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A New Coherent DOA Estimator for Radar Communication

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Abstract

Nyström based direction of arrival (DOA) technique to reduce the computational load is proposed in this paper. This algorithm computes singular vector decomposition (SVD) of intended signals without computing sample covariance matrix (SCM). For a uniform linear array (ULA) composed of ‘ L ’ antenna elements, proposed Nyström based ESPRIT method requires only $O(LM^2+LM)$ flops to compute SVD of SCM when ‘ M ’ number of signals impinge ULA. This makes algorithm computationally efficient especially when the antenna elements or number of snapshots are too large. Computer simulations are carried out and comparison with recent DOA methods are made to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Nyström based ESPRIT method in wireless communication applications.

Key Words: ESPRIT, Direction-of-arrival, Nyström, MUSIC, Symmetric ULA.

1. Introduction

We know that array signal processing is one of the rapidly growing areas of communication engineering. In wireless communication, the beam forming and effective direction of arrival estimation using smart antenna systems are more efficient in terms of signal quality[1]-[3]. Multiple signal classification (MUSIC)[4], root MUSIC[5] and estimation of signal parameter using rotational invariance technique (ESPRIT)[6] are the most promising methods for

estimating the DOAs of intended signals using multiple antennas. In [7], a reduced complexity beamforming algorithm for mobile communications is presented. Interference reduction is the key factor to effectively communicate with mobile users. In [8] the performance enhanced beamforming algorithms for multiple-input and multiple-output (MIMO) system is presented. The increased demands for capacity and quality for MIMO operates without bothering for increase in radio frequency spectrum allocation. This factor motivates for new algorithms to improve the need for spectrum utilization. Performance evaluation of handover in long

term evolution (LTE) based on power budget handover algorithm is discussed in[9].

The ESPRIT is one of the widely used and perhaps the most studied DOA algorithm in its class [10]-[16]. However, this technique deteriorates from its performance for small sample size and low signal to noise ratio (SNR) conditions. It requires huge computations for large antenna arrays and samples to compute SCM and eigen vector decomposition (EVD). Literature shows few methods used to reduce the complexity of DoA algorithms [17]-[26]. Few popular methods are: DOA estimation via pseudorandom resampling of spatial spectrum [27], lp -MUSIC [28], M-MUSIC [29], F-MUSIC [30], Unitary root-MUSIC[31] and Nyström-MUSIC[32].

Speed of the DOA methods can be enhanced by generating the low rank approximations [33]. This can be achieved by the use of Nyström criteria to the subspace methods. Reducing the complexity of the DOA algorithms and making them more robust and suitable for the practical applications like, radar, sonar and wireless communications is the key motivation. Hence, in this work, we used the Nyström approximation to the popular ESPRIT algorithm to make it a suitable candidate for wireless communications, particularly when the array elements or sample size is more.

2. Array Signal Model

Consider a geometry of ULA with $L = 2N + 1$ antenna elements distributed horizontally with $M(M < L)$ number of source signals as shown in Figure 1. Let the spacing between each antenna element be $d = \lambda / 2$. Here $\lambda = v / f$, where v is the speed of light and f is the frequency of received signals respectively. Let received $\vec{x}(n)$ impinges ULA with directions $\theta(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_m)$ in far field is $\vec{x}(n) = [x_{-N}(n), \dots, x_0(n), \dots, x_N(n)]^T$.

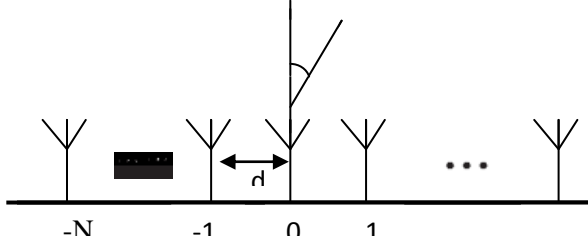


Figure1. Considered Symmetric ULA Model.

The induced signal in noisy environment at n^{th} time can be expressed as

$$\bar{x}(n) = \sum_{i=1}^M \bar{a}(\theta_i) * \bar{s}(n) + \bar{n}_o(n), \quad (1)$$

Here,

$\bar{s}(n)$ = Desired signal

$\bar{a}(\theta_i)$ = steering vector of i^{th} interference signal

$\bar{n}(n)$ = White Gaussian noise with zero mean.

