Research Article

Tensor-Based Angle and Range Estimation Method in Monostatic FDA-MIMO Radar

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In the paper, joint angle and range estimation issue for monostatic frequency diverse array multiple-input multiple-output (FDA-MIMO) is proposed, and a tensor-based framework is addressed to solve it. The proposed method exploits the multidimensional structure of matched filters in FDA-MIMO radar. Firstly, stack the received data to form a third-order tensor so that the multidimensional structure information of the received data can be acquired. Then, the steering matrices contain the angle and range information are estimated by using the parallel factor (PARAFAC) decomposition. Finally, the angle and range are achieved by utilizing the phase characteristic of the steering matrices. Due to exploiting the multidimensional structure of the received data to further suppress the effect of noise, the proposed method performs better in angle and range estimation than the existing algorithms based on ESPRIT, simulation results can prove the proposed method’s effectiveness.

1. Introduction

Multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) radar was first proposed in [1–3], which is a key research point in today’s radar field. In MIMO radar, all the antennas are omnidirectional and the transmitted signals are orthogonal to each other, which can achieve the waveform diversity gain in the receiver side. Currently, there are two main types of MIMO radars, namely, collocated MIMO radar [4–6] and statistical MIMO radar [7, 8]. The statistical MIMO radar is composed with separated transmit and receive antennas for obtaining both the waveform and spatial diversity gain. In contrast, in order to improve the estimation performance, the collocated MIMO radar closely places the transmitting and receiving arrays to form a virtual array that has large aperture. In the past few years, parameter estimation, including direction of arrival (DOA), direction of departure (DOD), and Doppler frequency, became a hot topic and investigated by a lot of researchers. In the common subspace-based methods, such as multiple signal classification algorithm (MUSIC) and estimation of signal parameters via rotational invariance techniques (ESPRIT), MIMO radar has used them to achieve DOD and DOA estimation [9–14], which can obtain the desired performance with reasonable SNR and snapshots. In addition, a joint angle and Doppler frequency estimation method is investigated, which can be used to track the targets. However, it is noted that these methods for MIMO radar with narrow-band signals cannot achieve the range information which is very important for target localization in practice.

FDA radar can get the distance information of the target [15]. There is one difference between the FDA radar and the traditional phased array radar, and for the FDA radar, the transmitting frequency of each transmitting antenna has a frequency increment so that it can draw the relevant beam pattern, improve the degree of freedom in space, and then achieve the joint angle and distance estimation about target in the FDA radar. However, the angle and range of the target in the beam domain of the FDA radar are mixed, so it cannot directly obtain the angle and distance information of the
target through spectral peak search. At present, there are some solutions to this problem. In [16], a nonlinear FDA radar is proposed, but this method needs to change the array element position in actual operation, which is difficult to achieve. In [17, 18], a method based on subarrays to achieve angle and distance decoupling is proposed, but this method has the problem of distance ambiguity. In addition, in [19], the target positioning method of the coprime array FDA radar is studied, and in [20, 21], the nested FDA parameter estimation method is studied.

In [18], FDA-MIMO radar with both frequency and waveform diversity is proposed for the first time, which makes use of the unique advantages of FDA radar and MIMO radar, which not only has excellent target detection performance in target detection but also has a high freedom of the spatial degree; it can realize the joint estimation of the target angle and range [17, 22–24]. At present, there are many kinds of FDA-MIMO radar target positioning algorithms, such as MUSIC methods and ESPRIT methods, but the MUSIC method involves a spectral peak search and results in a high algorithm complexity. Although the ESPRIT method can be applied to reduce the computational complexity and obtain the angle and range information of the target through rotation invariance, this method is not suitable for the phase ambiguity situation.

