

Introduction to Array Processing

Stephan Weiss

Centre for Signal & Image Processing
Department of Electronic & Electrical Engineering
University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland, UK

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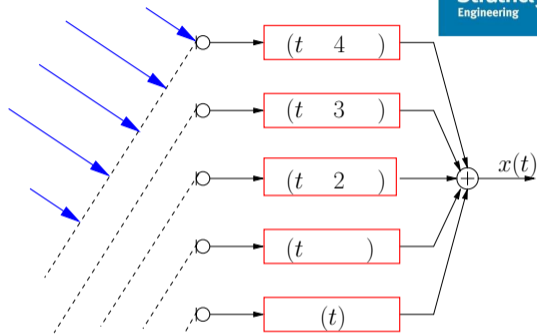
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1.1 Intuitive Beamforming

A far field wavefront arrives at a linear uniformly spaced sensor array:

due to the direction of arrival (DOA) and finite propagation speed, the wavefront will arrive at different sensors with a delay ;



with appropriate processing (beamforming), the sensor signals can be aligned to create constructive interference at the output $x(t)$;

the above is a simple delay-and-sum beamformer [12, 32, 50, 33].

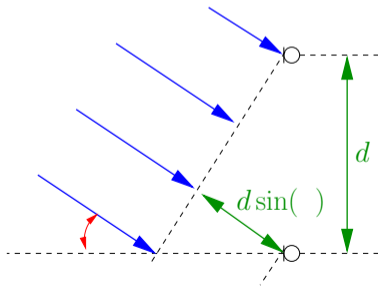
1.2 Spatial Sampling

For unambiguous **spatial sampling**, we need to take **at least two samples per wavelength** of the highest frequency component in the array signals [32];

analogy from **temporal sampling (Nyquist)**: take at **least two samples per period** (relating to the highest frequency component);

Wavelength and frequency f are related by the propagation speed c in the medium:

$$\lambda = \frac{c}{f};$$



maximum sensor distance

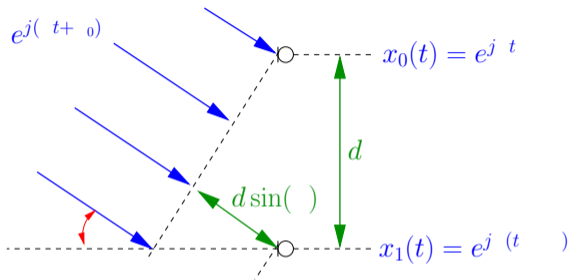
$$d = \frac{\lambda_{\max}}{2} = \frac{c}{2f_{\max}}$$

time delay between sensors

$$= \frac{d \sin(\theta)}{c} = \frac{\lambda \sin(\theta)}{2c}$$

Spatial and Temporal Sampling

Consider the array signals $x_0(t)$ and $x_1(t)$ due to a source $e^{j(\omega t + \phi)}$:



sampling with $t = nT_s$ leads to

$$x_0[n] = e^{j\omega nT_s} \quad \text{and} \quad x_1[n] = e^{j(\omega nT_s - \omega d \sin(\theta))}$$

with $f_{\max} = \frac{f_s}{2} = \frac{1}{2T_s}$ and normalised angular frequency $\omega = \omega_s$,

$$x_0[n] = e^{j\omega_s n} \quad \text{and} \quad x_1[n] = e^{j\omega_s n} e^{-j\omega_s d \sin(\theta)}$$

1.3 Steering Vector

A narrowband source with normalised angular frequency ω illuminates an M -element linear array of equi-spaced sensors:

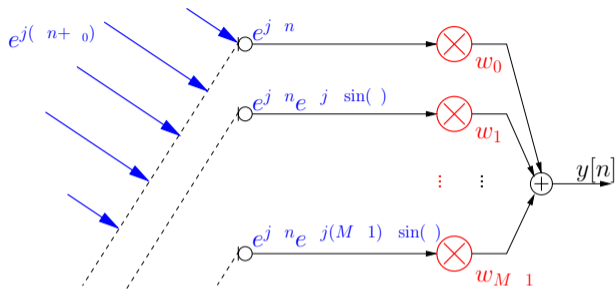
$$\mathbf{x}[n] = \begin{bmatrix} x_0[n] \\ x_1[n] \\ \vdots \\ x_{M-1}[n] \end{bmatrix} = e^{j\omega n} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ e^{j\omega \sin(\theta)} \\ \vdots \\ e^{j(M-1)\omega \sin(\theta)} \end{bmatrix} = e^{j\omega n} \mathbf{s}$$

the vector \mathbf{s} characterises the phase shifts of waveform with frequency ω and DOA θ measured at the array sensors;

since a narrowband signal $e^{j\omega n}$ only causes phase shifts rather than delays, constructive interference can be accomplished by a set of complex multipliers rather than processors $(t = m)$, $m = 0 \dots (M-1)$;

beamforming problem: how to select the set of complex coefficients?

