

# **Partitioning of a Signal Detection Algorithm to a Heterogeneous Multicomputing Platform**

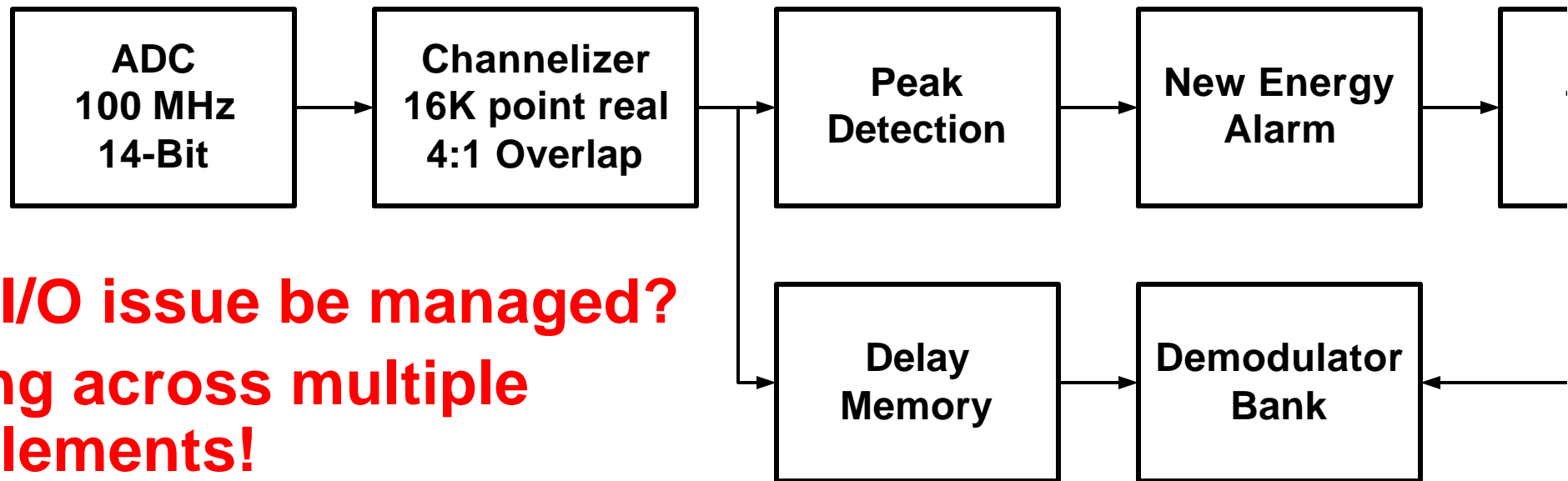
**Michael Vinskus**

**Mercury Computer Systems, Inc.**

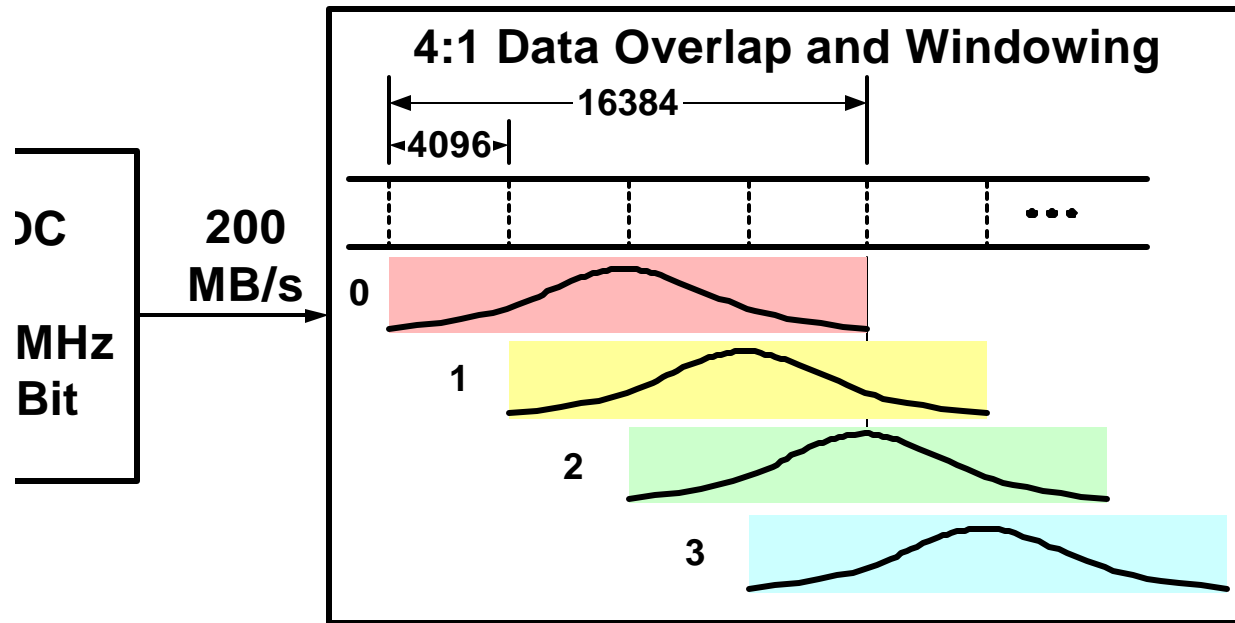
**High Performance Embedded Computing (HPEC) Conference  
September 23, 2003**

# The goal of the acquisition system is to detect the presence of new signals in the environment in a manner so that they may be identified and exploited

- ✍ A homogeneous system based on general purpose processors can be used to solve the problem, but advances in FPGAs allow for a higher processing density in the channelizer
- ✍ Current FPGAs can offer over a 10x computational density improvement over general purpose processors for certain applications. Unfortunately, most commercial FPGAs have not scaled at the same rate