The advantages of FDA are developed based on the characteristics of the multidimensional structure of the signal. The abovementioned traditional matrix processing method cannot make good use of the multidimensional characteristics, which limits their performance [25]. To take advantage of the multidimensional structural characteristics of the signal, the PARAFAC decomposition is used for angle estimation in unknown target localization by modelling tensor signals [26–28]. At present, there are few studies on estimation in unknown target localization by modelling the signal, the PARAFAC decomposition is used for angle estimation, and the reception direction matrix [29, 30]. Then, obtain the angle and distance information of the target by taking the phase of the direction matrix and finally realize the angle and distance estimation.

The proposed method compares the achievement with traditional estimation of signal parameters via rotational invariance techniques (ESPRIT) method [31], Unitary ESPRIT method [32], and Cramér–Rao Bound (CRB). The paper proposes the algorithm based on parallel factorization in monostatic FDA-MIMO radar. This method first establishes a third-order tensor signal model and uses parallel factorization to obtain the transmission direction matrix and the reception direction matrix [29, 30]. Then, obtain the angle and distance information of the target by taking the phase of the direction matrix and finally realize the angle and distance estimation.

2. Tensor-Based Data Model of Monostatic FDA-MIMO Radar

The paper is based on a narrowband monostatic FDA-MIMO radar. It is composed by M-element transmitting antennas and N-element receiving antennas. Figure 1 shows the structure of monostatic FDA-MIMO radar. The transmitting array and receiving array are placed together so the direction of arrival (DOA) is the same as the direction of departure (DOD). In general, the transmitting array and receiving array are uniform linear arrays (ULA) and are separated by half a wavelength. In the paper, there are K far-field targets by default which are independent of each other. Based on the first element of the transmitting antenna, the frequency of the mth element transmitting antenna is derived as

\[ f_m = f_0 + (m - 1)\Delta f, \]

where the reference frequency is denoted by \( f_0 \) and \( \Delta f \) denotes frequency increase of the transmitting antenna. Moreover, \( \Delta f \ll f_0 \).

After the matched filter, the receiving data can be rearranged as

\[
x(t) = [a_1(\theta_1, r_1) \otimes a_1(\theta_2, r_2) \otimes a_2(\theta_2, r_2) \otimes \ldots \otimes a_M(\theta_k, r_k)]s(t) + n(t),
\]

where \( n(t) \) denotes an \( MN \times 1 \) noise vector that is the additional white Gaussian noise vector, \( a_m(\theta, r) = [1, e^{j2\pi(d/l_m)\sin(\theta)}e^{-j2\pi(\Delta f)/c}r_1}, \ldots, e^{j2\pi(d/l_m)(M-1)\sin(\theta)}e^{-j2\pi(\Delta f)/c}(M-1)r_1]^T \) and \( a_m(\theta) = [1, e^{j2\pi f_s\sin(\theta/c)}e^{j2\pi f_s(M-1)\sin(\theta/c)}]^T \) stand for the transmit steering vector and the receive steering vector, respectively, and \( X = [x(1), x(2), \ldots, x(L)] \) stands for the received data of L samples, which can be expressed as

\[
X = \begin{bmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \\ \vdots \\ X_N \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A_T \otimes A_R \end{bmatrix} B^T = \begin{bmatrix} A_{T1} D_1(A_T) \\ A_{T2} D_2(A_T) \\ \vdots \\ A_{TN} D_N(A_T) \end{bmatrix} B^T,
\]

where \( B = [b(1), b(2), \ldots, b(L)]^T \in \mathbb{C}^{L \times K} \), the transmitting direction matrix is defined as \( A_T = [a_1(\theta, r_1), a_2(\theta_2, r_2), \ldots, a_M(\theta_k, r_k)] \in \mathbb{C}^{M \times K} \), and the receiving direction matrix is defined as \( A_R = [a_1(\theta, r_1), a_2(\theta_2, r_2), \ldots, a_N(\theta_k)] \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times K} \). \( A_T \otimes A_R \) stands for Khatri–Rao product. So, \( X_n \) is expressed as

\[
X_n = A_{n1} D_n(A_T) B^T, \quad n = 1, 2, \ldots, N.
\]

Under the interference of noise, the signal model is updated as
where \( A_T(m,k) \) is defined as the \((m,k)\) element of the matrix \( A_T \) and \( A_R(n,k) \) is defined as the \((n,k)\) element of the matrix \( A_R \). Another term for the PARAFAC decomposition of a third-order tensor is trilinear decomposition. Figure 2 shows the specific decomposition process.