The above equation can be expressed in matrix form as

$$\bar{x}(n) = \bar{A}(\theta) \bar{s}(n) + \bar{n}(n) \quad n = 0, 1, \dots, N-1 \quad (2)$$

Where

$$\bar{A}(\theta) = [\bar{a}(\theta_1), \bar{a}(\theta_2), \dots, \bar{a}(\theta_M)] \quad (3)$$

$$\bar{s}(n) = [\bar{s}_1(n), \bar{s}_2(n), \dots, \bar{s}_M(n)] \quad (4)$$

are the steering matrix and complex signal vectors respectively.

The SCM required for the DoA estimation can be calculated as

$$\mathfrak{R} = E[\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^H] \quad (5)$$

Where

$\mathbf{X} = [\mathbf{x}(1), \mathbf{x}(2), \dots, \mathbf{x}(N)]$ is a data matrix.

3. Proposed Nystrom Based DoA Algorithm

In this work, the complexity of MUSIC algorithm is reduced by using Nystrom theory. DOA estimation using subspace based method uses intensive computations to calculate singular vector decomposition (SVD). Nystrom is the well known mathematician; he has shown that the SVD of sample covariance matrix (SCM) can be computed without actually computing SCM[2]. We have used this classical method in ESPRIT algorithm to reduce its complexity.

Hence the SCM $\mathfrak{R} = E\{\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^H\}$ can be expressed as

$$\mathfrak{R} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathfrak{R}_{11} & \mathfrak{R}_{12} \\ \mathfrak{R}_{12}^H & \mathfrak{R}_{22} \end{bmatrix} \quad (6)$$

Let the received signal matrix 'X' can be portioned as

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X}_1 \\ \mathbf{X}_2 \end{bmatrix} \quad (7)$$

Here, $\mathbf{X}_1 \in C^{u \times n}$ and $\mathbf{X}_2 \in C^{(L-u) \times n}$ are data sub matrices obtained from the 1st 'u' antenna array elements & (L-u) antenna array elements respectively. Here 'u' is the user defined signal parameter which satisfies $u \in (1, 2, \dots, L)$. Let us define

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{R}_{11} &= E[\mathbf{X}_1 \mathbf{X}_1^H] & \mathfrak{R}_{12} &= E[\mathbf{X}_1 \mathbf{X}_2^H] \\ \mathfrak{R}_{22} &= E[\mathbf{X}_2 \mathbf{X}_2^H] \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

The main aim of this work is to approximate the eigenvectors and eigenvalues using low complexity techniques. Now, let us consider \mathfrak{R}_{11} is the nonsingular

matrix with rank is 'M'. Let $\mathbf{D}_e = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X}_{11} \\ \mathbf{X}_{12}^H \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{X}_{11}^{-1/2}$ and

the eigen value decomposition of matrix $\mathbf{D}_e^H \mathbf{D}_e$ and it is $\mathbf{R}_D \Lambda_D \mathbf{R}_D^H$. Let $\mathbf{F} = \Lambda_D^{1/2} \mathbf{R}_D^H \mathbf{R}_D \Lambda_D^{1/2}$ and eigen

value decomposition of F is $\mathbf{R}_F \Lambda_F \mathbf{R}_F^H$. Hence the signal subspace $\mathbf{R}_S \in C^{m \times n}$ is $\mathbf{R}_S = \mathbf{D}_e \mathbf{R}_D \Lambda_D^{-1/2} \mathbf{R}_F$

Now, from the above expressions we can represent the Nystrom covariance estimator as

$$\begin{aligned} \chi_{NCE} &= \mathbf{R}_S \Lambda_D \mathbf{R}_S^H \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X}_{11} & \mathbf{X}_{12} \\ \mathbf{X}_{12}^H & \mathbf{X}_{12} \mathbf{X}_{11}^{-1} \mathbf{X}_{12} \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

Hence this method requires only \mathfrak{R}_{11} and \mathfrak{R}_{12} to calculation for DoA estimation.

