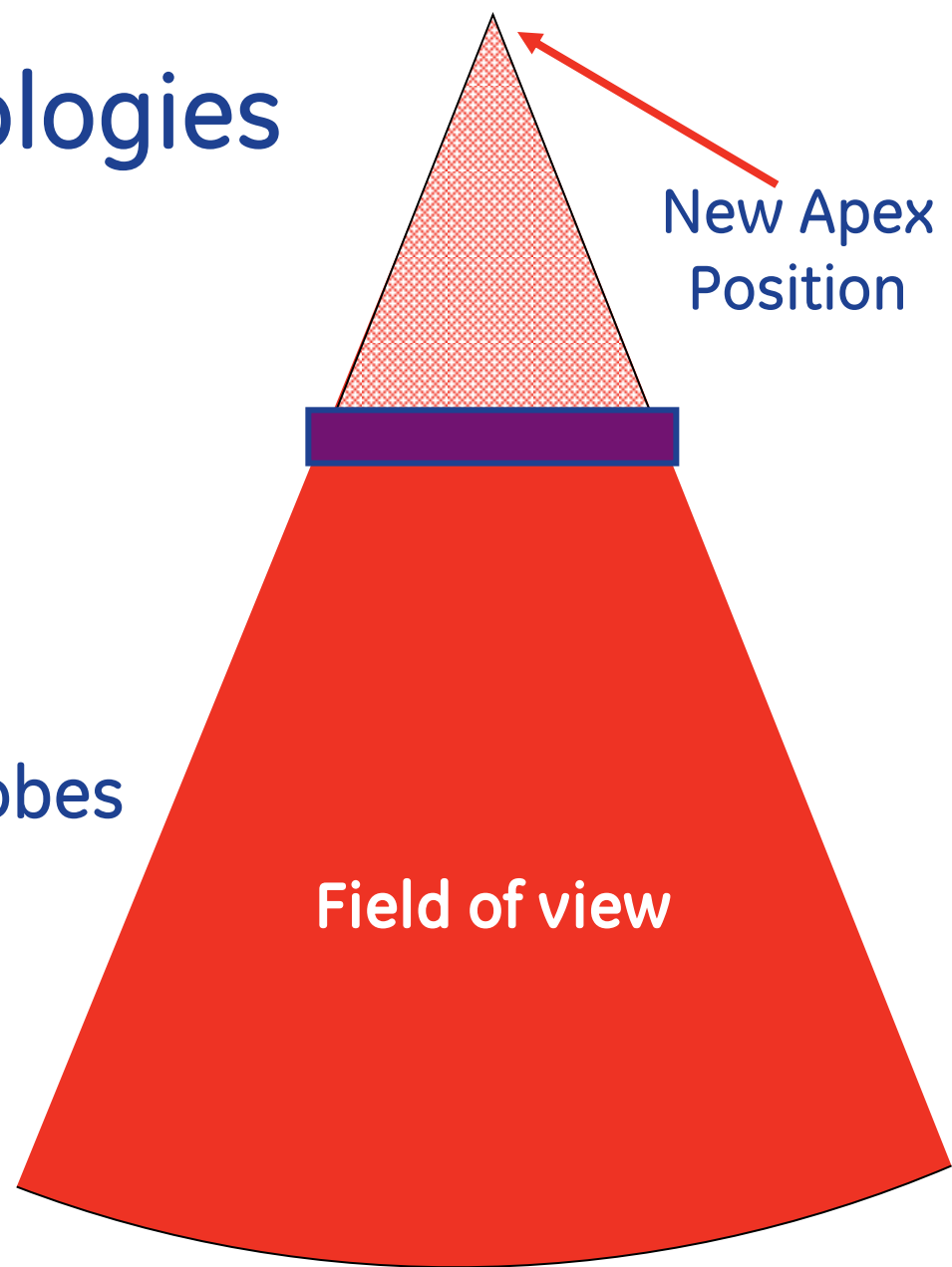


# Acquisition Technologies

## Virtual Convex



Linear format