Under the definition of PARAFAC decomposition, equation (6) can be regarded as a trilinear model with symmetrical properties. So, we can get \( Y_{m,l} = \sum_{k=1}^{K} A_R(n,k) A_T(m,k) B(l,k), \) where the noise signal is denoted by \( X_n \). The LS update of \( Y \) is written by

\[
\begin{align*}
\min_{A_T, A_R, B} \| Y - [A_T \odot A_R] B^T \|_F, \quad &Y = [A_R \odot B] A_T^T, \quad (7) \\
\min_{A_T, A_R, B} \| \hat{Y} - [A_T \odot A_R] B^T \|_F, \quad &\hat{Y} = [A_R \odot B] A_T^T. \quad (8)
\end{align*}
\]

We apply the tensor signal model and parallel factor decomposition to the monostatic FDA-MIMO radar and derive the PARAFAC-based angle and range estimation method. In the following section, we will derive the method in more detail.

### 3. The Proposed Method

3.1. Parallel Factor Decomposition. In this section, according to the trilinear alternating least square (TALS) method, we can estimate the transmitting direction matrix and the receiving direction matrix. The TALS method can be explored for data analysis in trilinear models.

According to [33], the estimation of the direction matrices can be obtained by the parallel factor decomposition. The least squares (LS) update of equation (3) is written by

\[
\min_{A_T, A_R, B} \| \hat{X} - [A_T \odot A_R] B^T \|_F. \quad (9)
\]

where the noise signal is denoted by \( \hat{X} \). The LS update of matrix \( B \) is written by

\[
\begin{align*}
\min_{A_T, A_R, B} \| \hat{Y} - [A_T \odot A_R] B^T \|_F, \quad &\hat{Y} = [A_R \odot B] A_T^T. \quad (10)
\end{align*}
\]

where the noise signal is denoted by \( \hat{Y} \). The LS update of matrix \( A_T \) is written by

\[
\begin{align*}
\min_{A_T, A_R, B} \| \hat{Z} - [B \odot A_T] A_R^T \|_F, \quad &\hat{Z} = [B \odot \hat{A}_T] A_R^T. \quad (11)
\end{align*}
\]

where the noise signal is denoted by \( \hat{Z} \). The LS update of matrix \( A_R \) is

\[
\begin{align*}
\min_{A_T, A_R, B} \| \hat{X} - [A_T \odot A_R] B^T \|_F, \quad &\hat{X} = [A_R \odot B] A_T^T. \quad (12)
\end{align*}
\]
where $\mathbf{B}$ and $\mathbf{A}_R$ on behalf of the estimates of $\mathbf{B}$ and $\mathbf{A}_T$ which have previously obtained, respectively.

According to equations (10), (12), and (14), $\mathbf{B}$, $\mathbf{A}_T$, and $\mathbf{A}_R$ are given by the LS. The LS update does not stop until convergence, and the constraint condition can be expressed as $\| \mathbf{X} - [\mathbf{A}_T \odot \mathbf{A}_R] \mathbf{B} \|_F \leq 10^{-10}$.

For the received noise signals, according to the trilinear decomposition, we can get the estimated parameter matrices: $\mathbf{A}_T = \mathbf{A}_T \Lambda \mathbf{M}_1 + \mathbf{N}_1$, $\mathbf{A}_R = \mathbf{A}_R \Lambda \mathbf{M}_2 + \mathbf{N}_2$, and $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B} \Lambda \mathbf{M}_3 + \mathbf{N}_3$, where $\Lambda$ is a permutation matrix, $\mathbf{N}_1$, $\mathbf{N}_2$, and $\mathbf{N}_3$ stand for the matrices in correspondence to estimation errors, and $\mathbf{M}_1$, $\mathbf{M}_2$, and $\mathbf{M}_3$ denote the diagonal scaling matrices and are subject to $\mathbf{M}_1 \mathbf{M}_2 \mathbf{M}_3 \mathbf{I}_1 = \mathbf{I}_k$. The inherent scale ambiguity and permutation of trilinear decomposition and normalization can be used to eliminate scale ambiguity.