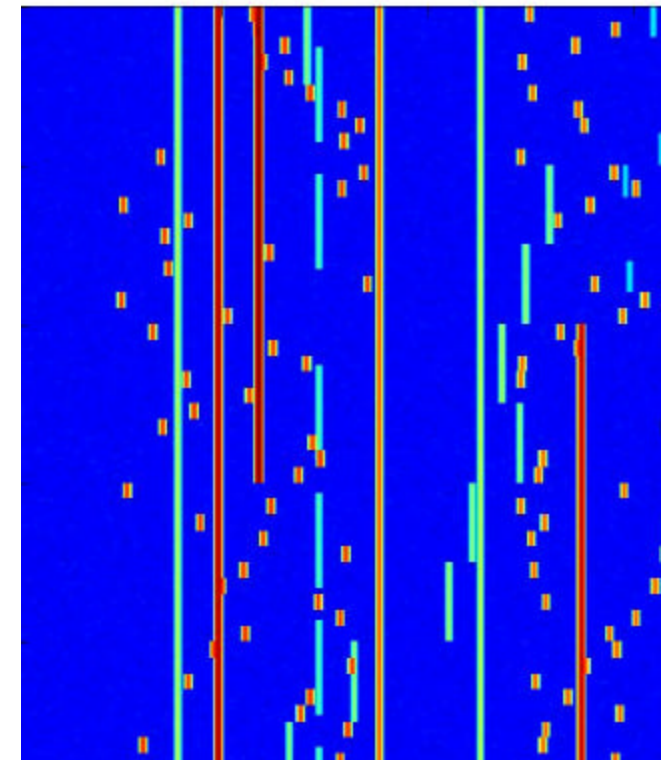
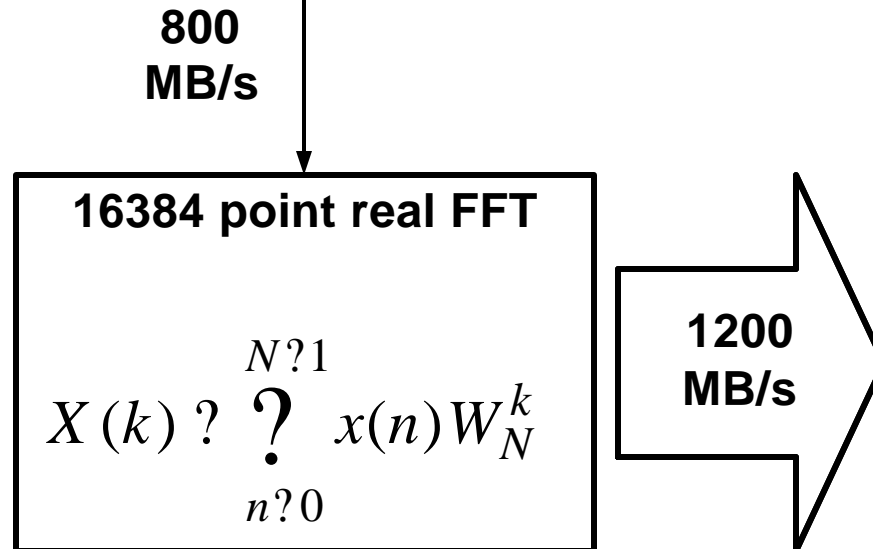
- ✍ Typical acquisition systems place the delay memory after the analog-to-digital converter. For demodulation, a digital down converter (DDC) is used to heterodyne and filter the delayed data stream
- ✍ When the number of signals to demodulate becomes very large (>100), the



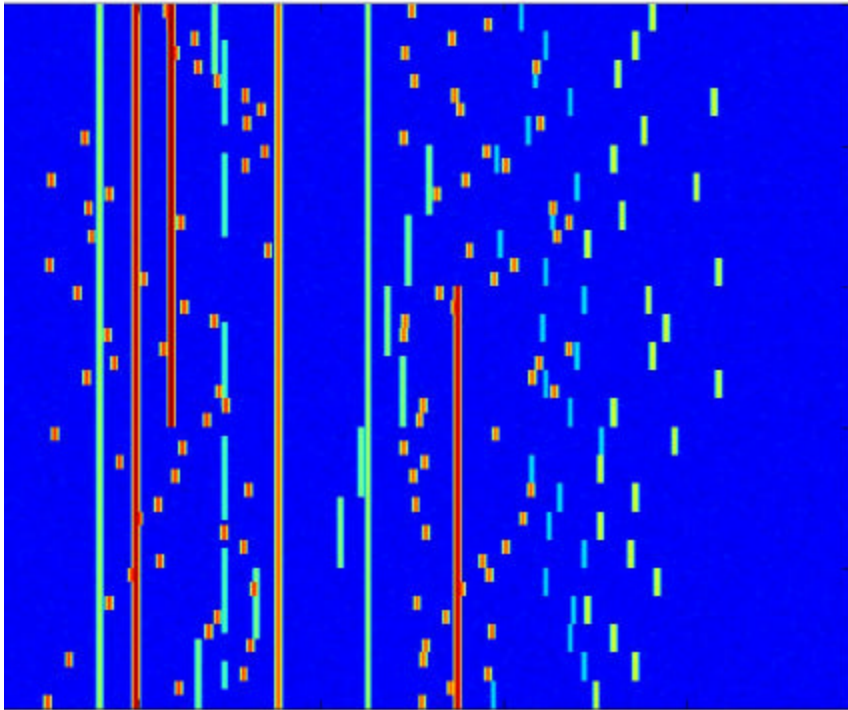
The channelizer decomposes the sample stream into frequency channels by performing overlapped and windowed, time Fourier transform on the input data.