4. Results and Discussions

A Nystrom based ESPRIT DOA algorithm for spectrum estimation of desired signals is implemented in this section. The parameters used for the simulation are tabulated in Table 1. Let us assume that noise is white Gaussian with σ^2 variance and zero mean. The performance of the proposed method is validated and compared with other popular techniques by means of root mean square error (RMSE) using Monte Carlo simulations.

TABLE 1
Parameters used for the simulation of the proposed algorithm

| S.No | Parameters | Values |
|------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Array Configuration | ULA |
| 2 | No. of Antennas (L) | 10-70 |
| 3 | Inter element spacing | $\lambda/2$ |
| 4 | Snapshots | 100-800 |
| 5 | Monte Carlo trials | 500 |
| 6 | SNR | -40dB to 10dB |

The Nystrom based DOA algorithm is simulated and performance of the smart antenna system is studied using RMSE and the results are compared with classical MUSIC, root MUSIC, modified MUSIC and unitary MUSIC. These results are shown in Figure 1 form small and large antenna arrays. The root mean square error (RMSE) for analyzing the performance of various DOA methods is expressed as[6].

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{T} \sum_{M=1}^T \left| \hat{\theta}_M - \theta_M \right|^2} \quad (10)$$

Here, T is the number of Monte Carlo trials.

$\hat{\theta}_M$ is the actual direction of source signal

θ_M is the estimated direction of source signal.

Let us consider two narrowband signals with directions 10° and 60° impinge a ULA composed of $L=20$. Let, snapshots (K)=800, inter-element spacing $d=0.5\lambda$ with SNR varying from -40dB to 10dB. Histogram for the DoA estimation for the sources arriving at 10° and 60° is shown in Figure 2.

The RMSE angle performance for small ULA (by considering $L=10$) and large ULA (by considering $L=40$) is shown in Figure 3(a) and (b) respectively. Figure 4 shows the RMSE angle performance when $K=100$ and SNR is varying from -8dB to 10dB keeping other parameters same.

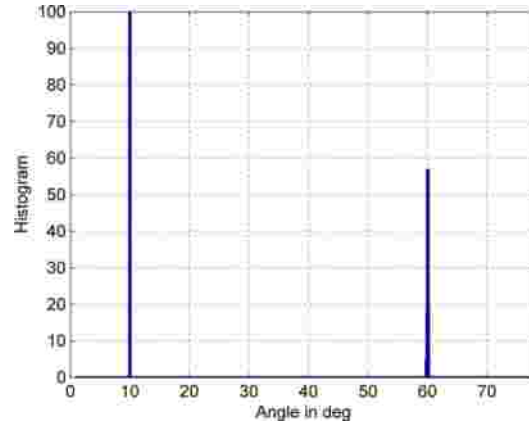


Figure 2: Histogram plot of proposed ESPRIT for 10° and 60° targets.

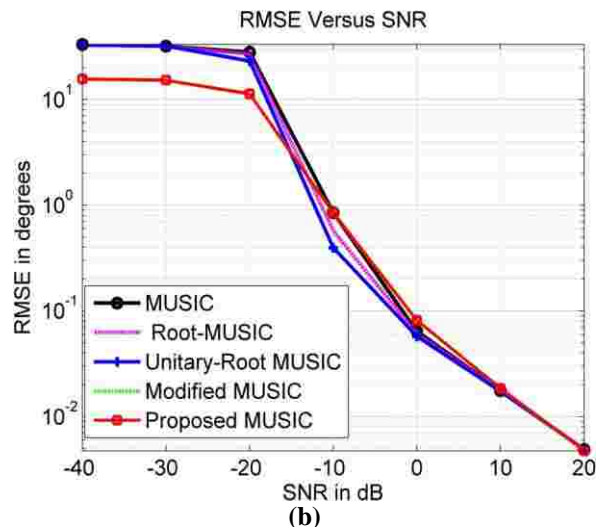
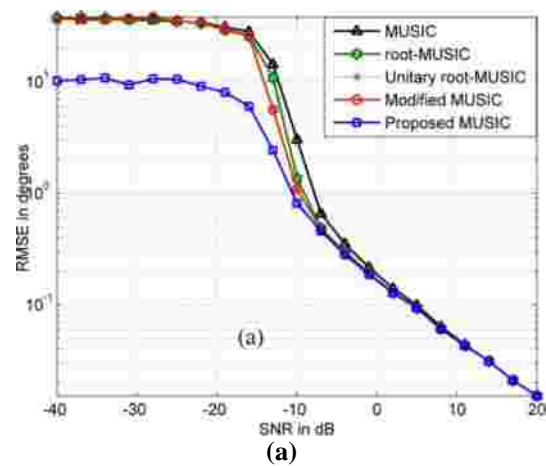