3.2. Angle Estimation. From the trilinear decomposition in the previous section, we can get estimates of the direction matrices $\mathbf{A}_T$ and $\mathbf{A}_R$ by the TALS method.

It can be seen from the signal model that the steer vector of $\mathbf{A}_R$ is only related to the direction of arrival (DOA), and we can get the estimated value of the angle through $\mathbf{A}_R$.

In the paper, the receive array can be preset as half-wavelengths spaced uniform linear arrays (ULA), so the receive steering vector of $\bar{\theta}_k$ is
\[
\mathbf{a}_r(\bar{\theta}_k) = \left[ 1, e^{j \pi \sin \theta_k}, \ldots, e^{j \pi (N-1) \sin \theta_k} \right]^T.
\]

Let $\psi_r$ denote the phase of $\mathbf{a}_r(\bar{\theta}_k)$, which can be expressed as
\[
\psi_r = \text{angle}(\mathbf{a}_r(\bar{\theta}_k)) = \left[ 0, \pi \sin \theta_k, \ldots, \pi (N-1) \sin \bar{\theta}_k \right]^T.
\]

After the receiving steering vector is well calibrated, it is represented as $\mathbf{a}_r(\bar{\theta}_k)$ and utilizes normalization to dispel scale ambiguity. So, $\psi_r$ can be obtained from equation (16). The estimate of $\sin \bar{\theta}_k$ can be calculated by LS principle. We can construct the LS fitting as
\[
\mathbf{Gq} = \tilde{\psi}_r,
\]
where $\mathbf{q} \in \mathbb{C}^{2 \times 1}$ and $\tilde{\psi}_r$ stand for the estimated vector and the estimated phase of steering vector, $\mathbf{G}$ is defined as
\[
\mathbf{G} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & \pi \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & \pi (N-1) \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times 2},
\]
$\tilde{\psi}_r$ is the LS solution of $\mathbf{q}$, by equation (17), which stands for the estimated vector and can be expressed as
\[
\tilde{\psi}_r = (\mathbf{G}^T \mathbf{G})^{-1} \mathbf{G}^T \psi_r.
\]

The receive angle $\tilde{\theta}_r$ is derived from
\[
\tilde{\theta}_r = \sin^{-1}(\tilde{\psi}_r(2)),
\]
where $\tilde{\psi}_r(2)$ represents the element in the second row of the vector $\tilde{\psi}_r$.

3.3. Range Estimation. For the tensor-based data model, the range and transmit angle of the uncorrelated target are both included in the transmit steering vector. So, the transmit steering vector can be expressed as
\[
\mathbf{a}_t(\theta_k, r_k) = \mathbf{a}_r(\bar{\theta}_k) \circ \mathbf{a}_t(r_k),
\]
where
\[
\mathbf{a}_r(\bar{\theta}_k) = \left[ 1, e^{j 2d \sin (\theta_k/\lambda)}, \ldots, e^{j 2d (M-1) \sin (\theta_k/\lambda)} \right]^T
\]
and
\[
\mathbf{a}_t(r_k) = \left[ 1, e^{j 2d \Delta f (r_k/\epsilon)}, \ldots, e^{j 2d \Delta f (M-1) r_k/\epsilon)} \right]^T
\]
are the transmitting angle steering vector and range steering vector, respectively.