**Parameters:**

- 16384 point real DFT
- 4:1 overlap and windowing (P = 4)
- 16384 input sample
- maximum latency requirement
- Output 8192 bins, complex, 24 bits per component (1200 MB/s)



channelizer throughput is greater than most interconnect fabrics can support

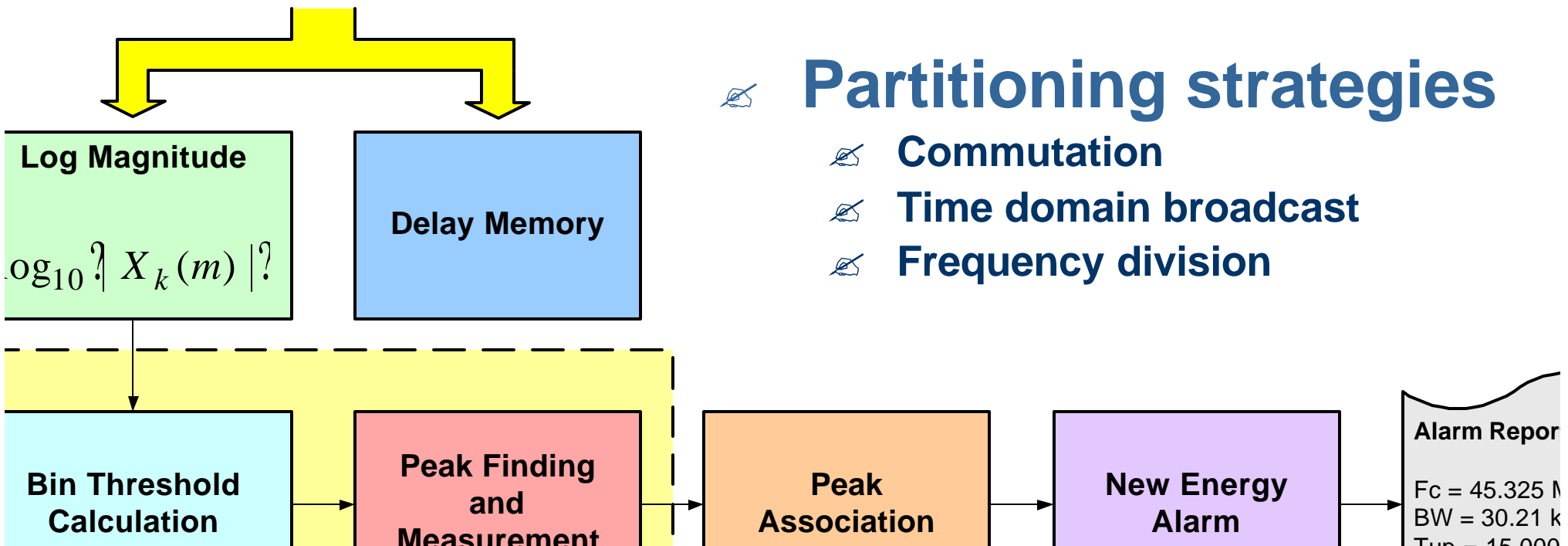


The new energy alarm depends on the presence of “new” signals and performs some rudimentary external measurements

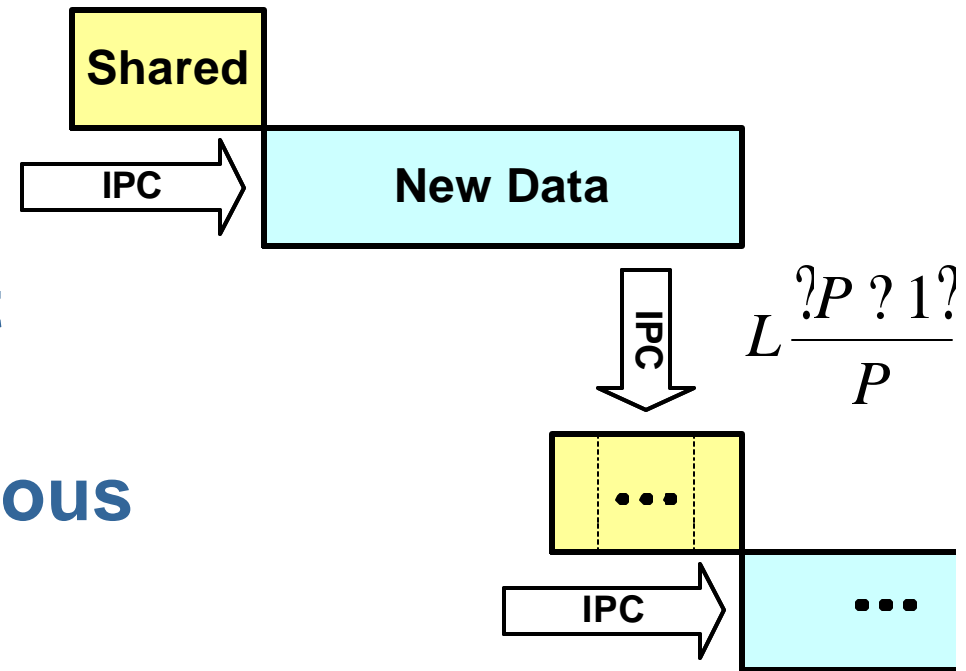
High-input bandwidth and computational requirements necessitate partitioning

