# SPARSE DECONVOLUTION FOR MOVING-SOURCE LOCALIZATION

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# ABSTRACT

In this paper, we propose a method for moving-source localization based on beamforming output and on sparse representation of the source positions. The goal of this method is to achieve spatial deconvolution of the beamforming, to provide accurate source localization for pass-by experiments. To perform this deconvolution, we use a smooth approximation of  $\ell_1/\ell_2$  [1], which is well suited for the recovery of sparse signals. We validate this method on simulated data, and compare it to the DAMAS-MS method [2], one of the classical methods used in beamforming deconvolution.

*Index Terms*— Smoothed  $\ell_1/\ell_2$  regularization, Sparse representation, Moving-source localization, Beamforming deconvolution, Acoustic signal processing

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Source localization is a classical problem in underwater acoustics. Many methods have been developed to solve this based on array processing. The most classical is beamforming [3] which consists in summing delayed signals. This method has been extensively used due to its robustness against noise and environmental mimatch. For pass-by experiments, due to the moving of the acoustic sources, classical beamforming cannot be used, and source mapping is achieved by beamforming for moving sources (BF-MS) [2].

Nevertheless, BF-MS spatial resolution is limited, as the image of a point source is the array transfer function, which is comprised of a main lobe and secondary lobes. Consequently, improvements have been proposed to overcome this problem, among which there are deconvolution methods.

For moving source, Sijtsma recently proposed an extended version of the deconvolution method CLEAN [4], known as CLEAN-SC [5], with an approach similar to the Matching Pursuit [17]. These methods provides satisfactory results for high signal-to-noise ratios (SNRs). Fleury and Bulté developped another approach DAMAS-MS [2], an extended version of DAMAS [6, 7] which can improve moving-source localization in a high SNR context.

In the case of low SNR, the problem is difficult to solve,



Fig. 1. Modelization of the forward problem

and some other approaches need to be developed. For example, a regularization term can be included to stabilize the solution. Basically, the Tikhonov regularization is applied to jet noise-source localization [8]. The sparse distribution of sources is also commonly used [9, 10, 11, 12, 13], although these methods have been developed for fixed-source localization.

The goal of the present paper is to propose a new deconvolution method <sup>1</sup> to apply to BF-MS results to improve moving-source localization.

The strategy is to formulate the forward problem as an optimization problem, with constraints derived from the physical context. The proposed cost function contains several parts: (i) a data-fidelity term accounts for the noise characteristics; (ii) the smoothed  $\ell_1/\ell_2$  ratio [1] promotes sparse representation of moving-source locations; and (iii) the knowledge of some physical properties of sources is also considered, such as constraints on its maximal and minimal amplitudes.

The paper is organized as follows: section 2 presents the proposed forward model; section 3 describes the minimization problem, the proposed algorithm, and some mathematical tools essential to this methodology; and simulation results are evaluated both objectively and subjectively in Section 4, and compared to the DAMAS-MS performance.

# 2. OBSERVATION MODEL

BF-MS compensates the Doppler effect and back-propagates the pressures measured by the M sensor array to a calculation

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grid of N points, which correspond to the possible source locations. We consider the classical case in pass-by experiments of sources, in the far-field, sharing the same movement and with low Mach numbers,  $\|\overrightarrow{Ma}\| \ll 1$ . For these conditions, some assumptions can be made during short time intervals of duration T, which are referred to as *snapshots* [2]:

1) The sources are in fixed positions;

2) The Doppler effect is negligible at the frequencies and speeds of interest (*i.e.*, it does not exceed the frequency resolution defined for the localization results).

Under these assumptions, BF-MS can be implemented in a simple way in the frequency domain. The measured acoustic pressures are temporally sliced into K snapshots that are indexed by k. The calculation grid of N points is defined for the snapshot k. Note that this grid moves according to the known global movement of the sources.