1.4 Data Independent Beamformer



Challenge:

Find a set of complex multipliers $w_m, m = 0, 1, \dots, (M-1)$:

to steer the array characteristic towards this source, the output

$$y[n] = [w_0 \quad w_1 \quad \dots \quad w_{M-1}] e^{jn} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ e^{j \sin(\theta)} \\ \vdots \\ e^{j(M-1) \sin(\theta)} \end{bmatrix} = e^{jn} \mathbf{w}^H \mathbf{s}$$

should satisfy $y[n] = e^{jn}$, leading to $\mathbf{w}^H \mathbf{s} = 1$.

Coefficient Vector

For later convenience and compatibility, the Hermitian transpose operator H is used to denote the coefficient vector

$$\mathbf{w}^H = [w_0 \ w_1 \ \dots \ w_{M-1}] ;$$

as a result, the vector \mathbf{w} hold the **complex conjugates** of the coefficients,

$$\mathbf{w} = \begin{bmatrix} w_0 \\ w_1 \\ \vdots \\ w_{M-1} \end{bmatrix} ;$$

to access the actual unconjugated coefficients, the beamforming vector \mathbf{w} has to be considered

note that

$$\mathbf{w}^H \mathbf{s} = 1 \qquad \mathbf{s}^H \mathbf{w} = 1$$

Narrowband Beamforming Single Source



The expression $\mathbf{s}^H \mathbf{w} = 1$ forms a system with one equation and M unknowns

$$\boxed{\mathbf{s}^H} \boxed{\mathbf{w}} = \boxed{1}$$

general solution to an underdetermined system $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ is the right pseudo-inverse \mathbf{A}^{-1} [10],

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{A}^H (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{A}^H)^{-1} \mathbf{b} ;$$

here:

$$\mathbf{w} = (\mathbf{s}^H)^{-1} \mathbf{1} = \mathbf{s} \left(\mathbf{s}^H \mathbf{s} \right)^{-1} \mathbf{1} = \frac{\mathbf{s}}{\mathbf{s}^H \mathbf{s}} = \frac{1}{M} \mathbf{s} ;$$

the complex conjugation for \mathbf{w} inverts and therefore compensates the phase of the steering vector, which could have been foreseen

the formulation via the pseudo-inverse will be powerful for more complicated cases.

Narrowband Beamformer Example

Source parameters: $\omega = \frac{1}{2}$ and $\theta = 30^\circ$; array parameter: $M = 5$;
steering vector (with $\sin(\theta) = \frac{1}{4}$):

$$\mathbf{s}^T = [1 \ e^{j\frac{1}{4}} \ e^{j\frac{2}{4}} \ e^{j\frac{3}{4}} \ e^{j\frac{4}{4}}]$$

coefficient vector is given by $\mathbf{w} = (\mathbf{s}^H)^{-1}$;

numerical solution in Matlab;

```
Omega=1/4; theta = pi/6; M=5;
```

```
s = exp(-sqrt(-1)*Omega*sin(theta)*(0:(M-1)'));
```

```
w = pinv(s');
```

angle([s conj(w)])/pi yields:

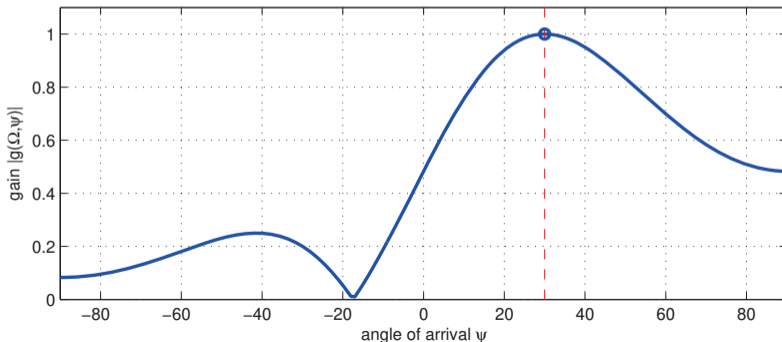
```
-0.00000  0.00000
-0.25000  0.25000
-0.50000  0.50000
-0.75000  0.75000
-1.00000  1.00000
```

Beam Pattern I

- ▶ The beamformer has a unit gain towards a source with frequency Ω and DoA θ ; what is its gain response towards other angles of arrival?
- ▶ the beam pattern measures the response of a beamformer by sweeping the angle ψ of a source with frequency Ω