## Partitioning strategies

- ✍ Commutation
- ✍ Time domain broadcast
- ✍ Frequency division



# Each processing partition generates the entire frequency sweep for a range of time slices



In this case, the channelizer is split across our partitions

Each partition processes a contiguous segment of the input data stream

By partitioning the problem in this manner, the overhead to handle the segment boundaries is incurred

the system latency increases due to time division nature of the

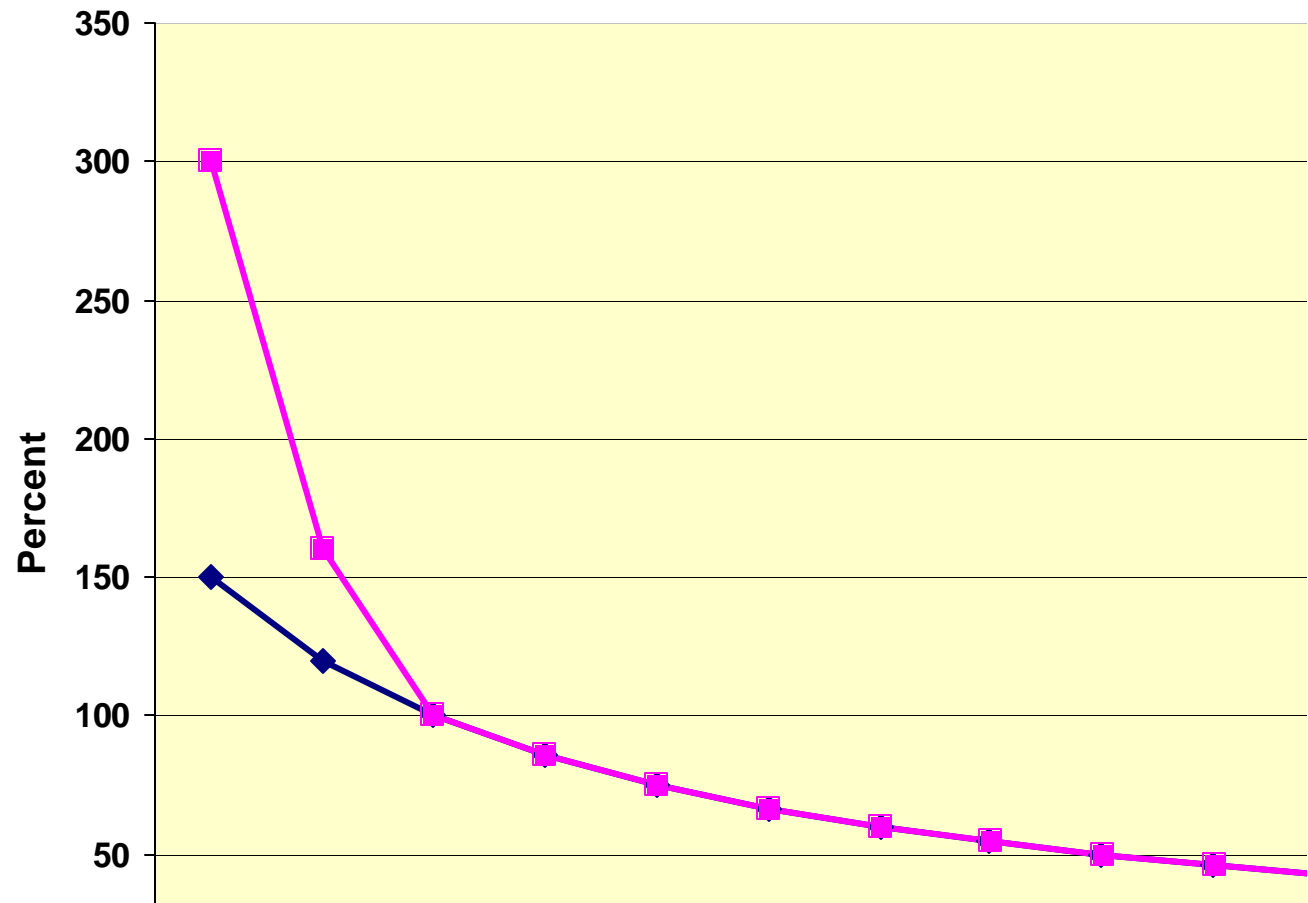


In this example, P-1 old input data need to be received and P-1 blocks to be sent

To meet the one block latency requirement, only one block of new data is passed to each partition; 3/4 data comes from the other partitions. This results in the same data block being transferred an extra 3 times

In this example, input bandwidth increases from 200 MB/s to 800 MB/s. We're going the wrong way!