# Acquisition Technologies

## LOGIQView

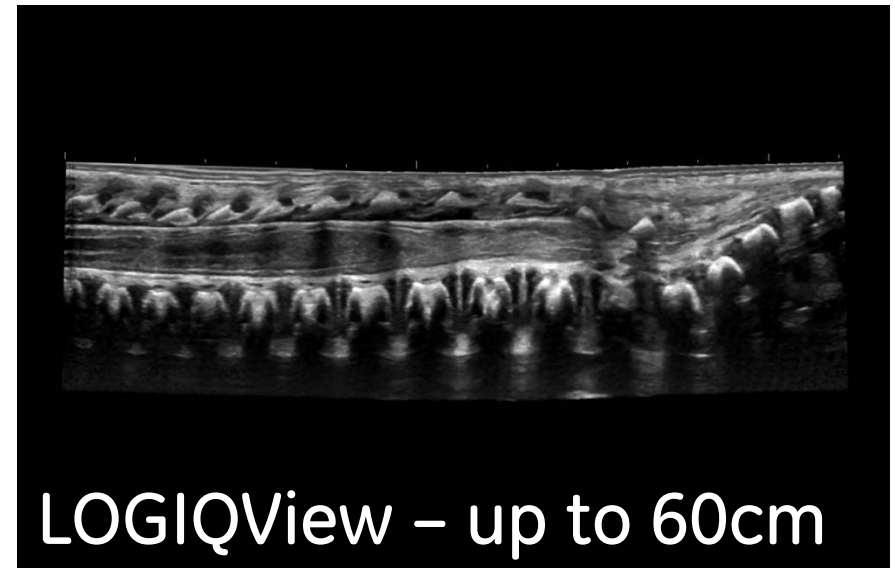


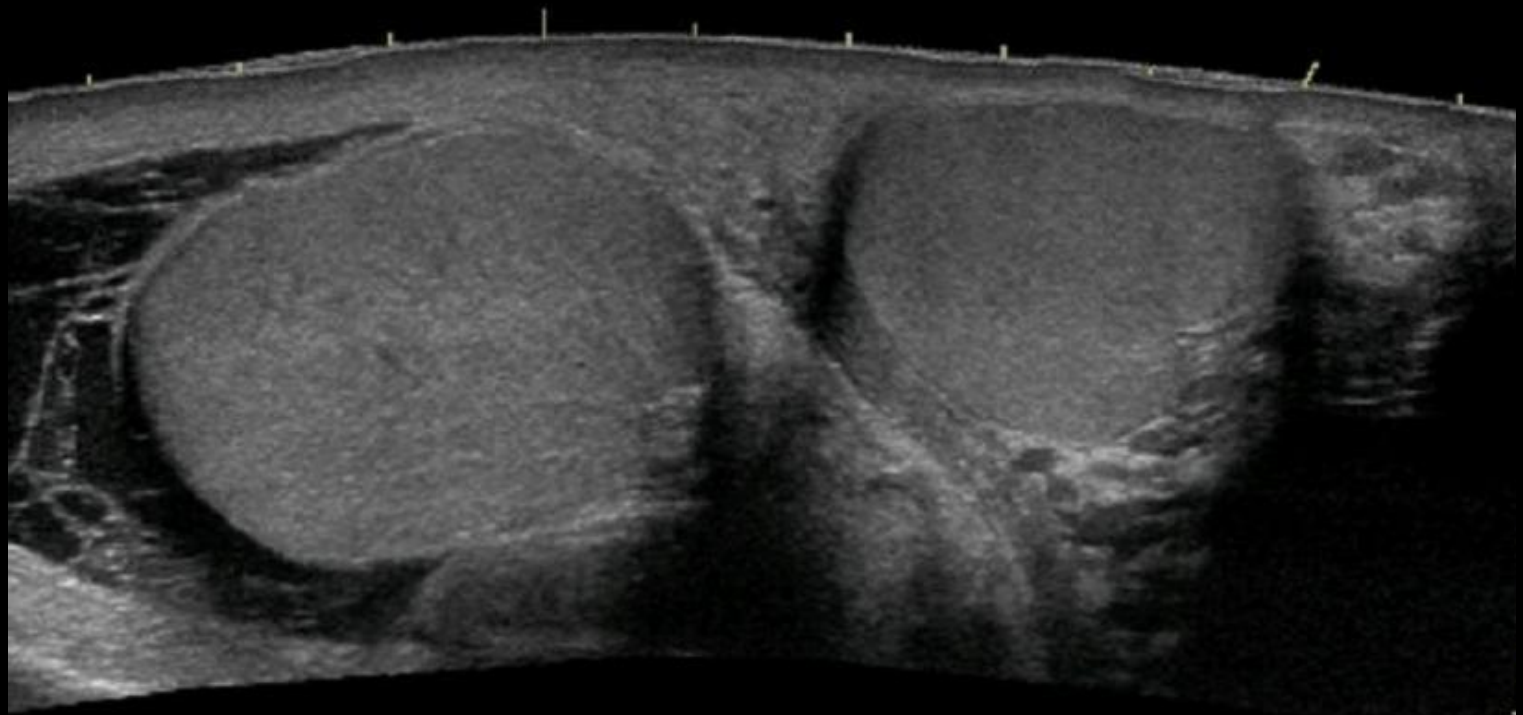
### What is it?

