

FY97 BASIC RESEARCH PROGRAM

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Award #: N00014-96-1-0298

LONG TERM GOALS

The Basic Research Program at ARL:UT emphasizes the Laboratory's commitment to basic 6.1 research, utilizing the expertise of faculty, research staff, and students in collaborative efforts. Publishing in archival journals and focusing new 6.1 research thrusts in arenas of future naval significance is encouraged, as are transitions to possible future funding under other ONR and DoD programs.

FY97 RESEARCH PROJECTS

Dynamic Adaptive Autonomy in Multiagent Systems, Dr. K. Suzanne Barber: This research seeks to prove the following hypothesis: *The operational level of agent autonomy is key to an agent's ability to respond to dynamic situational context, (i.e. the states, events, and goals that exist in a multiagent system), conflicting goals, and constraints on behavior.* The following research issues for the development of Sensible Agent capabilities were investigated: 1) How should declarative and behavioral information about agent states, events, actions and beliefs be represented to support system and local views?; 2) How should dynamic adaptive autonomy be represented in an agent-based architecture?; 3) How should the operational level of autonomy be determined for each agent?; 4) How can problem solvers be effectively incorporated into multiagent systems operating under dynamic adaptive autonomy? and 5) How does adaptive autonomy contribute to the performance of multiagent systems? Results of this effort have appeared in 18 papers in refereed publications including three invited conference papers.

Structural Acoustics of High ka Backwards Waves in the Target Strength of Cylindrical Shells, Dr. Greg Kaduchak: This project has focused on backscattering enhancements associated with guided waves possessing a negative group velocity. Backscattering enhancements due to the existence of such waves have been demonstrated in both calculations and experiments involving anisotropic, layered cylindrical shells. In the process of this study, large scattering enhancements near the coincidence frequency were found to exist over a large range of incidence angles ranging from axial to broadside incidence for isotropic shells. It is the first study to analyze the existence of guided waves beyond the shear wave cut off (approximately 35 degrees off broadside incidence). The results were presented at recent ASA meetings and will appear in the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America and IEEE Oceanic Engineering.

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 FY97 Basic Research Program				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) University of Texas at Austin, Applied Research Laboratories, Austin, TX, 78713				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			

Experimental Investigation of Traveling Ionospheric Disturbance Theory, Dr. Tom

Gaussiran: This investigation centered on fielding an experiment to measure wave characteristics of traveling ionospheric disturbances (TIDs). To this end ARL:UT deployed three chains of tomography receivers as well collected GPS data from across the eastern half of the continental US. These data were reconstructed into a series of three dimensional maps of electron density. The method turns out to be too slow for measuring TID parameters so we returned to an analysis of raw data. This data showed 'signatures' similar to simulations that we completed.

Concept Development of a Two State Classifier for Vehicular Signatures, Dr. G.

Douglas Meegan: This project involves the investigation and development of methods for automated land vehicle detection and classification. Characteristic features (i.e., engine types, weights, etc.) of hundreds of international military and non-military vehicles have been tabulated. From this database, several distinguishing vehicle features have been identified and methods of extracting some of these features from radiated seismic and acoustic signatures have been identified. In particular, algorithms that can determine the number of axles and can identify if a given vehicle is loaded or unloaded have been developed and tested in controlled vehicle experiments.

Modal Analysis and Multi-Mode Seismic Inversion in Layered Elastic Media, Dr.

Tom Muir: Many of the modes that are most important in both beach and shallow-water sediment seismic signals are neither classic leaky waves nor properly trapped layer modes. Neither, though, can they be generically classified as lower layer "headwaves", in a way that makes it possible to predict a single, well-defined behavior for them. In this project we have conducted a comprehensive analysis of the evolution of these modes, in a way that can both be employed by inversion algorithms and used to predict their role in seismic signals in realistic, range-dependent environments.

Ultrasonic and Sonochemical Lysogenesis of Bacteria, Dr. Shelley Payne: The effects of three types of ultrasonic radiation on bacteria are being examined: (1) continuous and pulsed cavitating fields at low kHz frequencies, (2) continuous sonoluminescent fields at moderate kHz frequencies, and (3) wideband impulsive shock fields at high kHz frequencies. Bacterial survival is being measured under each condition. For our initial studies, we used two human intestinal bacteria: *Escherichia coli* and *Shigella flexneri*. The bacteria were exposed to ultrasonic radiation, and plated on rich medium to determine survival. Cavitation was highly efficient at killing the bacteria, while sonoluminescence and shock fields had little effect. The intensity and time of exposure to cavitating fields were varied. It was found that the number of surviving bacteria could be reduced below detectable levels by sonication. These initial studies were done by a batch process; we are now determining conditions for continuous flow processing. A second sonication step is being introduced to eliminate the approximately 1% carryover of live bacteria. This should result in development of a design for continuous processing to significantly reduce or eliminate microorganisms in wastewater.

HS High School Apprenticeship Program, Dr. Gary Wilson: The purpose of the apprenticeship program is to provide outstanding recent high school graduates with hands-on experience in a research environment and encourage them to pursue careers in the science and engineering disciplines, particularly in those areas related to the needs of the Department of Defense. Students were selected on the basis of academic records,

scholastic aptitude test results, and applications. Students were assigned to a research project under the supervision of a research staff member at ARL:UT. At the end of the apprenticeship in mid-August, students gave oral presentations to the laboratory.