Target Detection in Heterogeneous Clutter



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Introduction

- Effective target detection requires the suppression of clutter and interference
- Achieved by applying adaptive filter to the range cell under test (CUT)
- This requires knowledge of clutter and interference covariance matrix
 - Covariance matrix estimated using training data
 - Assume training data is statistically homogeneous with CUT
- Homogeneity assumption violated in practice \rightarrow loss in detection performance
 - Discretes in training data
 - Mismatch in clutter power
 - Non-Gaussian clutter
 - Clutter Motion
- Need detection approaches that are robust to clutter heterogeneity



Outline

- Airborne Radar Signal Model
- Target Detection and the Two-Data Set Detectors
- Clutter Heterogeneity
- Detection Approaches for Heterogeneous Clutter
- Single Data Set Algorithms and hybrid Detectors
- Texture Estimation and Normalisation Detector
- The Multistage Wiener Filter
- Rank Estimation Approaches for the MWF



Airborne Radar Signal Model

- Airborne radar travelling at velocity v_p
- N antennas with inter-element spacing d
- Coherent Pulse Interval (CPI) \succ comprising *M* pulses \geq Pulse repetition frequency f_{PRF}
- Radar collects samples from N_r range gates
- Focus on range k. Clutter patch at angle θ

 - Spatial frequency $f_s(\theta) = \frac{d}{\lambda} \sin \theta$ Doppler frequency $f_d(\theta) = \frac{v_p}{\lambda} \sin \theta$





Airborne Radar Signal Model

• Steering matrix of clutter patch is $\mathbf{S}_{c}(\theta) = \mathbf{s}_{s}(\theta)\mathbf{s}_{t}^{T}(\theta)$

where

•
$$\mathbf{s}_{s}(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & e^{j2\pi f_{s}} \\ e^{j2\pi f_{d}} \end{bmatrix}^{T}$$
 and
• $\mathbf{s}_{t}(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & e^{j2\pi f_{d}} \\ e^{j2\pi f_{d}} \end{bmatrix}^{T} \\ \dots \\ e^{j2\pi (M-1)f_{d}} \end{bmatrix}^{T}$

- Complex reflectivity $\rho(\theta)$
- Then clutter return for range gate k is

$$\mathbf{C}_{k} = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \rho(k,\theta) g(\theta) \mathbf{S}_{c}(\theta) d\theta$$

where $g(\theta)$ is the two-way beampattern





Airborne Radar Signal Model

- Target present in cell k with reflectivity α
- Target steering vector $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{s}_{s} \mathbf{s}_{t}^{T}$ where

•
$$\mathbf{s}_{s,T} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & e^{j2\pi\nu_T} & \dots & e^{j2\pi(N-1)\nu_T} \end{bmatrix}^T$$
 and

- $\mathbf{s}_{t,T} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & e^{j2\pi f_{d,T}T_r} & \dots & e^{j2\pi(M-1)f_{d,T}T_r} \end{bmatrix}^T$
- The radar received signal model for range k becomes

$$\mathbf{X}_k = \alpha \mathbf{S} + \mathbf{C}_k + \mathbf{N}_k$$

where N_k is a matrix of white Gaussian noise

• Stacking the matrices \mathbf{X}_k , k = 1, ..., K to give the well-known data cube





Target Detection

• The received signal for range under test (CUT)



• Formulate detection problem as hypothesis test for presence of target

Target Detection

• Hypothesis test for $|\alpha| > 0$ vs $|\alpha| = 0$

$$H_0: \mathbf{x} = \boldsymbol{\varsigma} \\ H_1: \mathbf{x} = \alpha \mathbf{s} + \boldsymbol{\varsigma}$$

 H_1

 $y \gtrless \gamma$

 H_0

• Obtain suitable statistic and compare to a threshold

- Likelihood ratio test maximises probability of detection for fixed probability of false alarm
- Then

$$y = \frac{f_x(\mathbf{x}|H_1)}{f_x(\mathbf{x}|H_0)}$$
 equivalently $y = \ln f(\mathbf{x}|H_1) - \ln f(\mathbf{x}|H_0)$