- Move the probe along the anatomy and create an image with a large field of view

### Benefits

- Enhanced demonstration of anatomical relationships
- Ability to measure large structures





TRV RT

LT



imagination at work

# Post-Acquisition Technologies

Raw Data

Speckle Reduction Imaging

# Post-Acquisition Technologies

## Raw Data

Raw data capture enables you to build a thorough exam while helping reduce scan time. This **proprietary raw data format** from GE Healthcare captures data earlier in the image processing chain enabling users to make changes to the data during or even after the exam has ended.

Room too bright?  
Adjust gain later

Forgot annotations?  
Easily add them later

Delicate NICU patient?  
Acquire quickly then  
virtually rescan later

Difficult vascular patient?  
Adjust baseline shift and  
sweep speed later





# Post-Acquisition Technologies

## Raw Data

Original Acoustic Data are stored before Scan Converting in a GE "Raw" Format to be easily accessed and re-processed any time after the exam completion.

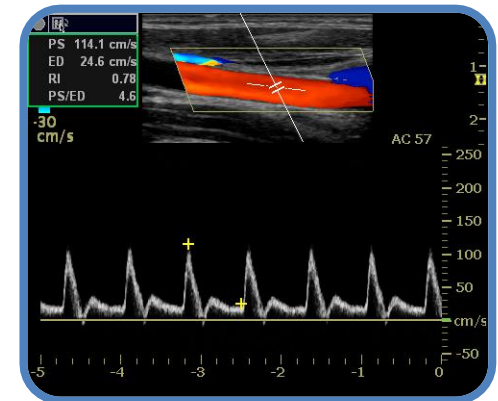
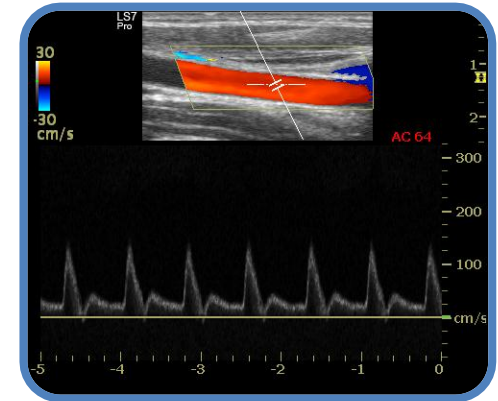
### Highlights:

Helps optimize sub-optimal studies.

Measurements can be re-done and reports regenerated

Imaging control parameters can be changed, such as:

- B-Mode: Gain, DR, Zoom, SRI...
- CFM: Gain, Threshold, DualView, DR...
- PW: Baseline, Invert, Angle, DR, Gain...

