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Abstract—In this paper, we present a new multichannel spectral factorization algorithm which can be utilized to calculate the approximate spectral factor of any para-Hermitian polynomial matrix. The proposed algorithm is based on an iterative method for polynomial matrix eigenvalue decomposition (PEVD). By using the PEVD algorithm, the multichannel spectral factorization problem is simply broken down to a set of single channel problems which can be solved by means of existing one-dimensional spectral factorization algorithms. In effect, it transforms the multichannel spectral factorization problem into one which is much easier to solve.

I. INTRODUCTION

Spectral factorization arises in the analysis and design of linear systems, such as constructing a causal system which corresponds to a given spectral density function. The concept was initially introduced by Wiener to factorize the spectrum of a random sequence [1], and has been further extended to multivariate sequence scenarios [2]. Since then, Youla [3] established the fundamental results on rational spectral matrix factorization problems.

There exist numerous algorithms for calculating spectral factorization, such as a Newton-Raphson based method proposed by Wilson for the scalar case [4] and the polynomial matrix case [5], and the spectral factorization algorithm developed by Janashia et al. [6]. A paper written by Kučera [7] illustrated some major parametric methods for calculating the spectral factorization, including Toeplitz matrix decomposition and Newton-Raphson iterations. Each method has its own advantages to cope with spectral factorization, but none of them is perfect. They are only suitable under certain circumstances. Newton-Raphson’s method converges fast at the cost of high computational complexity, while the Toeplitz matrix decomposition converges more slowly with less computational cost. In addition, a paper written by Sayed [8] presented a survey of spectral factorization methods including the Bauer method, the Schur algorithm, the Levinson-Durbin algorithm, and techniques based on the Riccati equation, the Kalman filter and so on.

Most of these spectral factorization algorithms, with the exception of those due to Wilson and Janashia, do not extend to the multichannel situation. Wilson’s algorithm seems to provide a viable approach to the multichannel spectral factorization problem in terms of stability and reliability but is reputed to run into problems when the number of channels grows too big.

Spectral factorization has attracted lots of interest in digital signal processing and communications in recent years. Applications have been found in areas, such as designing minimum phase FIR filters, quadrature-mirror filter banks [9], the optimum transmit and receive filter matrices for precoding and equalization of multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) systems [10], and minimum phase FIR precoders for multicasting MIMO frequency selective channels [11].

The contribution of this paper is to study a novel method in computing the multichannel spectral factorization, and this method utilizes an iterative PEVD algorithm, known as the second order sequential best rotation (SBR2) algorithm [12], to break down the multichannel spectral factorization problem into independent single channel spectral factorization problems for which suitable algorithms already exist. In addition, the fundamental indeterminacy property of spectral factorization has been exploited in order to keep the resulting spectral factor order as low as possible.

For the rest of the paper, we start by formulating the multichannel spectral factorization problem in Sec. II. In Sec. III, an iterative PEVD algorithm, i.e. the SBR2 algorithm, is briefly introduced. Sec. IV describes the proposed multichannel spectral factorization method. Simulation results and conclusions are shown in Sec. V and Sec. VI respectively.

II. PROBLEM FORMULATION

In many signal processing applications involving multiple sensors, given a data vector \( x[n] \in \mathbb{C}^{M} \), the space-time covariance matrix is represented by \( R[\tau] = E \{ x[n] x^{H}[n-\tau] \} \), in which \( E \{ \cdot \} \) denotes the expectation, and the superscript \( H \) stands for Hermitian transpose. Thus the cross-spectral density (CSD) matrix \( \tilde{R}(z) \) is computed by applying \( z \)-transform to \( R[\tau] \), i.e., \( \tilde{R}(z) = \sum_{\tau} R[\tau] z^{-\tau} \). Note that the CSD matrix is a para-Hermitian polynomial matrix, which satisfies \( \tilde{R}(z) = \tilde{R}(z)^{H} \). Here \( \tilde{R}(z) \) is the paraconjugate of \( \tilde{R}(z) \), and it is defined as \( \tilde{R}(z) = \tilde{R}(H)(1/z) \), i.e. applying Hermitian transpose to the polynomial coefficient matrices \( R[\tau] \) and time-reversing all the elements in it.

According to Wiener’s spectral factorization theorem [2], [6], [13], if a para-Hermitian polynomial matrix \( \tilde{R}(z) \) is positive definite on the unit circle \( |z| = 1 \), and if \( \det \{ \tilde{R}(e^{j\theta}) \} \) satisfies the Paley-Wiener condition

\[
\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \ln \det \{ \tilde{R}(e^{j\theta}) \} d\theta < \infty ,
\]
then $R(z)$ has a spectral factorization

$$R(z) = R_+^+(z)R_-^-(z) = R_+^+(z)R_+^-(z),$$

(2)

where $R_+^+(z)$ and $R_-^-(z)$ are respectively defined as an *outer* and *inner* spectral factor [6], and $R_+^-(z)$ is paraconjugate of $R_+^+(z)$, i.e. $R_-^-(z) = R_+^+(z)$.