The transmit array is preset as half-wavelengths spaced ULA, so the transmitting steer vector of $(\theta_k, r_k)$ can be reduced as
\[
\mathbf{a}_t(\theta_k, r_k) = \left[ 1, e^{j \pi (\sin \theta_k - 4A f r_k/\epsilon)}, e^{j \pi (M-1) (\sin \theta_k - 4A f r_k/\epsilon)} \right]^T.
\]

In the previous section, the direction of arrival (DOA) $\bar{\theta}_k$ has been obtained. Referring to the derivation process in the previous section and letting $\psi_r$ represent the phase of $\mathbf{a}_r(r_k, \bar{\theta}_k)$, which can be expressed as
\[
\psi_r = \text{angle}(\mathbf{a}_r(r_k, \bar{\theta}_k)) = \left[ 0, \pi \sin \theta_k - 4A f r_k/\epsilon, \ldots, \pi (M-1) \left( \sin \theta_k - 4A f r_k/\epsilon \right) \right]^T.
\]

In the previous section, we have obtained the estimated receive vector $\tilde{\psi}_r$. Similarly, we can get $\tilde{\psi}_r$ by equation (17),

![Figure 2: Schematic diagram of trilinear decomposition.](image-url)
which stands for the estimated transmit receive vector and can be expressed as

$$\hat{q}_t = (G^T G)^{-1} G^T \hat{\psi}_t.$$  \hfill (24)

The range \(\tilde{r}_k\) of target is derived from

$$\tilde{r}_k = c \frac{\sin (\hat{\theta}_k - \hat{\theta}_t)}{4 \Delta f},$$ \hfill (25)

where \(\hat{q}_t(2)\) represents the element in the second row of the vector \(\hat{q}_t\).

So far, we already get the angle and range of the uncorrelated target in the monostatic FDA-MIMO radar. We can recap the key processes of the proposed method as follows:

(i) Step 1: according to equation (6), the received data is transformed into a third-order tensor model.
(ii) Step 2: apply the trilinear decomposition principle; we can obtain the transmitting direction matrix \(\tilde{A}_T\) and the receiving direction matrix \(\tilde{A}_R\).
(iii) Step 3: take the phase \(\hat{q}_t\) and \(\hat{q}_r\) of \(\tilde{A}_R\) and \(\tilde{A}_T\) by equations (16) and (23), respectively.
(iv) Step 4: the phase \(\hat{\psi}_t\) of the receiving direction matrix was plugged into equation (17) and obtain \(\hat{q}_r\) by LS fitting; then, the receive angle \(\hat{\theta}_r\) can be calculated by equation (20).
(v) Step 5: similarly, we can obtain \(\hat{q}_t\); then, the range \(\tilde{r}_k\) of target can be calculated by substituting the angle into equation (25).

4. CRB of FDA-MIMO Radar

The input signal spectrum is defined as

$$S_x = AS_x A^H + \sigma^2 I_{MN},$$ \hfill (26)

where \(S_x\) is the unknown signal spectrum matrix. CRB formula can be expressed as \([17, 32]\)

$$\text{CRB} = \frac{\sigma^2}{2L} \left\{ \text{Re} \left[ \left( S_x A^H S_x A^H \right) \otimes \left[ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{array} \right] \right] (D^H P^H D)^T \right\}^{-1},$$ \hfill (27)

where \(D = [(\partial \theta (\theta_1, r_1) / \partial \theta_1), \ldots, (\partial \theta (\theta_1, r_1) / \partial r_1), \ldots],\) and \(P^H = I_{MN} - A (A^H A)^{-1} A^H.\)

When \(A^H S_x A\) is large enough, \(S_x\) and \(A^H A\) are not close to singularity and the signals are unknown; the above formula can be approximated as an approximate CRB:

$$\text{CRB}_{\text{ACR}} = \frac{\sigma^2}{2L} \left\{ \text{Re} \left[ \left( S_x \otimes \left[ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{array} \right] \right] (D^H P^H D)^T \right\}^{-1}.$$ \hfill (28)

5. Simulation Results

In this section, the effectiveness and advantages of our proposed method can be proved by some numerical simulations. The ESPRIT method and Unitary-ESPRIT method can be utilized to contrast with our proposed method. We default the monostatic FDA-MIMO radar with \(M = 8\) transmitting antennas and \(N = 8\) receiving antennas in this paper.