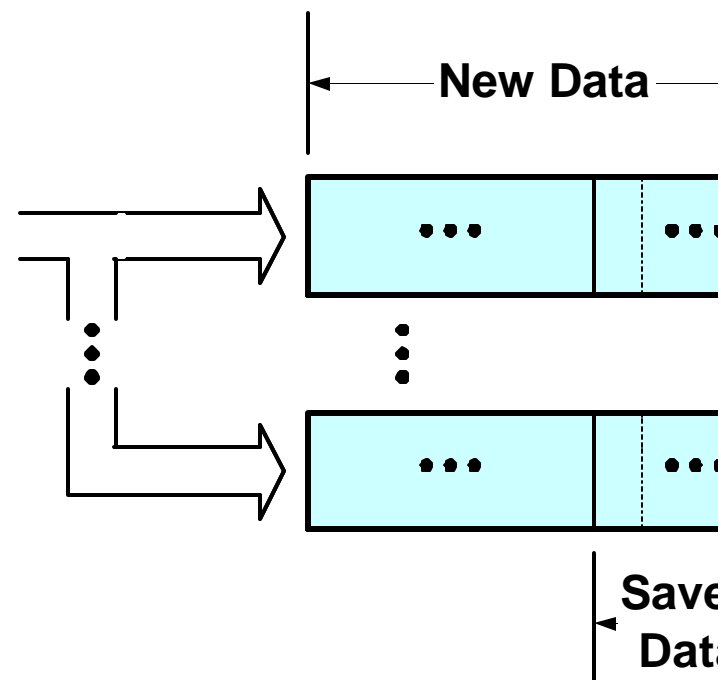
Throughput Overhead for Time Commutated



**Each partition receives the entire data stream**

**No extra I/O overhead is incurred**

**Partitioning does not add latency**



**No communication between channelizer partition**

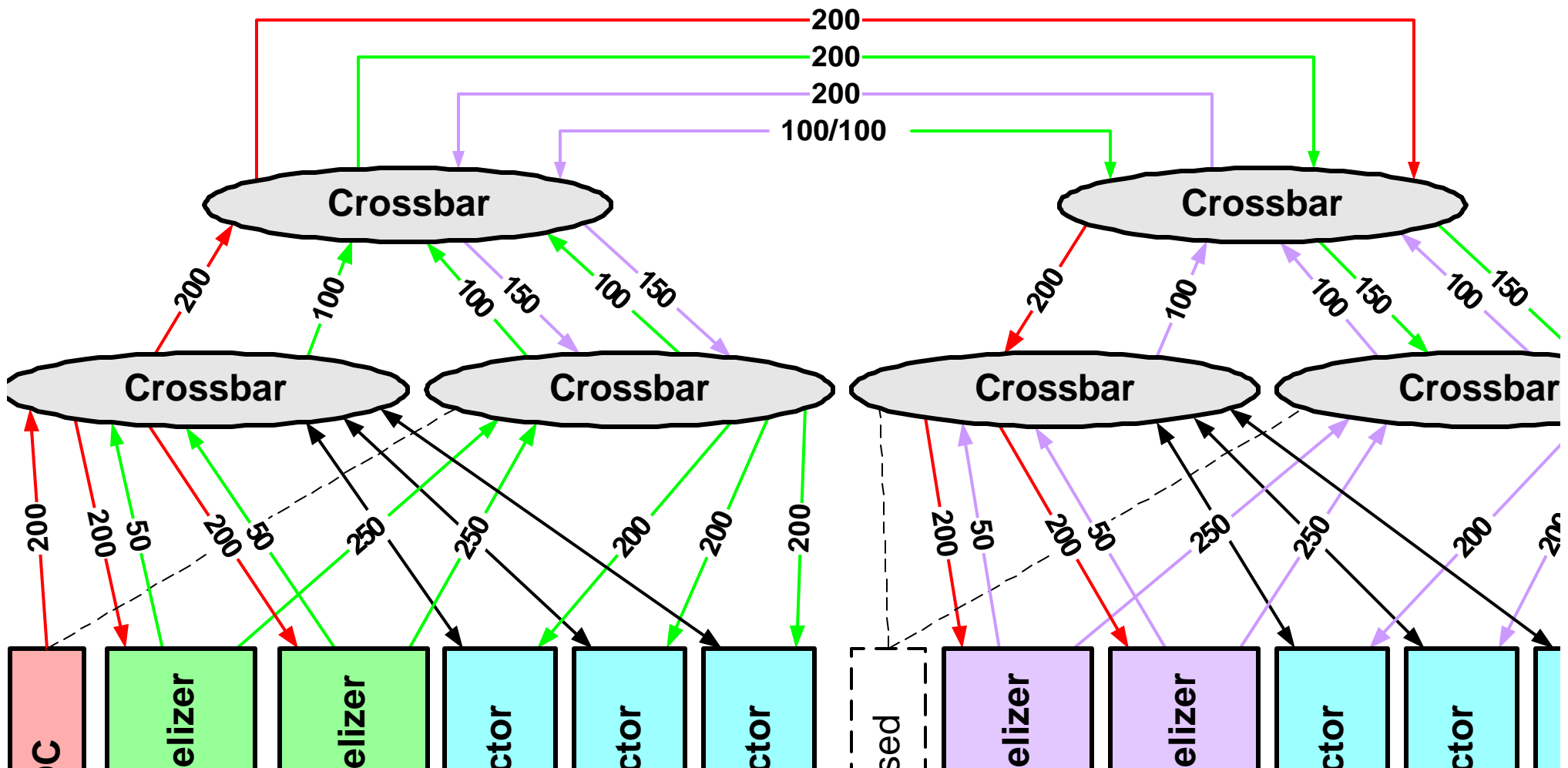
**Still need to send all of the channelizer output data to the detector processors**

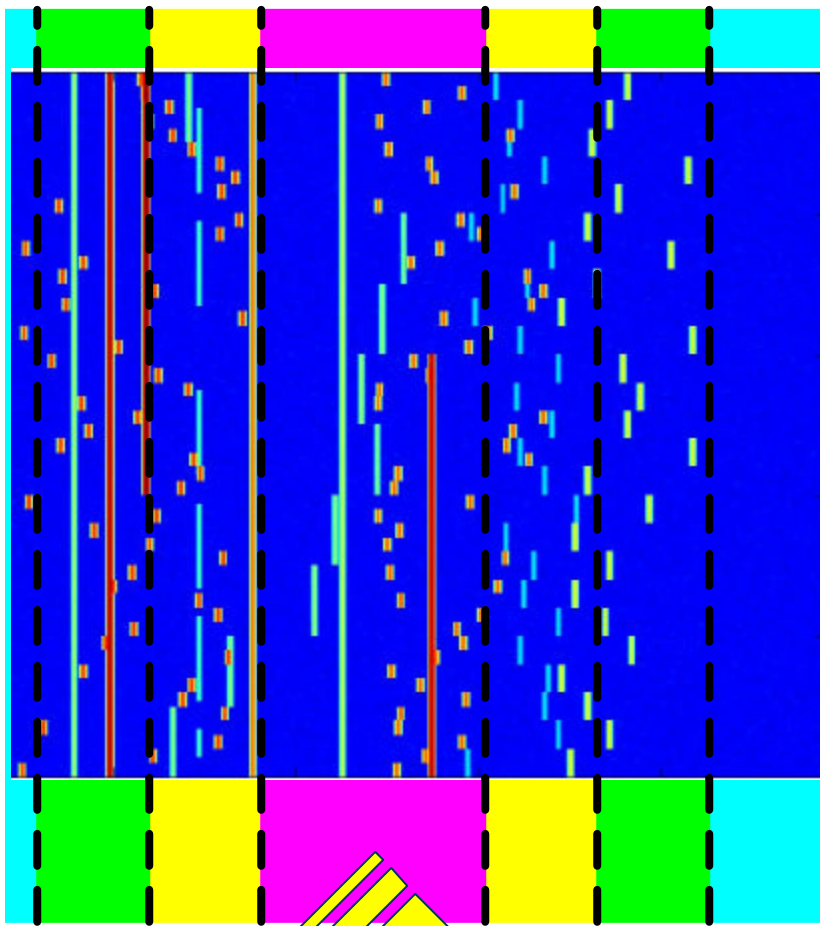
**If there are a sufficient number of detector processor elements allocated and they are located correctly in the fabric, then I/O bottlenecks can be avoided**