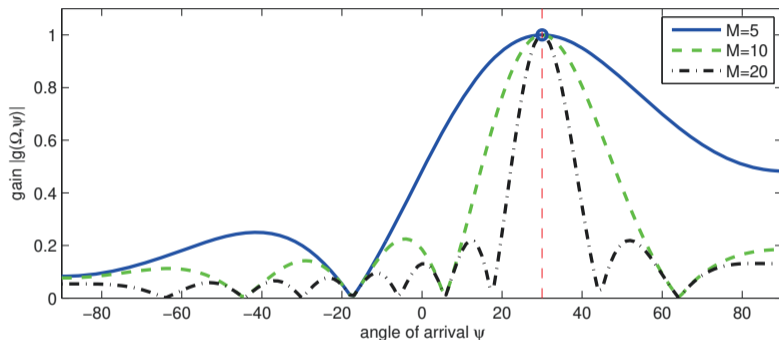
$$g(\Omega, \psi) = \mathbf{w}^H \mathbf{s}_{\Omega, \psi}$$

- ▶ beam pattern for the previous example:



Beam Pattern II

- ▶ Beam patterns for $\Omega = \frac{\pi}{2}$ and $\vartheta = 30^\circ$ with variable M :



- ▶ increasing the sensor number M narrows the main beam, and increases the number of spatial zeros;
- ▶ analogous characteristic in the time domain: increased temporal support leads to higher frequency resolution.

Interference

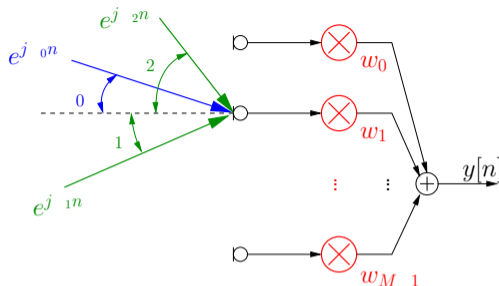
Many scenarios contain a source of interest and a number of interferers:

signal of interest:

$$0 \quad 0$$

two interferers:

$$1 \quad 1, \quad 2 \quad 2$$



we would like to control the beampattern to place spatial nulls in the directions of the interfering sources;

Problem formulation and solution :

$$\begin{matrix}
 \mathbf{s}_0^H & 0 \\
 \mathbf{s}_1^H & 1 \\
 \mathbf{s}_2^H & 2
 \end{matrix}
 \mathbf{w} = \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{matrix}
 \qquad
 \mathbf{w} = \begin{matrix} \mathbf{s}_0^H & 0 & 1 \\
 \mathbf{s}_1^H & 1 & 0 \\
 \mathbf{s}_2^H & 2 & 0 \end{matrix}$$

Narrowband BF Example Multiple Sources

The signal of interest illuminates an $M = 5$ element array at a frequency

$$\theta_0 = 30^\circ \text{ with a DoA } \theta_0 = 30^\circ$$

two interferers at $\theta_1 = 45^\circ$ and $\theta_2 = 60^\circ$ are present with DoA $\theta_1 = 45^\circ$ and $\theta_2 = 60^\circ$

results via right pseudo-inverse of steering vectors

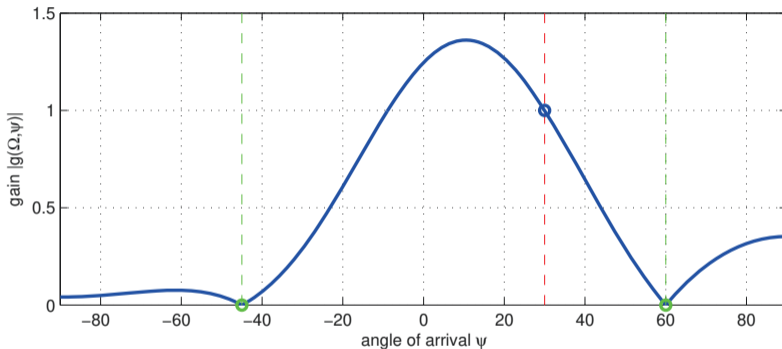
\mathbf{S}_{00}	\mathbf{S}_{11}	\mathbf{S}_{22}	\mathbf{w}	\mathbf{w}
0.00	0.00	0.00	-42.81	0.3172
45.00	63.64	-77.94	-105.01	0.3004
90.00	127.28	-155.89	-90.00	0.2343
135.00	-169.08	126.17	-74.99	0.3004
180.00	-105.44	48.23	-137.19	0.3172

the angle of \mathbf{w} is no longer intuitive; also note that the coefficients in \mathbf{w} no longer have the same modulus

amongst a manifold of solutions, the right pseudo-inverse provides the minimum norm solution.