Unless otherwise specified, it is supposed that there are \(K = 3\) uncorrelated targets which are objected to far-field. The three targets are placed at \((\theta_1, r_1) = (-15', 0.5\text{ km}), (\theta_2, r_2) = (10', 6\text{ km}),\) and \((\theta_3, r_3) = (35', 80\text{ km}).\) The performance of our proposed method can be appraised by the root mean square error (RMSE), which can be expressed as

$$\text{RMSE}_\theta = \sqrt{\frac{1}{K T} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \left( \hat{\theta}_{k,t} - \theta_k \right)^2},$$ \hfill (29)

$$\text{RMSE}_r = \sqrt{\frac{1}{K T} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \left( \hat{r}_{k,t} - r_k \right)^2},$$ \hfill (30)

where \(\hat{\theta}_{k,t}\) and \(\hat{r}_{k,t}\) are the estimation of DOA \(\theta_k\) and range \(r_k\) of the \(k\)th target for the \(r\)th Monte Carlo trials, respectively, \(T\) denotes the total amount of Monte Carlo trials, and \(T = 500\) is preset in this simulation.

In addition, the probability of successful detection is another metric used to appraise the achievement of our method, which is defined by

$$\text{PSD} = \frac{V}{T} \times 100\%,$$ \hfill (30)

where \(V\) represents the number of successful estimates, and the criterion for the success of the angle and range experiments is that the absolute value of all experimental numerical errors are less than the minimum 0.1° and 0.1 km, respectively.

We preset SNR = 20 dB in the first simulation; Figure 3 shows the estimation results of our proposed method. Figure 3 shows the estimation of the range and angle of the uncorrelated targets are correct, and the landing points are highly concentrated. It directly proves the stability and accuracy of the proposed method.

And then, \(L\) denotes the number of snapshots, and it is preset to \(L = 50\) in this simulation. We first investigate the liaison between RMSE and SNR of range estimation and angle estimation in the second simulation. We use two comparison methods, which are the ESPRIT method \([31]\) and the Unitary ESPRIT method \([32]\), respectively. After introducing CRB, they are compared with the proposed method. Figures 4 and 5 correspond to the simulation. From the two figures, it can be demonstrated that the estimated performance of the proposed method is better than the ESPRIT method and the Unitary ESPRIT method. In addition, the RMSE of the proposed method is closer to CRB.
From the following, we explore the relationship between RMSE and snapshots of range estimation and angle estimation in the third simulation, and the results are shown in Figures 6 and 7, respectively. The SNR = 10 dB is preset in this simulation. Similar to the first simulation, after introducing CRB, we use the contrast methods to compare with the proposed algorithm. As the number of snapshots increase, we can know from the figures that the RMSE of three methods and CRB all decrease. So, we conclude that the accuracy of the methods is improving, and the proposed method has the best performance.

In the fourth simulation, the relationship between probability and SNR of angle and range probability successful detection is obtained. The number of snapshots is preset to $L = 50$. Figures 8 and 9 correspond to the fourth simulation. From two figures, we can know the success rate of three methods can reach 100% with the increase of SNR. Moreover, with the increase of SNR, the probability of successful detection also increases. It can reach a detection success rate of 100%, when the SNR reaches a sufficiently high level, this SNR is generally called the SNR threshold. Obviously, the threshold of the proposed method is the lowest among the three methods, which also illustrates the superiority of the proposed method.
6. Conclusions

In the paper, we proposed a tensor-based range and angle estimation method in monostatic FDA-MIMO radar. The proposed method uses the trilinear model to obtain the direction matrices through PARAFAC decomposition and extracts the phase from the direction matrix to estimate the distance and angle. This method uses the multidimensional information of the received data. Compared with the subspace methods such as ESPRIT and Unitary-ESPRIT methods, the proposed method has the best performance. The superiority of the proposed method can be verified by simulation.

Data Availability

No data were used to support this study.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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