The beamforming computed for the  $n^{\text{th}}$  calculation point at the frequency  $\zeta$  and for the snapshot k is given by:

$$b_n^k(\zeta) = \left(\mathbf{w}_n^k\right)^* \mathbf{p}^k(\zeta) \left(\mathbf{p}^k(\zeta)\right)^* \mathbf{w}_n^k \tag{1}$$

where  $\cdot^*$  is the conjugate transpose,  $\mathbf{p}^k(\zeta)$  is the  $M \times 1$  vector of the Fourier transforms of the pressures measured by the sensors during the snapshot k at frequency  $\zeta$ , and  $\mathbf{w}_n^k$  is the steering vector of size  $M \times 1$  between the M sensors and the  $n^{\text{th}}$  calculation point. The  $m^{\text{th}}$  element  $w_{nm}^k$  of  $\mathbf{w}_n^k$  is:

$$w_{nm}^{k} = \left(\sum_{m'=1}^{M} \left(\frac{1}{R_{nm'}^{k}}\right)^{2}\right)^{-1} \frac{\exp(-j\zeta R_{nm}^{k})}{R_{nm}^{k}} \quad (2)$$

where j is a complex number, and  $R_{nm}^k$  is the distance between the  $m^{\text{th}}$  sensor and the  $n^{\text{th}}$  calculation point during the snapshot k. We then define the vector of size  $\mathbf{b}(\zeta) \in \mathbb{R}^N$  where its  $n^{\text{th}}$ element  $b_n(\zeta)$  is the estimate of the BF-MS output for the  $n^{\text{th}}$ calculation point, through averaging over all the K snapshots:

$$b_n(\zeta) = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K b_n^k(\zeta).$$
 (3)

Note that in the case considered, the sensor array is a linear array along the x-axis. Consequently, BF-MS is performed along the x dimension, and the calculation grid is a one-dimension vector of size Nx1 along x.

We set the following assumptions:

(H1): The sources are random variables that are mutually independent and stationary;

(H2): The number M of sensors is greater than the number  $N_s$  of sources  $(M > N_s)$ , and these  $N_s$  sources are sparsely distributed on the calculation grid;

(H3): The noise components are Gaussian with zero mean, mutually independent, and independent of the sources.

On this basis, we can model the beamforming output at a given frequency  $\zeta$ :

$$\mathbf{b}(\zeta) = \mathbf{H}(\zeta)\overline{\mathbf{a}}(\zeta) + \mathbf{e}(\zeta) \tag{4}$$

where  $\mathbf{H}(\zeta) \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$  (Fig. 1-middle) is the array transfer function matrix that contains the beamforming point-spread functions. The  $(n, n') \in \{1, \ldots, N\}^2$  element of  $\mathbf{H}(\zeta)$  is:

$$h_{nn'}(\zeta) = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \left| \sum_{m=1}^{M} \left( w_{nm}^k \right)^* \frac{\exp(-j\zeta R_{n'm}^k)}{R_{n'm}^k} \right|^2 \quad (5)$$

and  $\mathbf{e}(\zeta) \in \mathbb{R}^N$  is the autospectra of the measurement noise, and  $\overline{\mathbf{a}}(\zeta) \in \mathbb{R}^N$  is the autospectra of the possible sources located at the *N* calculation points (Fig. 1-right), which we want to recover. More details on the forward model are given in [2, 14].

#### **3. PROPOSED METHOD**

## 3.1. Criterion to be minimized

In the following, we omit the frequency  $\zeta$  for the sake of simplicity. The purpose of this study is to identify  $\overline{a}$  from b through Equation (4), which leads to an inverse problem. To solve this, we propose an optimization objective that minimizes the following criterion:

$$\underset{\mathbf{a}\in\mathbb{R}^{N}}{\text{minimize}} \ \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{H}\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}\|^{2} + \lambda\varphi(\mathbf{a}) + \rho(\mathbf{a}) \tag{6}$$

The term  $\varphi$  models a regularization function that accounts for the sparsity of the solution with the regularization parameter  $\lambda \in [0, +\infty[$ . When  $\lambda = 0$ , no regularization issue is considered, as presented in [2]. If  $\varphi = \ell_2^2$ , the solution can be achieved using an adapted Tikhonov regularization method. This regularization function is not adapted for the considered case of sparse source positions. Another possibility is to choose  $\varphi = \ell_1$ -norm to restore the sparsity of solution, as was proposed in [9, 13]. In the present paper, we propose to use a new regularization, the smoothed  $\ell_1/\ell_2$  ratio proposed in [1]. To validate the choice of this regularization term for the case of sparse localization of acoustic moving sources, we investigate two possibilities for  $\varphi$ : For every  $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ :

1. The smooth approximation of  $\ell_1$ -norm is named  $\ell_{1,\alpha}$ , where  $\ell_{1,\alpha}(\mathbf{a}) = \sum_{n=1}^{N} \left( \sqrt{a_n^2 + \alpha^2} - \alpha \right)$ , is one classical choice for sparse representation.

2. The smoothed  $\ell_1/\ell_2$  ratio as proposed in [1]:  $\log\left(\frac{\ell_{1,\alpha}(\mathbf{a})+\beta}{\ell_{2,\eta}(\mathbf{a})}\right)$ with,  $\ell_{2,\eta}(\mathbf{a}) = \sqrt{\sum_{n=1}^N a_n^2 + \eta^2}$ ,  $(\alpha, \beta, \eta) \in ]0, +\infty[^3.$  $\rho : \mathbb{R}^N \to ] -\infty, +\infty]$  introduces the prior knowledge on the sources. We assume that  $\rho$  is a proper, lower semicountinuous, convex function, continuous in its domain (dom  $\rho$ ). One natural choice for  $\rho$  is the indicator function of the hypercube  $[a_{\min}, a_{\max}]^N$  (equal to 0 if  $\forall n \in \{1, \dots, N\}, a_n \in [a_{\min}, a_{\max}]$ , and  $+\infty$  otherwise), where  $a_{\min}$  (resp.  $a_{\max}$ ) is the lower (resp. upper) boundary of  $\overline{\mathbf{a}}$ . In practice, we choose  $a_{\min}$  as 0, which leads to a nonnegative constraint on the source power variables, and  $a_{\max}$  is the maximum value of b.

In the following, we denote:

$$\psi(\mathbf{a}) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{H}\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}\|^2 + \lambda \varphi(\mathbf{a}).$$
(7)

#### 3.2. Variable metric forward-backward algorithm

To provide a numerical solution for Equation (6), it is necessary to minimize a nonconvex and nonsmooth criterion. If the function  $\rho$  in (6) only imposes the non negativity of the solution, the Multiplicative Iterative (MI) algorithm [18] can be used. However, when more information on the solution is available, e.g. the upper boundary of the solution, this algorithm is no more appropriate. We then use the variable metric forward-backward (VMF-B) algorithm proposed in [15] to take into account all the available information on the solution. This algorithm requires two optimization principles. The first is related to the choice of a variable metric that relies upon majorization-minimization properties; *i.e.*:

**Definition 1** Let  $\psi : \mathbb{R}^N \to \mathbb{R}$  be a differentiable function. Let  $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ . Let us define, for every  $\mathbf{a}' \in \mathbb{R}^N$ :

 $\begin{aligned} q(\mathbf{a}', \mathbf{a}) &= \psi(\mathbf{a}) + (\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{a}')^\top \nabla \psi(\mathbf{a}) + \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{a}')^\top U(\mathbf{a}) (\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{a}'), \\ where \ U(\mathbf{a}) \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N} \ is \ a \ semidefinite \ positive \ matrix. \ Then, \\ U(\mathbf{a}) \ satisfies \ the \ majorant \ condition \ for \ \psi \ at \ \mathbf{a} \ if \ q(\cdot, \mathbf{a}) \ is \\ a \ quadratic \ majorant \ of \ the \ function \ \psi \ at \ \mathbf{a}, \ i.e., \ for \ every \\ \mathbf{a}' \in \mathbb{R}^N, \ \psi(\mathbf{a}') \leq q(\mathbf{a}', \mathbf{a}). \end{aligned}$ 