Multiple Source Example — Beampattern

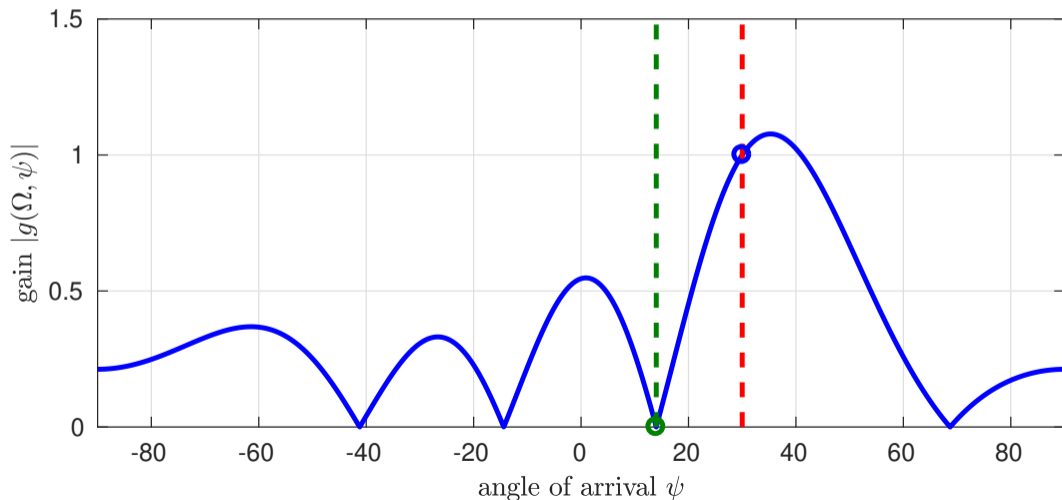
- ▶ Beam pattern one source of interest and two interferers:



- ▶ the pseudo-inverse is the minimum norm solution, keeping the general gain response as low as possible;
- ▶ the minimum norm property protects against spatially white noise.

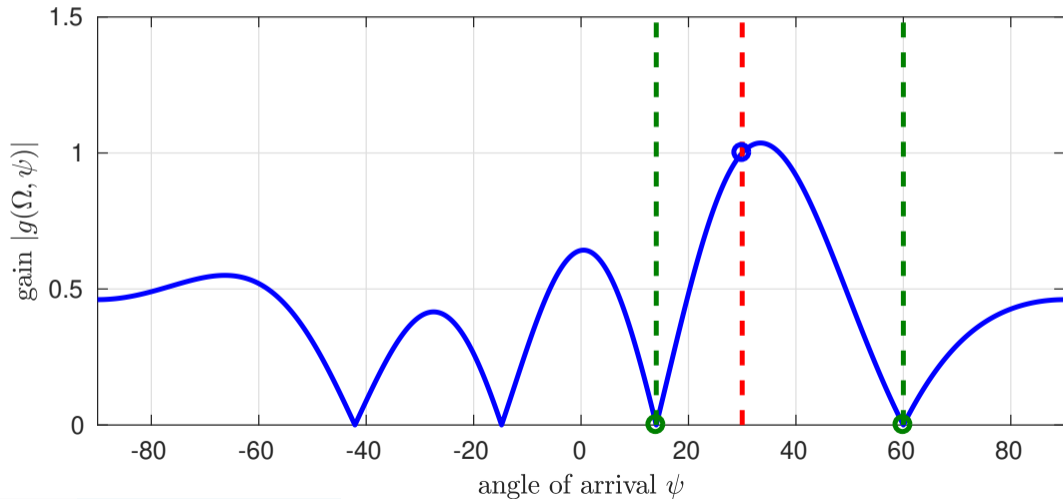
Beamforming Example Variable Interferer I

$M = 5$ sensors, source of interest towards $\psi_0 = 30^\circ$, interferer variable:



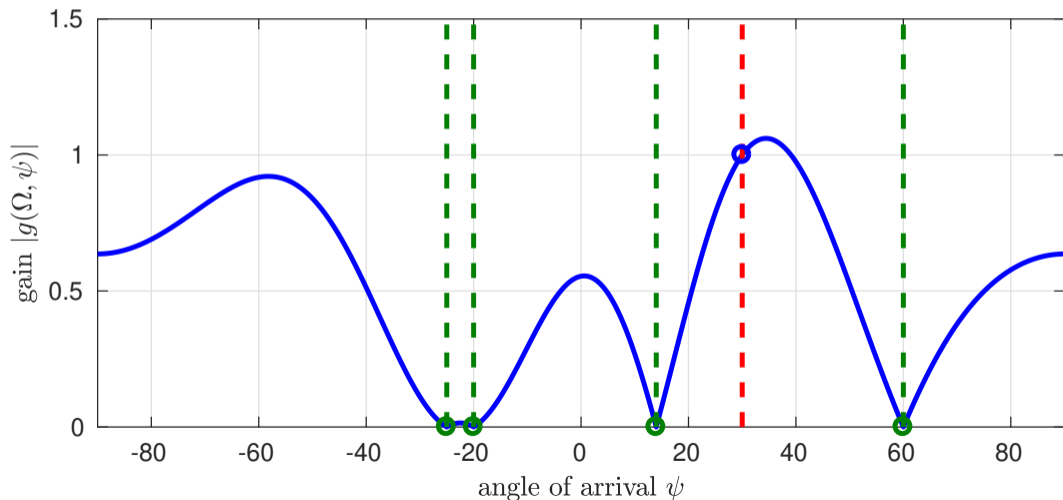
Beamforming Example Variable Interferer II