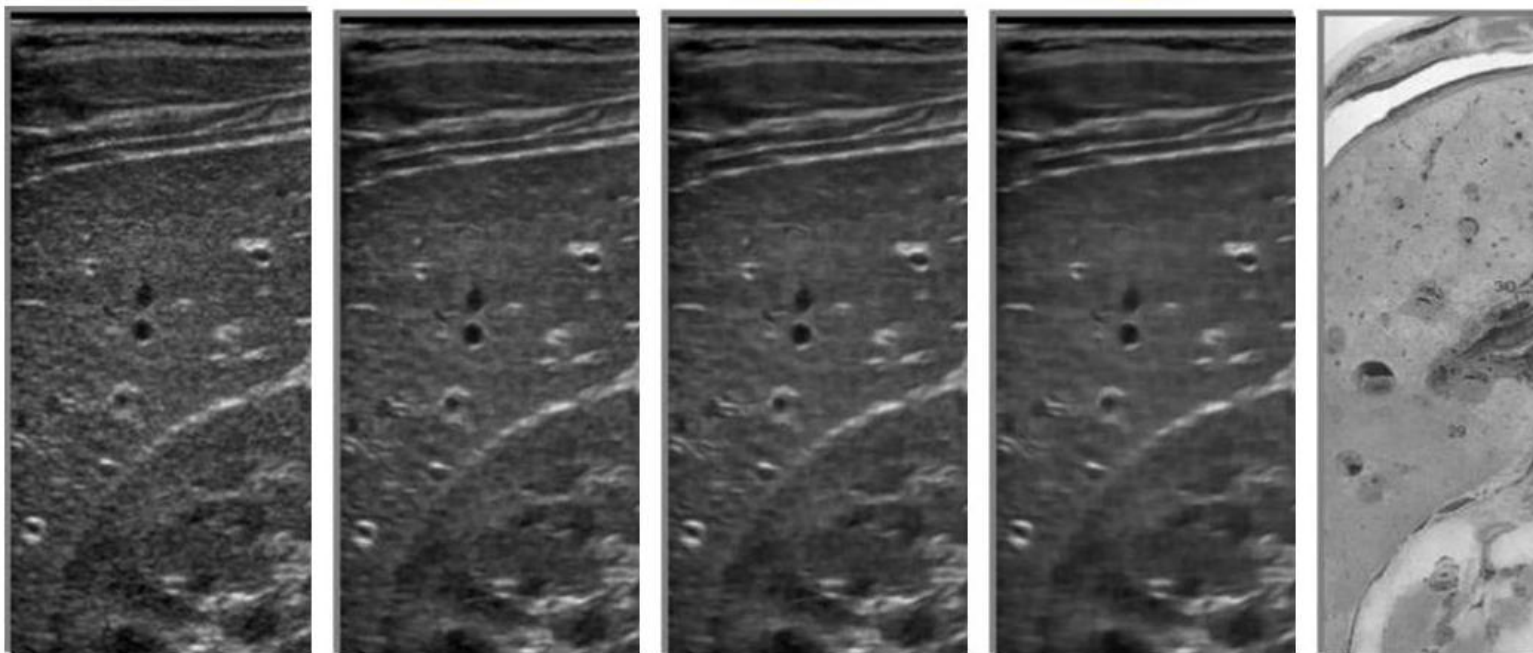


# Post-Acquisition Technologies

## Speckle reduction imaging

Adaptive, real-time software algorithm

min ←————→ max



# Post-Acquisition Technologies

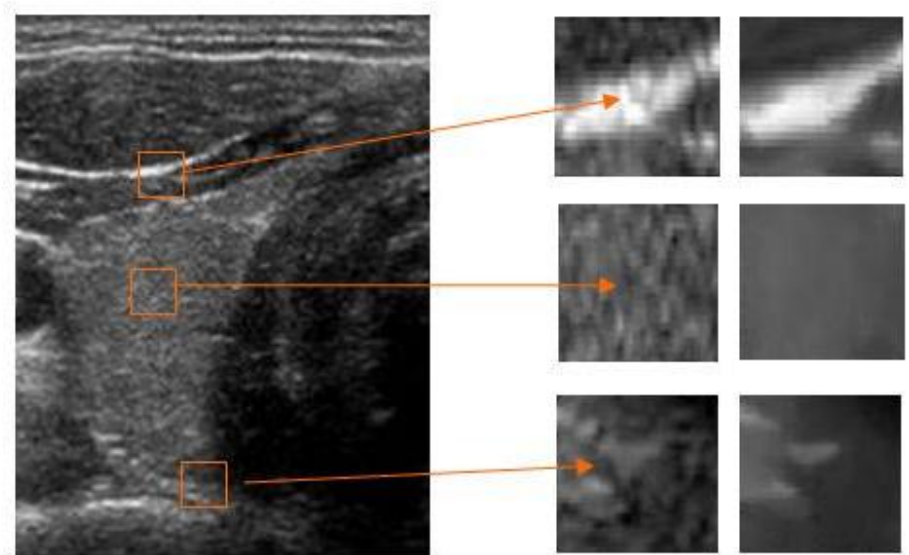
## Speckle reduction imaging

Adaptive, real-time software algorithm

Preserves borders where echogenicity differences occur