The second optimization principle is the definition of the proximity operator of a proper, lower semicontinuous, convex function  $\rho$  at  $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ , relative to the metric induced by a symmetric positive definite matrix U, and denoted by  $\operatorname{prox}_{U,\rho}(\mathbf{a})$ , which is the unique minimizer of  $\rho + \frac{1}{2}(\cdot - \mathbf{a})^\top U(\cdot - \mathbf{a})$ . When U is an identity matrix of  $\mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ , then this operator reduces to the original definition of the proximity operator in [16]: In this

Algorithm 1	1	VMF-B	algorithm	[1.	5	l
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For every  $l \in \mathbb{N}$ , and let  $\gamma_l$  be positive. Initialize with  $\mathbf{a}^0 \in \operatorname{dom} \rho$ . **Iterations:** For l = 0, 1, ... $\begin{bmatrix} \widetilde{\mathbf{a}}^l = \mathbf{a}^l - \gamma_l Q(\mathbf{a}^l)^{-1} \nabla \psi(\mathbf{a}^l) \\ \mathbf{a}^{l+1} = \operatorname{prox}_{\gamma_l^{-1} Q(\mathbf{a}^l), \rho} \left( \widetilde{\mathbf{a}}^l \right) \end{bmatrix}$ 

algorithm, Q is a semidefinite positive matrix for building majorizing approximations of  $\psi$ , which is given by the following proposition established in [1]:

**Proposition 1** For every 
$$\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{R}^N$$
, let  
1.  $Q^{(1)}(\mathbf{a}) = \text{Diag}\left(\left((a_n^2 + \alpha^2)^{-1/2}\right)_{1 \le n \le N}\right),$   
2.  $Q^{(2)}(\mathbf{a}) = \frac{9}{8\eta^2} I_N + \frac{1}{\ell_{1,\alpha}(\mathbf{a}) + \beta} Q^{(1)}(\mathbf{a}).$ 

where  $I_N$  is the identity matrix of  $\mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ . Then, for  $j \in \{1, 2\}$ ,  $Q(\mathbf{a}) = \|\mathbf{H}\|^2 I_N + \lambda Q^{(j)}(\mathbf{a})$  satisfies the majoration condition for  $\psi$  at  $\mathbf{a}$ , and  $^{(j)}$  corresponds to two choices for  $\varphi$  in Section 3.1.

To conclude, we have proposed a deconvolution method to apply to the BF-MS that imposes sparsity and regularity on the acoustic moving-source positions. This method is validated in the next section, and compared to the classical DAMAS-MS, used in acoustics for moving-source deconvolution.



**Fig. 2.** Simulated configuration of a pass-by experiment. Source  $S_1$  in black, Source  $S_2$  in green, calculation grid in red. Blue arrow represents the global movement of the sources.

#### 4. SIMULATION

The simulated configuration is presented in Fig. 2. Here, we consider two sources: a random broadband source located at  $S_1 = (-4m, 0m, 0m)$  (in black) and a sum of 3 sine functions at frequencies 1200 Hz, 1400 Hz and 1800 Hz located at  $S_2 = (1m, 0m, 0m)$  (in green). The sources are moving jointly, following a linear trajectory of length 20m at constant speed v = 2m/s. A linear antenna of 21 hydrophones equally spaced by 0.5m records the propagated acoustic signals during T = 10s. Zero-mean white Gaussian noise is added into the recorded signals. To perform BF-MS, the moving calculation grid  $X_n(t), \forall n \in \{1, \ldots, N\}$  has a length of 20m and contains N = 101 points. The synthetic data were simulated using the closed form solution for the propagation of moving point sources in the free field (with a monopole radiation). For the ideal case of the simulation, the source positions matched with the positions of the grid points.

	10 dB	0 dB	-10 dB
DAMAS-MS	2.83	3.12	5.19
$\ell_{1,lpha}(\mathbf{a})$	1.57	1.58	1.78
$\log\left(\frac{\ell_{1,\alpha}(\mathbf{a})+\beta}{\ell_{2,\eta}(\mathbf{a})}\right)$	0.28	0.28	0.38

**Table 1**. Results obtained by DAMAS-MS and the ones by VMF-B algorithm for the two penalty functions  $\ell_{1,\alpha}$  and smoothed  $\ell_1/\ell_2$ , for three different SNRs. Results averaged over 200 noise realizations.