Each fabric connection is a 266 MB/s half duplex link to the crossbar  
Typical performance is around 250 MB/s

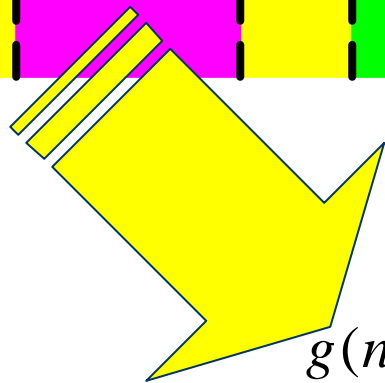
To accommodate the channelizer output rate, the output stream is split across multiple connections

This complicates the data flow and fully utilizes the fabric I/O capabilities in many places





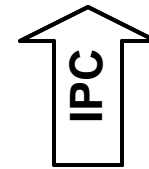
- Each node generates a set of the frequency bins for each time slice
- Each partition needs all time series data for each sweep



$g(n)$

Input

$X^{[k_{p-1}]}$



Partition  $p$

Partition generates DFT points:

$X^{[k_{p-1} : k_p]}$

$X^{[N - k_p : N - k_{p-1} - 1]}$

Output

$G^{[k_{p-1} : k_p]}$

$G^{[N - k_p : N - k_{p-1} - 1]}$



$k_{p-1} \dots k_p \dots N$

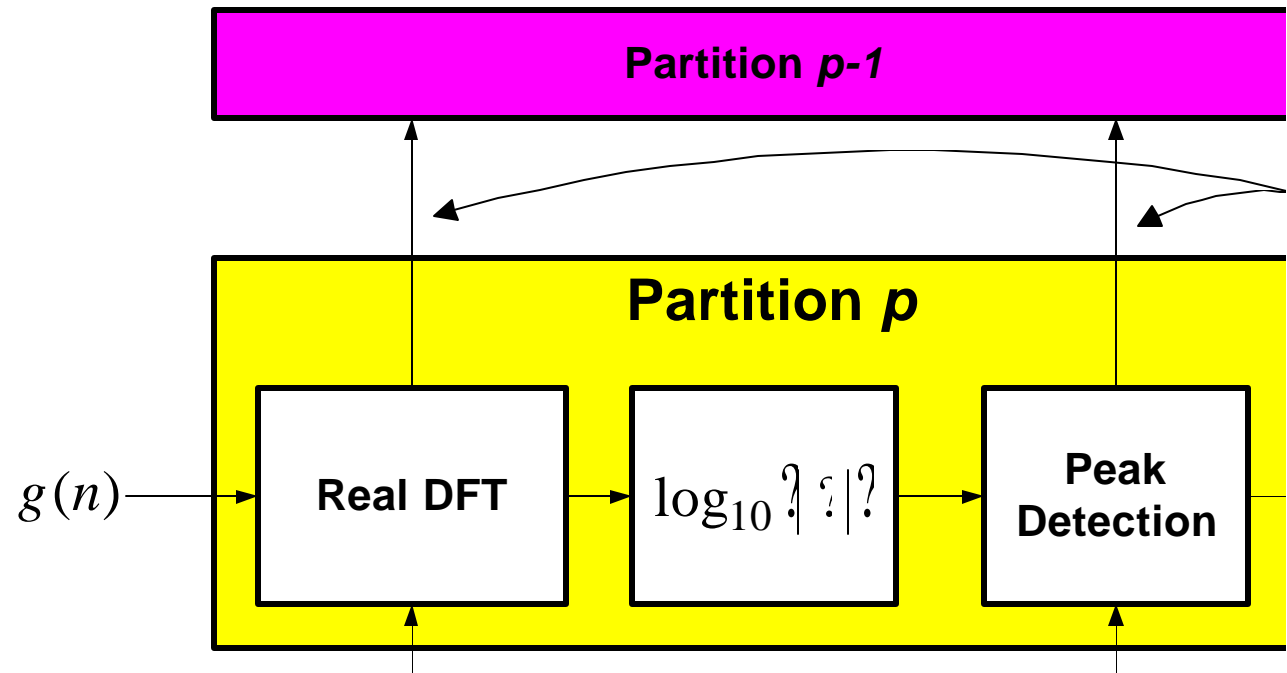
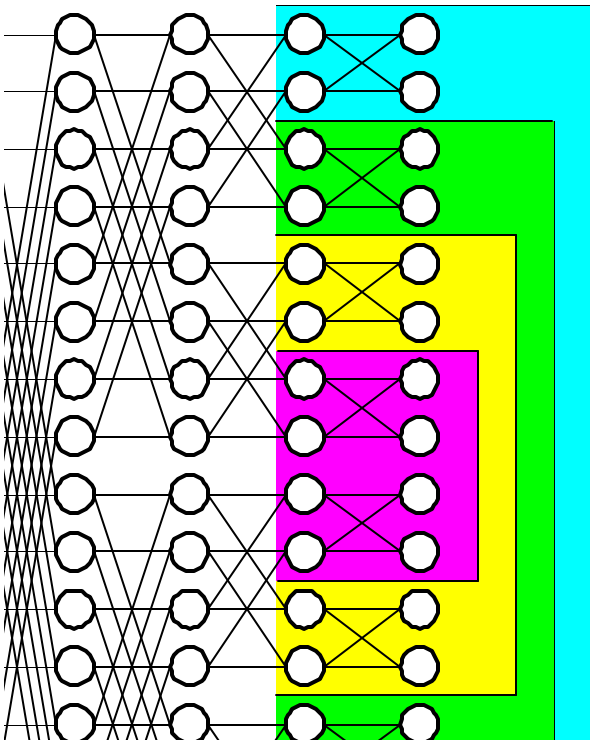
to pipeline the  
realizer and detection