$M = 5$ sensors, $\text{SOI } \theta_0 = 30^\circ$, one fixed and one variable interferer:



Beamforming Example Variable Interferer III

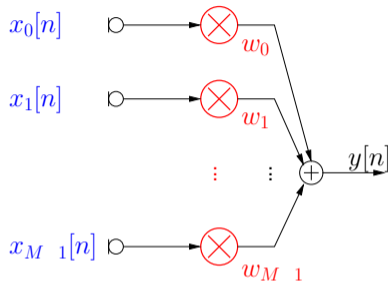
$M = 5$ sensors, $\text{SOI } \theta_0 = 30^\circ$, one variable and three fixed interferers:



Data Independent Beamforming

Previous beamformer designs were based on the knowledge of DoA of the signal of interest and of interfering sources;
remaining degrees of freedom are invested to suppress spatially white noise;
using the analogy between spatial and temporal processing, classical filter design techniques can be invoked to design arrays with a bandpass-type angular response;
beamformers based on source parameters (frequency, DoA) rather than the actual received waveforms are termed **data independent beamformers**;
this is in contrast to **statistically optimum beamformers**, which take the received signal statistics into account.

1.8 Statistically Optimum Beamforming



Statistically optimum beamformer minimise e.g. the signal power of the beamformer output, $y[n]$;
to avoid the trivial solution $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0}$, the signal of interest needs to be protected by constraints;

this results in e.g. the following constrained optimisation problem

$$\min_{\mathbf{w}} \mathcal{E} |y[n]|^2 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \mathbf{s}^H \mathbf{w} = 1;$$

the solution to this specific statistically optimum beamformer is known as the **minimum variance distortionless response** (MVDR) [33].

MVDR Beamformer



Solving the MVDR problem: minimise the power of $y[n] = \mathbf{w}^H \mathbf{x}$ subject to the constraint $\mathbf{w}^H \mathbf{s}_0 = 1$;

Formulation using a Lagrange multiplier :

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{w}} \left(\mathbf{w}^H \mathbf{R}_{xx} \mathbf{w} + \lambda (\mathbf{w}^H \mathbf{s}_0 - 1) \right) = \mathbf{0} \quad \mathbf{s}_0^H \mathbf{w} = 1$$

the solution $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{R}_{xx}^{-1} \mathbf{s}_0$ is inserted into the constraint equation to determine :

$$\mathbf{s}_0^H \mathbf{R}_{xx}^{-1} \mathbf{s}_0 = 1$$

therefore

$$\mathbf{w}_{\text{MVDR}} = \mathbf{R}_{xx}^{-1} \mathbf{s}_0 / (\mathbf{s}_0^H \mathbf{R}_{xx}^{-1} \mathbf{s}_0)$$

this statistically optimum beamformer has various other names, e.g. Capon beamformer [7, 32].

MVDR Beamformer Simple Case



In the case of spatially white noise input, such that

$$\mathbf{R}_{xx} = \frac{2}{xx} \mathbf{I} \qquad \mathbf{R}_{xx}^{-1} = \frac{xx}{2} \mathbf{I}$$

the MVDR solution reduces to

$$\mathbf{w}_{\text{MVDR}} = \frac{\begin{matrix} \mathbf{s} & 0 & 0 \\ \mathbf{s} & 0 & 0 \end{matrix}}{\begin{matrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{matrix}} = \frac{\begin{matrix} \mathbf{s} & 0 & 0 \\ M \end{matrix}}{M} ;$$

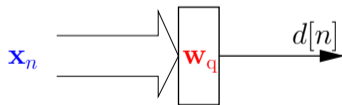
this is identical to the data independent beamformer in the absence of interference (i.e. no spatially structured noise);

Generalised Sidelobe Canceller (GSC)

The generalised sidelobe canceller is a specific implementation of the MVDR beamformer; it transforms the constrained MVDR problem into an **unconstrained optimisation problem**;

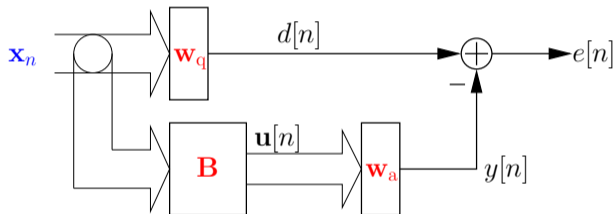
a first guess at the solution is performed by the **quiescent beamformer** \mathbf{w}_q , which is identical to the previously defined data independent beamformer, obtained by inverting the constraint equation

$$\mathbf{C}^H \mathbf{w}_q = \mathbf{f} \qquad \mathbf{w}_q = \mathbf{C}^H \mathbf{f}$$



the quiescent beamformer eliminates interferers captured by \mathbf{C} and \mathbf{f} , but passes the signal of interest, any interferers unaccounted for in the constraints, and spatially distributed noise.

