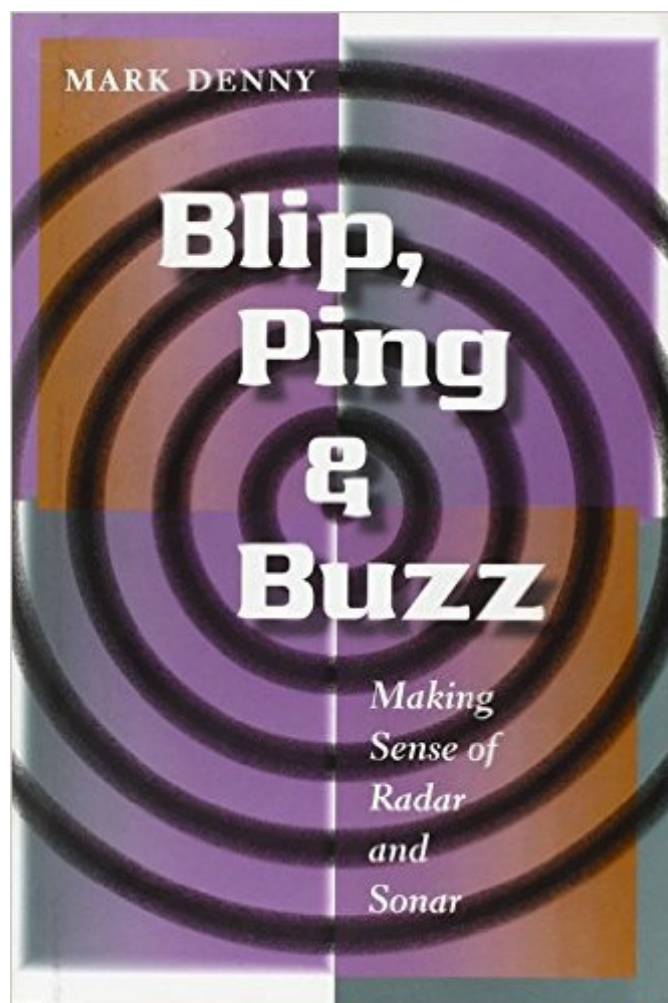


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Blip, Ping, And Buzz: Making Sense Of Radar And Sonar



Synopsis

Have you ever wondered how stealth planes achieve "invisibility," how sunken ships are found, or how fishermen track schools of fish in vast expanses of ocean? Radar and sonar echolocation is a simple matter of sending, receiving, and processing signals. Weaving history with simple science, Mark Denny deftly reveals the world of radar and sonar to the curious reader, technology buff, and expert alike. He begins with an early history of the Chain Home radar system used during World War II and then provides accessible and engaging explanations of the physics that make signal processing possible. Basic diagrams and formulas show how electromagnetic and sound waves are transmitted, received, and converted into images, allowing you to literally see in the dark. A section on bioacoustic echolocation, with a focus on the superior sonar systems of bats and whales and a discussion of the advanced technology of next-generation airborne signal processors, opens the imagination to fascinating possibilities for the future.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This was a very entertaining and enlightening book to read. This goes well beyond the "a wave goes out, reflects and comes back" explanation of radar and sonar. In fact, looking at the Wikipedia entry for Radar, you get an outline of the radar subjects in this book. But this book will be more fun and will explain far better what those words mean. You will learn some of the language of signal processing and have it well illustrated in text and simple figures. He does sonar as well, and the wonderful MB800 signal processor seems to be a favorite. That last part may sound dull, but trust

me, it is not! Denny does some history, most notably of the British Chain Home radar that helped win the Battle of Britain. He also has a nice section on electronic warfare, with a history of the back and forth between the British and the Germans in World War II. If you've wondered about the side-scan sonar images in Bob Ballard's stories of hunting for ships, there is a readable description of how that works. I'll say that it will help you if you read the technical notes at the end of the book. You won't be faced with pages and pages of algebra or a slew of acronyms. Just very good writing

Books on technical subjects can be broadly divided into three main categories: (i) very basic in its descriptions with many historical and biographical snippets but with no mathematics or formulas, (ii) significantly more advanced in technical content with formulas - a possible supplement to a textbook on the subject, and (iii) very advanced such as a textbook or a research paper. I would place this book in the second category. The author's expertise in this field is very obvious through the clarity with which the principles behind radar and sonar are explained. Technical notes at the back of the book, 23 of them, provide more in-depth information for the interested reader on certain technical details. Remote sensing by bats, dolphins and whales is also discussed. The writing style is clear, friendly, authoritative, very witty - a most pleasant feature in a technical book, and quite accessible, although some passages need serious concentration. I learned quite a bit from reading this book but I would benefit even more from re-reading certain sections since this subject, at this level of technical detail, is so new to me. This book would likely be of most interest to science buffs.

This is a great introduction to the subject of remote sensing. It is such a big topic, but this book does an excellent job of giving a complete overview with a good amount of scientific detail. I feel like I am in a good place to dive into the areas of the subject relevant to my interests and I was just flailing around the topic before this book.

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