Note that an *outer* spectral factor $R_+^+(z)$ is not unique due to the fundamental indeterminacy in spectral factorization whereby if $R_+^+(z)$ is a valid *outer* spectral factor of $R(z)$ so also is $R_+^+(z)U(z)$ where $U(z)$ represents any paraunitary polynomial matrix which preserves the essential properties associated with an *outer* spectral factor. This includes simple examples such as $U(z) = z^T I$, where $S$ is a simple unitary matrix, or the case in which $U(z)$ takes the form of a diagonal matrix with each entry given by a power of $z$ which need not be the same for all entries.

According to [6], [10], [14], the *outer* spectral factor $R_+^+(z) = \sum_{\tau > 0} R_+^+(\tau) z^\tau$ in (2) is unique up to a constant unitary factor $C$, s.t.

$$R_+^+(z) = R_+^+(z)C,$$

(3)

and the unique spectral factor $R_+^+(z)$ is positive definite at the origin, i.e. $R_+^+(0) > 0$. Furthermore, it admits the following conditions:

1. $\det(R_+^+(z)) \neq 0, \forall |z| < 1$;
2. the coefficient matrix $R_+^+(0)$ is lower triangular with unit diagonal entries.

III. ITERATIVE PEVD ALGORITHMS

The PEVD of a para-Hermitian matrix $R(z) \in \mathbb{C}^{M \times M}$ can be seen as an extension of the conventional eigenvalue decomposition (EVD) to broadband signal processing, which has been generalized as [12]

$$H(z)R(z)H(z) \approx D(z),$$

(4)

where $D(z)$ is a diagonal para-Hermitian matrix. The polynomial matrix $H(z)$ is paraunitary, s.t. $H(z)H(z) = H(z)H(z) = I$. It can be seen as a multichannel all-pass filter which aims to diagonalize $R(z)$ by means of paraunitary similarity transformation while still preserving the total signal energy [15].

The PEVD can be approximated by an iterative process which transforms off-diagonal elements in $R(z)$ onto the diagonal. To date, a number of iterative algorithms have been developed to compute the PEVD, including the SBR2 algorithm [12], the sequential matrix diagonalization (SMD) algorithm [16], multiple shift maximum element SMD (MSME-SMD) algorithm [17], and multiple shift SBR2 (MS-SBR2) algorithm [18] etc.

In this paper, the SBR2 algorithm [12] is chosen for the purpose of testing the validity of the PEVD-based spectral factorization method, simply because it is the most established among all the PEVD algorithms mentioned before. However, other PEVD algorithms might be better choices in terms of convergence speed. A brief introduction of SBR2 is given in the following part of this section.

At the $i$-th iteration, the SBR2 algorithm [12] starts by locating the maximum off-diagonal element $r_{jk}^{(i)}[\tau]$. To find the maximum off-diagonal element, we define a matrix $S^{(i)}[\tau]$, which contains only the upper triangular elements in $R^{(i-1)}[\tau]$ with the remaining elements set to zero. Thus the location of $r_{jk}^{(i)}[\tau]$, $(j < k)$ found at $i$-th iteration satisfies

$$\{j^{(i)}, k^{(i)}, \tau^{(i)}\} = \arg \max_{j,k,\tau} ||S^{(i)}[\tau]||_\infty,$$

(5)

where $j^{(i)}$, $k^{(i)}$ and $\tau^{(i)}$ are the corresponding row, column and time lag index. An elementary delay matrix $E^{(i)}[\tau]$ and Jacobi rotation $Q^{(i)}$ are applied to bring $r_{jk}^{(i)}[\tau]$ and its complex conjugate $r_{kj}^{(i)}[-\tau]$ onto the zero-lag ($\tau = 0$) coefficient matrix $R^{(i-1)}[0]$, and then rotate its energy onto the diagonal. This results in $R^{(i)}[z]$ given by

$$R^{(i)}[z] = Q^{(i)}[z]R^{(i-1)}[z]Q^{(i)[H]}[z].$$

(6)

Then the elementary paraunitary matrix $E^{(i)}[z]$ can be expressed as

$$E^{(i)}[z] = Q^{(i)}[z]P^{(i)}[z].$$

(7)