GSE idea: produce array signals that are free of any contribution from the signal of interest, and use the resulting signal vector $\mathbf{u}[n]$ to eliminate remaining interference from the quiescent output:



the blocking matrix \mathbf{B} eliminates the signal of interest and any interferers captured by the constraints;

the vector \mathbf{w}_a will be based on the statistics of $\mathbf{u}[n]$ and $d[n]$ to minimise the beamformer output variance $\mathcal{E} \{ e[n]^2 \}$.

GSC Blocking Matrix



In order to project away from the constraints,

$$\mathbf{B} \mathbf{C} = \mathbf{B} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{S} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{S} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{S} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{0}$$

assuming that the r constraints are linearly independent, the singular value decomposition of the constraint matrix yields

$$\mathbf{B} \mathbf{U}_0 \mathbf{U}_0^H \begin{array}{c|c} \begin{matrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{matrix} & \mathbf{0} \\ \hline \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{array} \mathbf{V}^H = \mathbf{0}$$

the matrix $\mathbf{U}_0 \in \mathbb{C}^{M \times (M-r)}$ spans the nullspace of \mathbf{C}^H , and

$$\mathbf{B} = (\mathbf{U}_0)^H \in \mathbb{C}^{(M-r) \times M}$$

has the required property, as $(\mathbf{U}_0)^H \mathbf{U}_0 \mathbf{U}_0^H = [\mathbf{0} \ \mathbf{I}] = \mathbf{0}$.

GSC Unconstrained Optimisation

The beamforming vector \mathbf{w}_a is adjusted to minimise the output power; the MMSE or Wiener solution is given by

$$\mathbf{w}_a = \mathbf{R}_{uu}^{-1} \mathbf{p} = \frac{\mathbf{B}\mathbf{R}_{xx}(\mathbf{C}^H) \mathbf{f}}{\mathbf{B}\mathbf{R}_{xx}\mathbf{B}^H}$$

with the covariance matrix

$$\mathbf{R}_{uu} = \mathcal{E} \mathbf{u}[n] \mathbf{u}^H[n] = \mathbf{B} \mathcal{E} \mathbf{x}[n] \mathbf{x}^H[n] \mathbf{B}^H = \mathbf{B}\mathbf{R}_{xx}\mathbf{B}^H$$

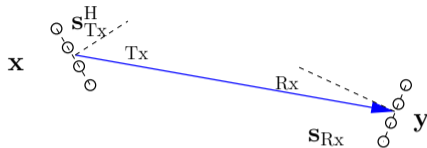
and the cross-correlation vector

$$\mathbf{p} = \mathcal{E} \mathbf{u}[n] d[n] = \mathbf{B}\mathbf{R}_{xx}\mathbf{w}_q$$

iterative optimisation schemes, such as the least mean squares (LMS) algorithm [12, 50] may be used to approximate the MMSE solution.

1.9 Beamforming and MIMO Processing

Assume a transmission scenario with an M -element transmit (T_x) antenna array and an N -element receive (R_x) array;



in the absence of scatterers and any attenuation, the far field transmission from the transmit antenna is characterised by a steering vector $\mathbf{s}_{T_x}^H$;

the incoming waveform at the Rx device is described by another steering vector \mathbf{s}_{R_x} ;

the overall MIMO system between a Tx vector $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^M$ and an Rx vector $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{C}^N$ is described as

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{s}_{R_x} \mathbf{s}_{T_x}^H \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{H} \mathbf{x}$$

the MIMO system matrix $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{s}_{R_x} \mathbf{s}_{T_x}^H$ is rank one only.

The far field assumption is convenient for beamforming, but leads to a rank one MIMO system matrix which is incompatible with the desire to extract multiple independent subchannels or with to achieve diversity;

rich scattering in connection with MIMO usually implies multiple reflections of signals; together with a sufficiently **large antenna spacing** means that the far field assumption is invalid and the MIMO system matrix is **not rank deficient**;

some suggestions of sufficiently large spacing imply an antenna element distance of $d > 10 \lambda$;

recall spatial sampling requires $d < \frac{\lambda}{2}$!