Each partition performs the front part of the FFT computations. This is inefficient, but the I/O issue simpler

Uniform communication between partitions at par boundaries only

- ✍ Single element communication between channelizer partitions
- ✍ Similar communication between detector partitions!

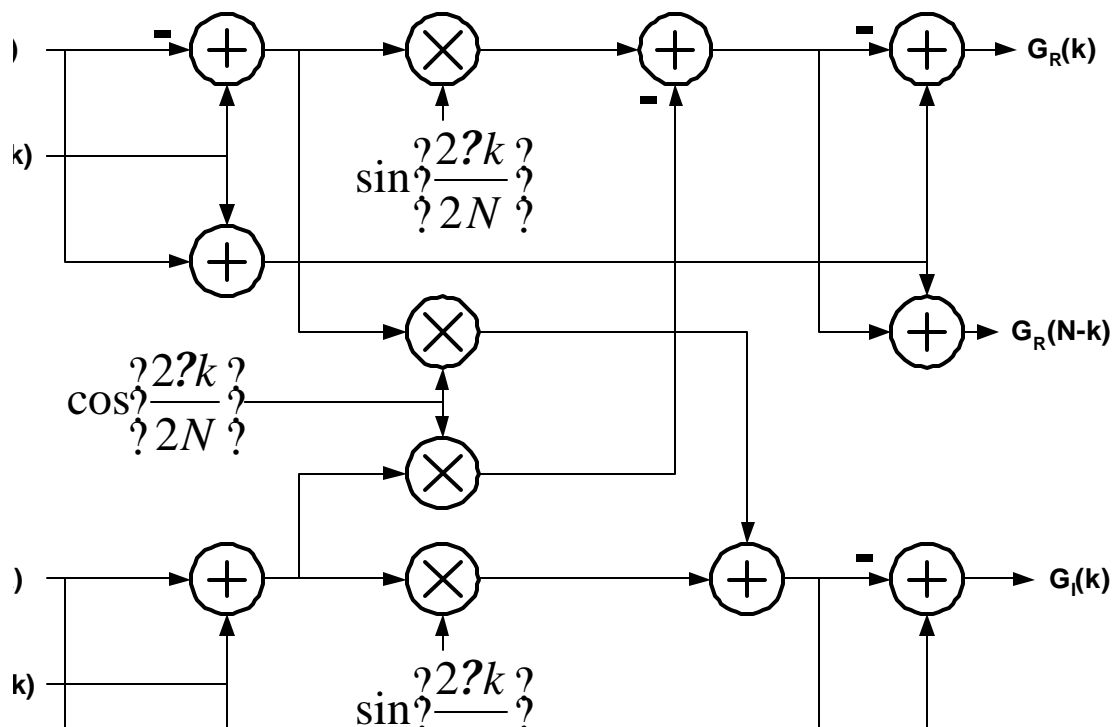
So why the unusual allocation of the frequency bi



The algorithm exploits the efficient computation of the DFT of a 2N-point, real-valued, input sequence with an N-point complex transform

Since the input data is real, only one half of the output spectrum needs to be computed

$$G(k) = \frac{1}{2} [X(k) + X^*(N-k) - j W_{2N}^k (X(k) - X^*(N-k))] \quad \text{for } k=0, \dots, N-1$$