The algorithm continues its iterative process until all the off-diagonal elements are smaller than a given threshold which can be set to a very small value to achieve sufficient accuracy. Assuming that the algorithm has converged at the $N$-th iteration, the diagonalized para-Hermitian matrix in (4) takes the form of

$$D(z) = \text{diag}(d_0(z), d_1(z), \ldots, d_M(z)),$$

(8)

and the generated paraunitary polynomial matrix is given by

$$H(z) = \prod_{i=1}^{N} E^{(i)}[z] = E^{(1)}[z]E^{(2)}[z] \cdots E^{(N)}[z].$$

(9)

The procedure of the SBR2 algorithm is summarized in Table I, and a 3-dimensional illustration of this whole process is depicted in Fig. 1.

| TABLE I |

| SUMMARY OF THE SBR2 ALGORITHM |

| 1. Find the location of the maximum off-diagonal element $r_{jk}^{(i)}[\tau]$, i.e. $\{j^{(i)}, k^{(i)}, \tau^{(i)}\}$; |
| 2. Time-shift $r_{jk}^{(i)}[\tau]$ and $r_{kj}^{(i)}[-\tau]$ onto the zero lag coefficient matrix $R(0)$ using $P^{(i)}$; |
| 3. Transfer energy onto diagonal using Jacobi rotation $Q^{(i)}$; |
| 4. Return to step 1 until the stopping criterion satisfied. |

IV. MULTICHANNEL SPECTRAL FACTORIZATION USING THE SBR2 ALGORITHM

A. Outline of Algorithm

Given an input para-Hermitian polynomial matrix $R(z)$, the proposed multichannel spectral factorization method starts by diagonalizing $R(z)$ using the SBR2 algorithm, which results in the diagonal matrix $D(z)$ shown in (8). Each entry within
corresponding row and column shift operations; Step 3 is to transfer the
in green color, step 1 shows the location information; Step 2 describes the
rewritten as

\begin{equation}
\det\{R^+(z)\} = \det\{\hat{H}(z)D^+(z)\} = az^{-\Delta} \det\{D^+(z)\}
\end{equation}

Thus,
\begin{equation}
\det\{D^+(z)\} \neq 0, \quad |z| < 1 ,
\end{equation}

which means $R(z)$ has to be full rank when applying the PEVD. Therefore, the resulting outer spectral factor $R^+(z)$ can be estimated as $\hat{H}(z)D^+(z)$, and the inner spectral factor $R^-(z)$ as $D^-(z)\hat{H}(z)$ which is the paraconjugate of $\hat{H}(z)D^+(z)$.

B. Order Shortening of Spectral Factor
As the polynomial orders of $\hat{H}(z)$ and $D(z)$ may potentially increase with each iterative paraunitary transformation in the SBR2 algorithm, the computed spectral factors can accumulate time delays which are unnecessarily large. However, when the outer and inner spectral factors are multiplied together, such delays cancel and the resulting para-Hermitian polynomial matrix is nonetheless accurate.

In order to keep the spectral factor order as low as possible, the state-of-the-art approach [20] is employed to shorten the order of the paraunitary matrix $\hat{H}(z)$ by using an indeterminate paraunitary matrix $\hat{U}(z)$ represented by
\begin{equation}
\hat{U}(z) = \diag\{z^{-r_1}, z^{-r_2}, \ldots, z^{-r_M}\} .
\end{equation}

In effect, each diagonal element within $\hat{U}(z)$ denotes a relevant time delay which can help to shift the corresponding column within $\hat{H}(z)$. Therefore, (12) can be rewritten as
\begin{equation}
\hat{R}(z) \approx \hat{H}(z)D^+(z)\hat{U}(z)\hat{U}(z)D^-(z)\hat{H}(z) = \hat{H}(z)\hat{U}(z)\hat{H}(z)D^+(z)\hat{U}(z)D^-(z)\hat{H}(z) ,
\end{equation}

where the outer spectral factor is now $\hat{H}(z)D^+(z)$, and $\hat{H}(z)$ is the column-shifted paraunitary matrix, expressed by $\hat{H}(z) = \hat{U}(z)\hat{U}(z)$. Here $\hat{U}(z)$ acts as column-correction to the paraunitary matrix $\hat{H}(z)$ in order to achieve the optimum truncation in [20].

V. SIMULATION RESULTS
In order to demonstrate this method, the $2 \times 2$ para-Hermitian matrix example in [6] has been tackled using our algorithm. In this example we have
\begin{equation}
\hat{R}_1(z) = \begin{bmatrix}
2z^{-1} + 6 & 2z^{-1} + 22 & 11z^{-1} + 22 & 11z^{-1} + 22 + 7z^{-1} + 38z^{-1} + 84 + 38z
end{bmatrix} .
\end{equation}
The SBR2 algorithm was used to diagonalize $\hat{R}_1(z)$ with a suitable trim function [12] to eliminate any redundant zero or negligible small coefficients. The resulting diagonal polynomial matrix $D_1(z)$ is shown by means of the stem plot in Fig. 2, corresponding to the numerical result
\begin{equation}
D_1(z) = \begin{bmatrix}
40z^{-1} + 90 + 40z & 0 \\
0 & -0.01z^{-1} + 0.03 - 0.01z
end{bmatrix} .
\end{equation}
This confirms that the input \( R_0(z) \) is almost generically rank deficient but not quite. Accordingly the outer spectral factor \( D_1^+(z) \) obtained by two separate applications of the \( spf(\cdot) \) function is

\[
D_1^+(z) = \begin{bmatrix} 8.1 + 4.9z & 0 \\ 0 & 0.17 - 0.056z \end{bmatrix}.
\] (19)