Beamforming with Spatial Aliasing

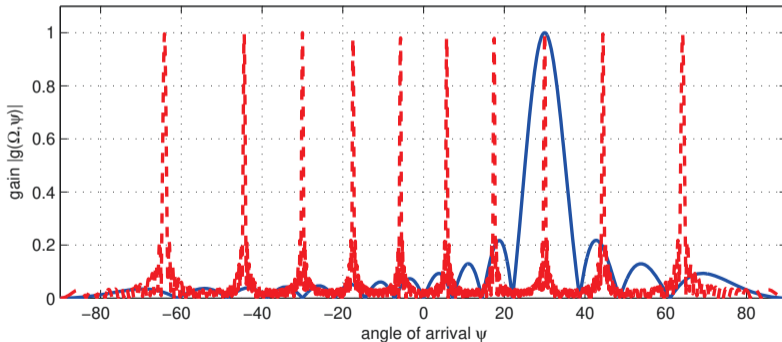
For a feasible spatial sampling with $d = \lambda/2$, $0 < \theta < \pi$, the steering vector for a waveform with normalised angular frequency ω and DoA θ is

$$\mathbf{y} = e^{j\omega n} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ e^{j2\theta \sin(\theta)} \\ \vdots \\ e^{j2(M-1)\theta \sin(\theta)} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{s}_2 e^{j\omega n}$$

inspecting \mathbf{s}_2 the steering vector is aliased to a different frequency 2θ ;
 although the correct frequency can be retrieved unambiguously from temporal sampling of any array element, at various different angles could provide the same steering vector \mathbf{s}_2 ;
 the array performs **spatial undersampling**, resulting in **spatial aliasing**.

Spatial Undersampling Example

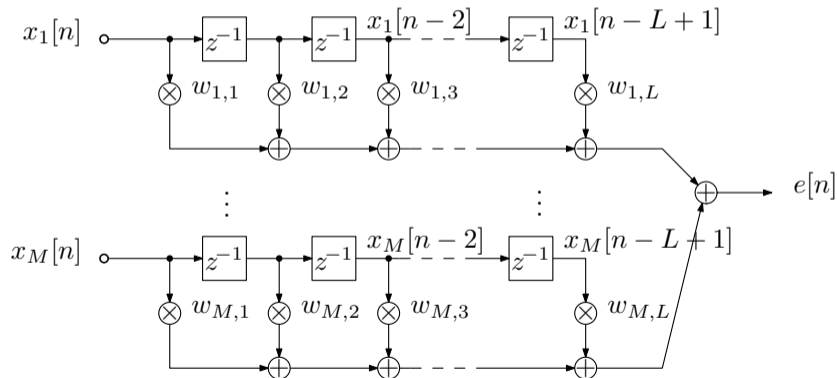
- ▶ Beamforming parameters: signal of interest with $\Omega = \frac{\pi}{2}$, direction of arrival $\vartheta = 30^\circ$, $M = 32$ array elements;
- ▶ data independent beamformer design with **correct spatial sampling** ($d = \lambda/2$) and **incorrect spatial sampling** ($d = 10\lambda$):



- ▶ MIMO systems perform beamforming, but may dissipate energy into aliased directions.

1.10 Broadband MVDR Beamformer

Each sensor is followed by a tap delay line of dimension L , giving a total of ML coefficients in a vector $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{C}^{ML}$ [5]



Broadband MVDR Beamformer Constraints



A larger input vector $\mathbf{x}_n \in \mathbb{C}^{ML}$ is generated, also including lags;

the general approach is similar to the narrowband system, minimising the power of $e[n] = \mathbf{v}^H \mathbf{x}_n$;

however, we require several constraint equations to protect the signal of interest, e.g.

$$\mathbf{C} = [\mathbf{s}(s_0) \quad \mathbf{s}(s_1) \quad \dots \quad \mathbf{s}(s_{L-1})] \quad (1)$$

these L constraints pin down the response to unit gain at L separate points in frequency:

$$\mathbf{C}^H \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{1} ; \quad (2)$$

generally $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{C}^{ML \times L}$, but simplifications can be applied if the look direction is towards broadside.

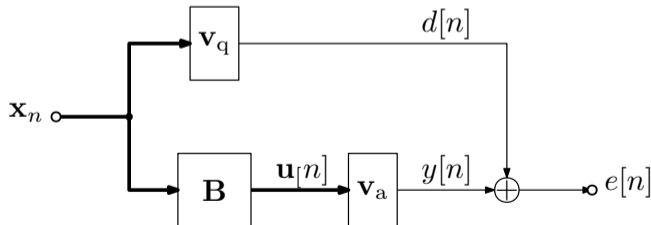
Broadband Generalised Sidelobe Canceller

A quiescent beamformer $\mathbf{v}_q = \mathbf{C}^H \mathbf{1} \in \mathbb{C}^{ML}$ picks the signal of interest;

the quiescent beamformer is optimal for AWGN but generally passes structured interference;

the output of the blocking matrix \mathbf{B} contains interference only, which requires $[\mathbf{B}\mathbf{C}]$ to be unitary; hence $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{C}^{ML \times (M-1)L}$;

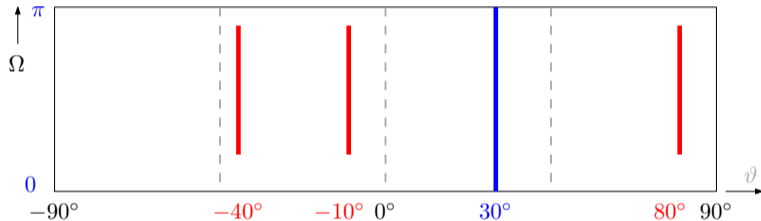
an adaptive noise canceller $\mathbf{v}_a \in \mathbb{C}^{(M-1)L}$ aims to remove the residual interference:



note: all dimensions are determined by $M L$.