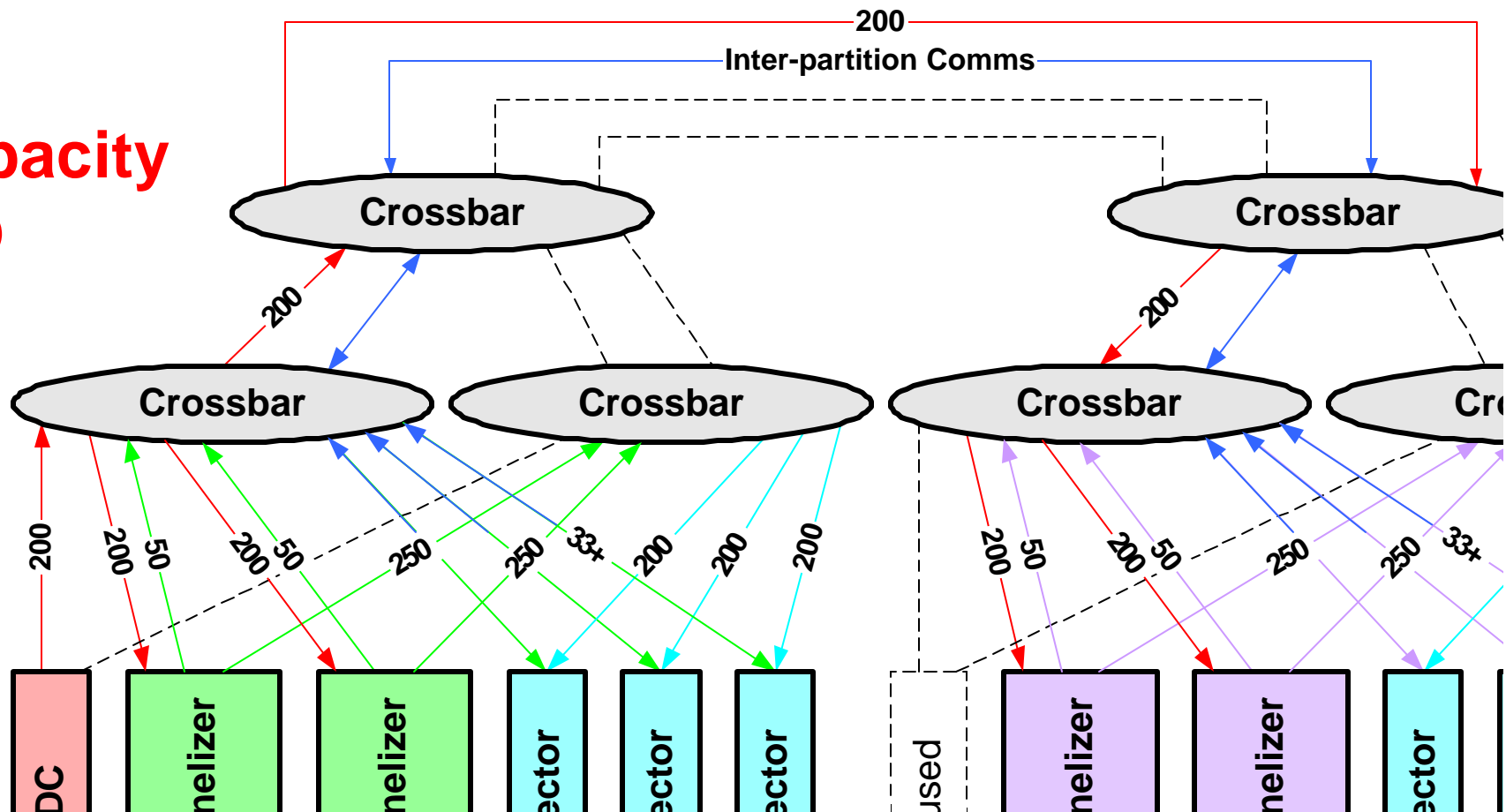


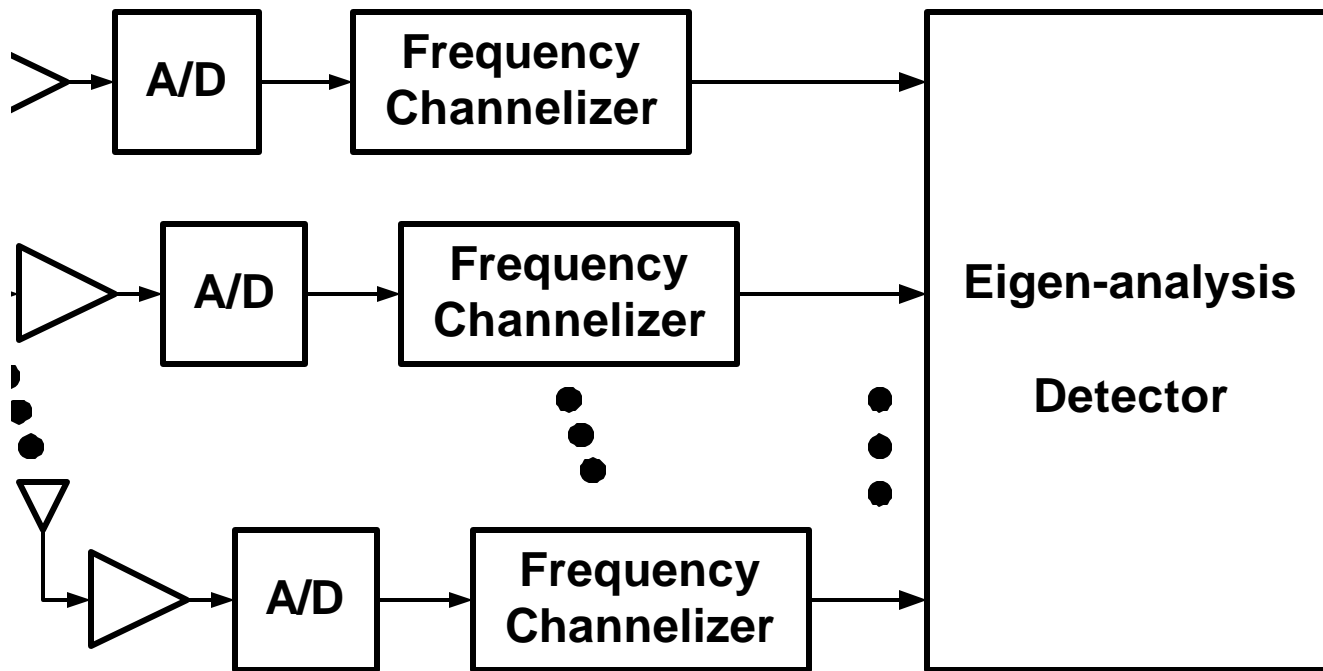
By processing a range of  $X(N-k)$  frequency pairs, many output points can be calculated with only two additions!

Redundant computations are performed in each channelizer partition to reduce the system I/O requirements

Unlike the time partitioning case, most of the I/O movement occurs locally in the fabric

Increases  
Processing capacity  
Reduced I/O  
Complexity





- ✍ Adds an extra dimension to the problem
- ✍ Typical antennas consist of 4 - 8 elements

**Multi-antenna detection algorithms are different than the single antenna case. Typically, eigenspace methods are employed**

**The channelizer is similar between the single and multi-antenna cases**

**Detection processing requires the time series data for each frequency bin**

**Power magnitude computation is not required**

**Eigenvalues and eigenvectors are computed for each bin, across all antennas**

**As shown in the previous example, frequency domain processing has advantages when I/O bandwidth conditions are tight**