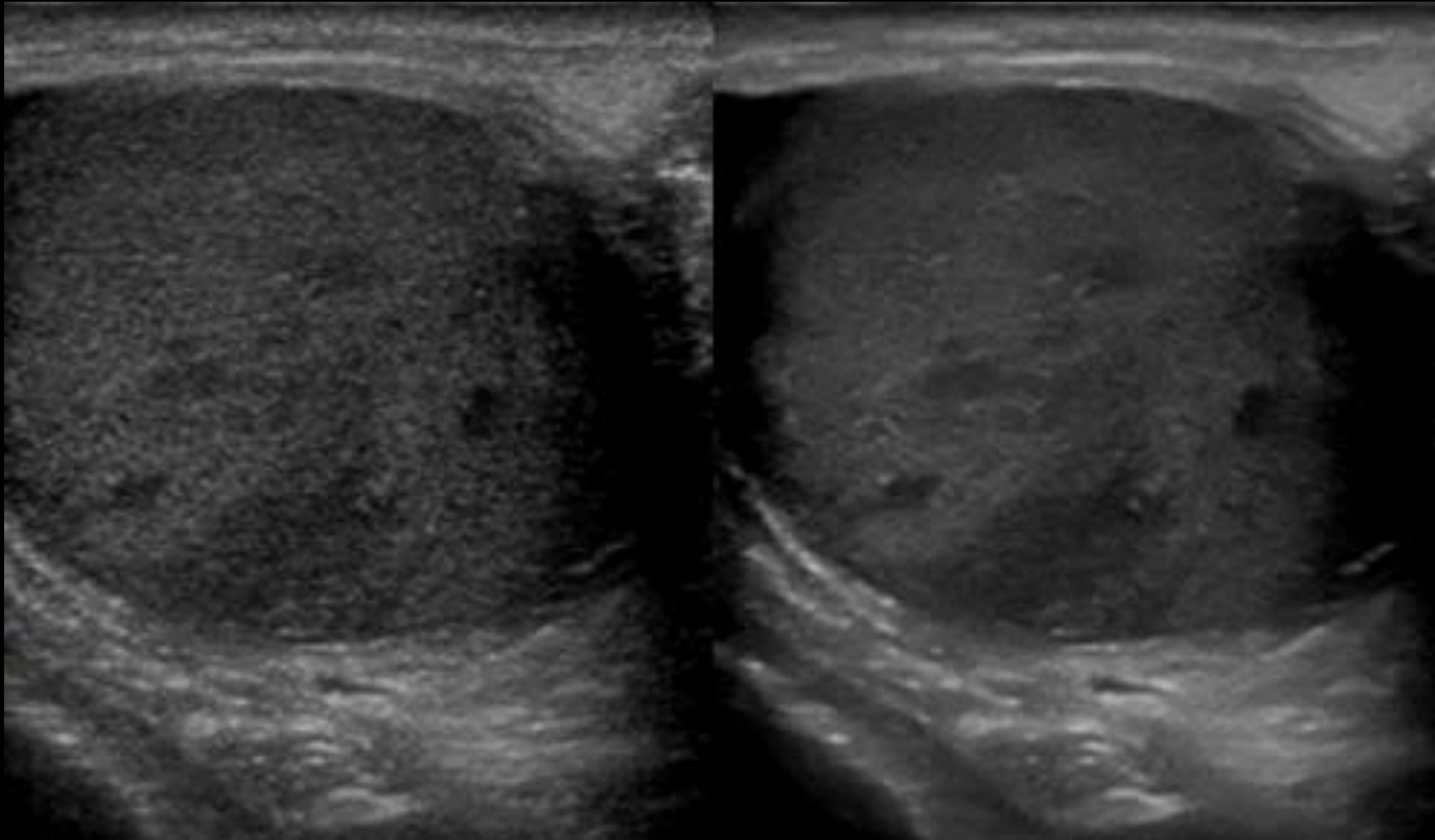
Smooths the image where there is no border or edge

Algorithm does not create structures but rather allows user to see the underlying anatomy



# Post-Acquisition Technologies

## Speckle reduction imaging



# Architecture of Quality Imaging

Thank You!



imagination at work

© 2013 General Electric Company – All rights reserved.

DOC1292532