Broadband Beamformer Example

We assume a **signal of interest** from $\theta = 30^\circ$;
 three **interferers** with angles $\theta_i = 40^\circ, 10^\circ, 80^\circ$ active over the frequency
 range $\Omega = 2 \pi [0.1; 0.45]$ at signal to interference ratio of -40 dB;



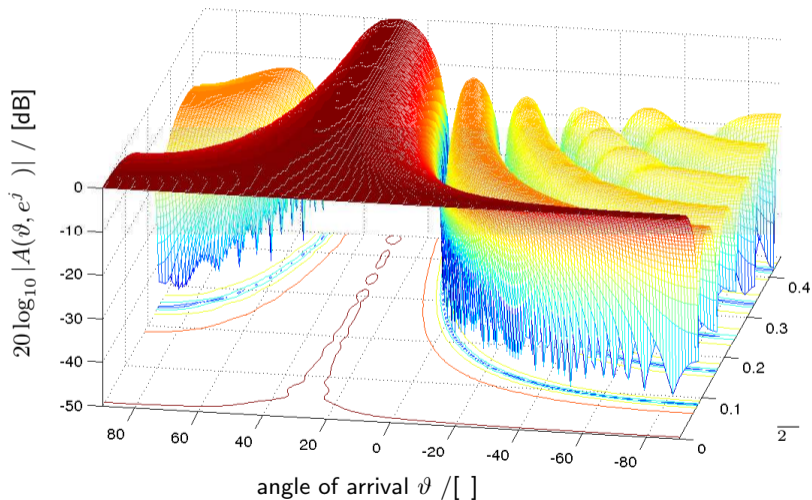
$M = 8$ element linear uniform array is also corrupted by spatially and temporally white additive Gaussian noise at 20 dB SNR;

tap-delay-line length: $L = 150$;

cost per iteration: approx. 2 MMACs (standard), can be reduced to 10 kMACs when efficiently implemented.

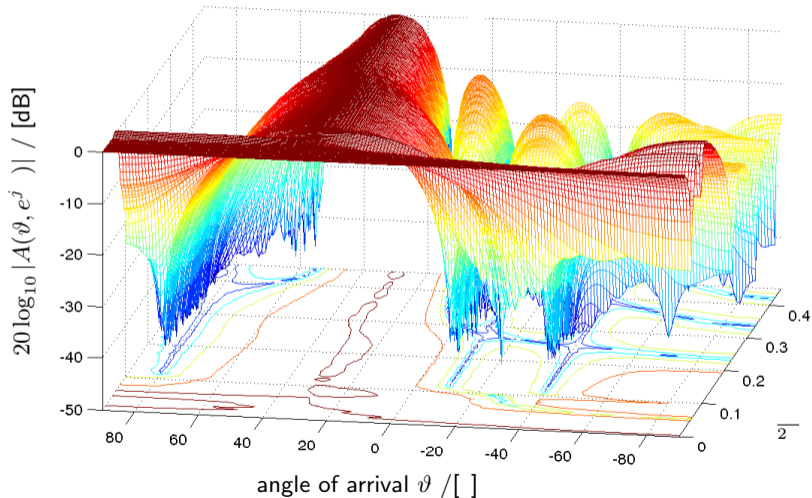
Broadband Quiescent Beamformer

Directivity pattern of quiescent standard broadband beamformer:



Optimised Broadband Beamformer

Directivity pattern of the broadband beamformer:



1.11 Summary



Spatial sampling by an array of sensors (e.g. antenna elements) has been explored;

the spatial data window of a narrowband source is characterised by the steering vector; appropriate data independent beamformers can be designed based on the steering vectors of desired sources and interferers;

statistically optimum beamformers are based on the signal statistics;

a specific statistically optimum beamformer, the generalised sidelobe canceller, has been reviewed – it uses signal statistics to improve the performance of a data independent beamformer derived from the constraint equations;

some similarities and differences between beamforming and MIMO systems have been highlighted;

broadband beamforming requires the inclusion of tap delay lines.

Related Broadband Beamforming Work

General wideband beamforming: [19];

time domain adaptive broadband beamforming: [5, 6, 11, 14, 23, 29, 33];

discrete Fourier transform domain processing: [17, 30, 44]

subband domain beamforming [21, 34, 46, 47, 48, 49, 44];

frequency-invariant broadband beamforming [18, 22, 23, 38];

polynomial matrix-based

beamforming [1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 15, 16, 24, 25, 28, 27, 26, 31, 35, 36, 40, 41, 42, 45, 37, 43].

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