

DEPTH DISCRIMINATION AND RANGE ESTIMATION OF MULTIPLE SOURCES IN SHALLOW WATERS

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Award #: N00014-95-1-0070

Category of Research: Shallow-water Acoustics/Signal Processing

LONG-TERM GOALS

To develop wave-oriented phase coherent signal processing algorithms (which address and incorporate the physics of acoustic wavefield propagation through and scattering from an inhomogeneous, noisy, time varying, and stochastic ocean environment) to characterize targets and the environment for applications in both passive and active systems.

OBJECTIVES

To validate a new and practical system concept and to develop new wave-oriented phase coherent inversion algorithms for classifying and localizing multiple sources in noisy and time-varying shallow waters without knowing the sound speed profiles. The approaches should be able to adapt (self-optimize) in the face of changing environmental and system conditions.

APPROACHES

There have been many efforts to develop inverse source algorithms such as matched-field, matched-traveltime, matched-ray, and matched-mode approaches. However, none of the existing methods can work well in real time under simultaneous excitations of several sources. Furthermore, all of these algorithms operate properly only when accurate descriptions of the environments are available. Since the environment is time-varying and full of noises created by surface ships and other sources, it is impractical to implement any real time monitoring system using these methods. A real time monitoring system with two mutually perpendicular horizontal arrays (which can be bottom mounted) is proposed for *range estimation, depth discrimination, and spectrum estimation* of multiple sources where the SSP of the environment is not required. The key ideas are, first, to use sufficient long arrays for deriving modal wave numbers and composite modal amplitudes excited by multiple sources in multiple frequencies and, then, to utilize a sufficient large number of frequency samples for obtaining unknown source ranges and modal amplitudes for every source and every guided mode.

Report Documentation Page				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to a penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.					
1. REPORT DATE 30 SEP 1997		2. REPORT TYPE		3. DATES COVERED 00-00-1997 to 00-00-1997	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Depth Discrimination and Range Estimation of Multiple Sources in Shallow Waters				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Polytechnic University,Route 110,Farmingdale,NY,11735				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT Same as Report (SAR)	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 3	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a REPORT unclassified	b ABSTRACT unclassified	c THIS PAGE unclassified			

WORK COMPLETED

The proposed system is tested numerically in an simplified shallow water model. The conventional spectral estimation model is extended to incorporate the array coordinate dependence for wavenumber inversion and to account for the frequency dependence for range estimation. A new Singular Value Decomposition - Eigenmatrix Pencil method is employed to find the complex modal wavenumber and the complex source ranges. This high-resolution algorithm is proven to be most successful for the current application.

RESULTS

In numerical simulations, the power spectrum and the range for each source are approximately derived from its fundamental modal phase and amplitude, respectively. Furthermore, depth discrimination is achieved by examining the excitation strength of the fundamental mode especially when the environment has a downward refracting SSP. If the SSP or the modal eigenfunctions is approximately known, more accurate source depths can be derived from modal excitation strengths by a matched-mode procedure.

IMPACT/APPLICATIONS

Source localization technologies are of vital importance to the US Navy. The success of the preliminary results of the proposed research program is a fundamental breakthrough in inverse source algorithms. These results will enable the US Navy to develop inexpensive real time systems to monitor broad regions in crucial and busy shallow waters so as to detect underwater vessels, estimate their ranges and acoustic power spectra, and discriminate them from surface ships. These results may also be employed for tracking whales or for other civilian applications.

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