The VMF-B algorithm with the two penalty functions  $\ell_{1,\alpha}$ and smoothed  $\ell_1/\ell_2$  and the classical DAMAS-MS are applied to the BF-MS result. For VMF-B, the algorithm is launched on  $10^4$  iterations and can stop earlier at iteration l if  $\|\mathbf{a}^l - \mathbf{a}^{l-1}\| \le \sqrt{N} \times 10^{-6}$ .

Table 1 summarizes quantitatively the results in terms of reconstruction error on vector  $\bar{\mathbf{a}}$  for different SNRs. The error is defined as the  $\ell_{1,\alpha}$  norm of the error between the real  $\bar{\mathbf{a}}$  and estimated  $\hat{\mathbf{a}}$ , which represents the ability of the method to reconstruct accurate sparse source positions. The results show that in all of the cases, the VMF-B algorithm with the smoothed  $\ell_1/\ell_2$  has the smallest error. Consequently, in the following, we only perform the VMF-B method with the smoothed  $\ell_1/\ell_2$  penalty function.

After this quantitative study, it is necessary to study the method performances qualitatively, directly on the localization maps for a SNR of 10 dB. Fig. 3 shows the results for DAMAS-MS and VMF-B for two frequencies, 1200 Hz (a) and 770 Hz (b). The blue lines represent the reference sources to estimate (in terms of position and amplitude). The magenta lines are the BF-MS results, which are the starting points of the DAMAS-MS and VMF-B methods. The results obtained by the VMF-B algorithm are in green, and those of DAMAS-MS in red.

At the frequency 1200 Hz (Fig. 3a) for which both sources exist, both the DAMAS-MS and VMF-B methods detect the source positions accurately. Nevertheless, DAMAS-MS gives some false alarms at x = 3m and x = 5m, whereas VMF-B does not. These false sources have smaller amplitudes, but they are a real problem because the number of sources is generally not known.

At frequency 770 Hz (Fig. 3b) for which only the source  $S_1$  exists, DAMAS-MS gives a wrong result with a spatially extended source and false alarms, while the VMF-B algorithm shows an excellent result in terms of position and amplitude.



**Fig. 3**. Autospectrum of the original sources in blue, BF-MS output in magenta, results obtained by DAMAS-MS [2] in red (top), and by VMF-B in green (bottom) for input data with 10 dB noise. (a) Frequency of 1200 Hz. (b) Frequency of 770 Hz.

The two-dimensional localization map is shown in Fig. 4, which was obtained by applying the DAMAS-MS method and VMF-B algorithm for all frequencies, where (a) is the BF-MS map, and (b) and (c) are the DAMAS-MS and VMF-B results, respectively. The first observation is that both methods localize the two sources and allow their identification as one



**Fig. 4**. Localization in the frequency-distance domain obtained. (a) Initial BF-MS (b) DAMAS-MS (c) VMF-B.

broadboand source and a sum-of-sine source.

Nevertheless, by studying the different zones indicated in red in Fig. 4, which are related to the autospectrum of the sine source at the three frequencies 1200 Hz, 1400 Hz, and 1800 Hz, some other conclusions can be made. The VMF-B algorithm has obviously the better performances than DAMAS-MS in term of localization, as the source  $S_2$  is spread over several x positions by DAMAS-MS, whereas VMF-B manages to estimate a point source at the true source position.

Moreover, concerning the broadband source  $S_1$ , the VMF-B algorithm has obviously better performances than DAMAS-MS, especially between the frequencies of 700 Hz and 1000 Hz, where DAMAS-MS fails to localize the source.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

This paper proposes to adapt the VMF-B algorithm [15] for moving-source localization in underwater acoustic data. As the number of sources is small enough, its autospectrum has a sparse representation, and it is possible to obtain more accurate results of deconvolution through a regularization function. In this paper, the smooth approximation of  $\ell_1/\ell_2$  has shown very good performance in term of localization and suppression of false alarms. In future studies, it will be interested to validate the method with real data and to extend it to the 2D version, which would directly work with the entire frequency-distance domain obtained after BF-MS at all the frequencies.

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