These results are all quoted to the standard accuracy given by the PolyX toolbox. The final outer spectral factor \( R_1^+(z) \) obtained by forming the product \( R_1(z)D_1^+(z) \) is shown in Fig. 3. Here a standard truncation approach [12], [21] with \( \mu = 10^{-4} \) has been employed to remove 0.1% of the total energy of \( D_1^+(z) \), which results in the spectral factor order of 5. The stem plot in Fig. 3 depicts all the coefficients from lag 0 to 5, but only coefficients at lags 4 and 5 are dominant. The spectral factor generated has lots of very small values which are effectively zero. In theory, if the polynomial matrix has support on the interval from \(-t\) to \(t\), the spectral factor should be either from lags 0 to \(t\) or \(-t\) to 0. In our case, the polynomial order of the spectral factor was increased due to the paraunitary similarity transformation in SBR2 algorithm. Truncating the very small coefficients was found to have very little impact on the accuracy of the reconstituted paraHermitian polynomial matrix (almost identical to \( R_1(z) \) formed by the product of these spectral factors).

The accuracy of the proposed algorithm was assessed by calculating the energy difference between \( R(z) \) and its reconstitution \( R(z) \) generated by the product \( R_1^+(z)R_1^-(z) \). Here the energy of a polynomial matrix is defined as squared Frobenius norm \( ||R||_F^2 \), i.e. the sum of squares of the entries of all the polynomial coefficient matrices, s.t.

\[
||R(z)||_F^2 = \sum_{\tau=k=1}^{M} \sum_{l=1}^{M} |r_{kl}[\tau]|^2,
\] (20)

where \( r_{kl}[\tau] \) denotes the element in the \( k \)-th row and \( l \)-th column of the coefficient matrix for \( z^{-\tau} \), \( k, l \in \{1, 2, \ldots, M\} \).

Therefore, the accuracy of the spectral factor is evaluated by

\[
v = \frac{\text{Energy Difference}}{\text{Total Input Energy}} = \frac{||R(z) - R(z)||_F^2}{||R(z)||_F^2}.
\] (21)

For the example problem in (17), the accuracy evaluator is calculated as \( v_1 = 7.3834 \times 10^{-4}/11296 \approx 6.5363 \times 10^{-8} \).

The algorithm has been tested further by means of another, more realistic example of a \( 3 \times 3 \) broadband MIMO propagation channel. The convolutive mixing was modeled by a \( 3 \times 3 \) polynomial matrix with coefficients selected randomly from a uniform distribution in the range \((-1, 1)\). The source signals were represented by i.i.d. sequences for which each sample was assigned the value \pm 1 with probability 1/2. Gaussian random noise was added to the received signals with a signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of 2.77 dB.

The CSD matrix \( R_2(z) \) for the received signals is plotted in Fig. 4 with polynomial order of 14. By performing the PEVD using SBR2, we get the diagonal matrix \( D_2(z) \) plotted in Fig. 5. The outer spectral factor \( R_2^+(z) \) generated by the product of \( R_2(z)D_2^+(z) \), is suitably trimmed by using the standard truncation method as introduced in [12], [21], which is shown in Fig. 6 with blue circle marker stem plot. Further truncation is implemented by using the row-shift corrected truncation method [20], which results in the lower order spectral factor \( R_2^+(z) = R_2(z)U(z) \) represented by the red asterisk marker stem plot. By analogy to the previous example, the accuracy
In addition, the order of the spectral factor can be kept as of the spectral factor found by our method has been proven.

The proposed spectral factorization method based on the iterative PEVD algorithm provides an alternative way of solving multichannel spectral factorization problems, and it is seen to offer a significant advantage in that the multichannel spectral factorization problem is reduced to a number of independent single channel problems for which suitable algorithms already exist. Although the definition of the unique spectral factor shown in [6] does not apply to our situation due to the fact that the polynomial order increases with iterations, the validity of the spectral factor found by our method has been proven. In addition, the order of the spectral factor can be kept as low as possible by exploiting the fundamental indeterminacy property, which may benefit applications such as filter bank design.

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