Figure 3: RMSE versus SNR for (a) small antenna array ($L=10$) (b) Large antenna array ($L=40$).

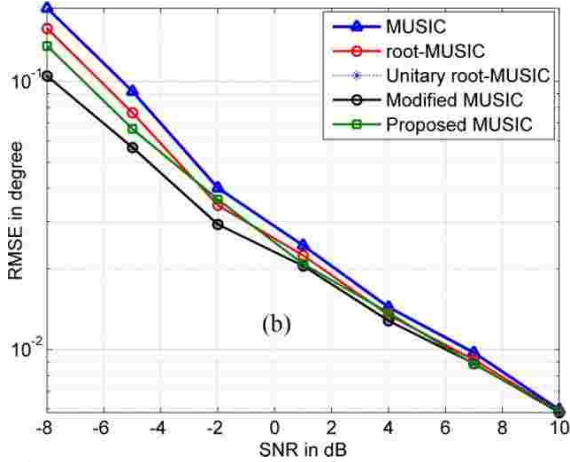


Figure 4: RMSE versus SNR for ($L=10, M=2, K=100, SNR = -8\text{dB to }10\text{dB}$).

The time complexity of the proposed method with other popular DoA methods is shown in Figure 5. We used Intel i5-3110M CPU system with 2.40GHz capacity.

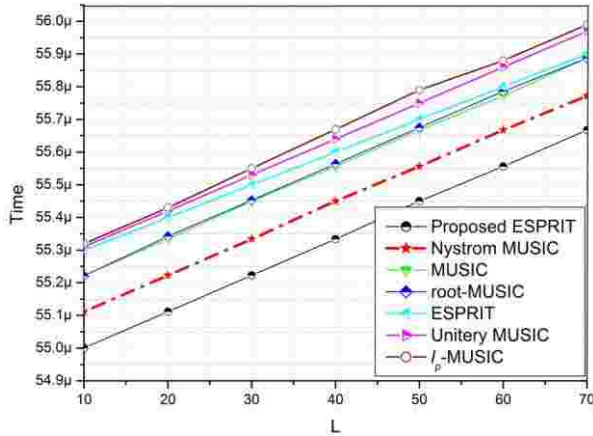


Figure 4: Time calculation of DOA algorithms (in seconds).

From Figures 3 and 4, we note that the proposed and the classical MUSIC algorithm have almost similar RMSE performance. Hence the complexity of MUSIC algorithm is reduced significantly without affecting its performance.

From Figure 5, it is clear that the proposed Nyström based algorithm requires less time as compared to other methods.

4.1 Computational Complexity

The conventional MUSIC uses $O(L^3) + O(L^2K)$ flops to compute singular vector decomposition of sample covariance matrix. The proposed Nyström based ESPRIT algorithm calculates SVD of SCM without actually computing SCM. It requires only

$O(LM^2 + LM)$ flops, provided that $M < L$. This makes it computationally efficient and economic.

5. Conclusion

DOA estimation using subspace based methods use intensive computations to calculate SVD. These methods require EVD and sample covariance matrix decomposition to find the signal and noise subspace. The computations will be huge when the number of antenna elements and snapshots increases. Hence computationally efficient algorithms are required for the practical applications. Nystrom theory is a classical algebra which can be used to speed up the algorithms. This new method computes the SVD without computing the sample covariance matrix. Classical MUSIC require $O(L^3) + O(L^2K)$ flops to compute SVD of SCM whereas the Nystrom –DOA algorithm requires only $O(LM^2+LM)$ flops. This makes the proposed algorithm efficient especially when the antenna elements or snapshots are too large. Experimental results presented validate its effectiveness.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest: The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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