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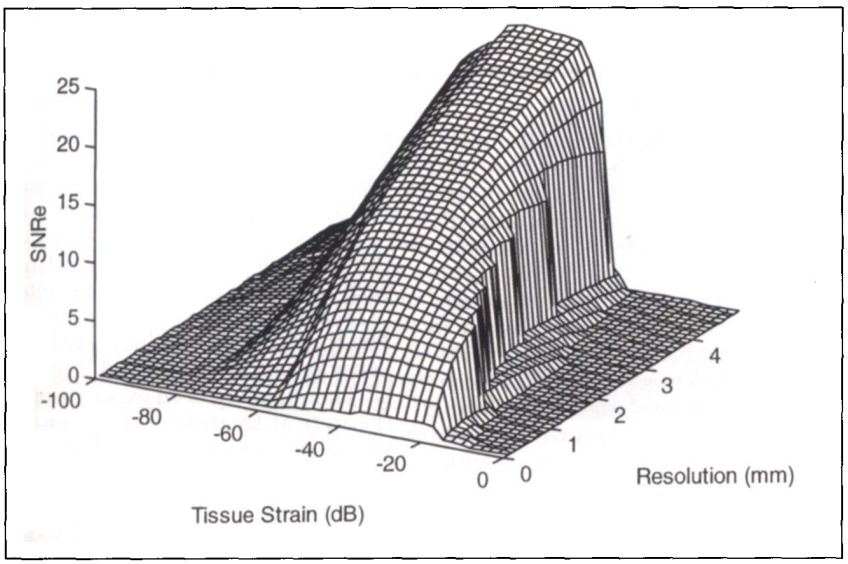


Remember the tail fins on autos of the 1950s? Had CAD/CAM been ubiquitous in Detroit at that time, one might see this month's EDITOR'S CHOICE as an artifact of that age. The aerodynamic design considerations are unmistakable. Or, if you watched television coverage of Nagano's Winter Olympics, you undoubtedly saw this graphic representation of the most challenging ski slope. Of course this Art Deco shape might merely be an abstract distortion of an elastic graph. If you look inside yourself, literally, you'll find the answer. That is, if you look inside using a diagnostic ultrasound technique. It turns out, as explained by T. Varghese, M. Bilgen, and J. Ophir (*IEEE Trans. Ultrason., Ferroelect., Freq. Contr.* **45** [January 1998] pp. 65–75), that the accuracy of elastographic imaging of our innards, by detecting and analyzing the reverberations of ultrasound, is bounded by a strain filter, which is the shape shown here. This is essentially a bandpass filter in the tissue strain domain. The clearest implication is that the poorer the resolution one is willing to accept (*y*-axis), the better the signal-to-noise ratio becomes (*z*-axis). A more subtle implication arises from the ski slope's lateral curvature. This tells us that the relatively noisiest signal results from attempts to achieve the best resolution at the highest decibels of strain. Under these conditions of tissue strain, who among us would not expect to hear more noise?



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