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Detection Schemes - Two Data Set Algorithms

• Optimal detector is matched filter

$$y = \frac{|\mathbf{s}^H \mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{x}|^2}{\mathbf{s}^H \mathbf{R}^{-1} \mathbf{s}}$$

- Requires knowledge of true covariance matrix R
- Target-free homogeneous training data set **Z** of size *K*
- Sample covariance matrix $\widehat{\mathbf{R}} = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \mathbf{z}_{k} \mathbf{z}_{k}^{H}$
- Practical two-data set (TDS) detectors

$$y_{\text{GLRT}} = \frac{|\mathbf{s}^H \, \hat{\mathbf{R}}^{-1} \mathbf{x}|^2}{(\mathbf{s}^H \, \hat{\mathbf{R}}^{-1} \mathbf{s})(1 + \frac{1}{K} \mathbf{x}^H \, \hat{\mathbf{R}}^{-1} \mathbf{x})}$$

Generalised Likelihood
Ratio Test

$$y_{\text{AMF}} = \frac{\left|\mathbf{s}^{H}\,\widehat{\mathbf{R}}^{-1}\mathbf{x}\right|^{2}}{\mathbf{s}^{H}\,\widehat{\mathbf{R}}^{-1}\mathbf{s}}$$

Adaptive Matched Filter

Clutter Heterogeneity

- Assumption on ${\bf Z}$
 - Snapshots, z_k, are free from targets
 independent and identically distributed (iid)
 have same distribution as x
- Any, or all, assumptions violated in practice
- Heterogeneity arises due to
 - Discretes in training data
 - Mismatch in clutter power
 - ≻ Non-Gaussian clutter
 - Clutter Motion (non-stationary)

Detection in Heterogeneous Clutter

- Derive detectors for particular distributions, e.g.
 - K-distributed clutter
 - Compound K + Gaussian clutter
- Let $\mathbf{R} = \tau \mathbf{G}$ where \mathbf{G} fixed and τ is a random variable
- K-distributed clutter

 $\rightarrow \tau$ follows a Gamma distribution with mean μ and shape parameter ν

• Optimum detector

$$y_K = \frac{\left(\mathbf{x}^H \mathbf{G}^{-1} \mathbf{x}\right) \left(\mathbf{s}^H \mathbf{G}^{-1} \mathbf{s}\right) - |\mathbf{s}^H \mathbf{G}^{-1} \mathbf{x}|^2}{\mathbf{s}^H \mathbf{G}^{-1} \mathbf{s}}$$

• Requires knowledge of G

Detection in Heterogeneous Clutter

- Knowledge-aided detection
 - Use knowledge of platform and radar parameters
 - > Use digital terrain and elevation data and land cover and use
- Training data pre-screening

> non-homogeneity detection (NHD) strategies e.g. Generalised Inner Product (GIP)

• Reduce training data (sample support) requirements:

➢ Rank reduced detectors

Sparsity techniques

- Remove training data requirement:
 - Deterministic Direct Domain
 - Single Data Set detectors

Single Data Set Detectors

Single Data Set Detectors

- Single Data Set (SDS) uses data only from cell under test (CUT)
- Sliding window of size $P \times Q$ to partition CUT giving matrix \mathbf{X}_{T} of size $PQ \times K_{T}$ $K_{T} = (N - P + 1)(M - Q + 1)$
- Mean vector and covariance estimate

$$\mathbf{g} = \frac{1}{K_T} \mathbf{X}_T \mathbf{t}^*$$
 and $\mathbf{\Omega} = \frac{1}{K_T - 1} (\mathbf{X}_T \mathbf{X}_T^H - \mathbf{g} \mathbf{g}^H)$

• The SDS statistic

$$y_{\text{SDS}} = \frac{\left|\mathbf{s}^{H} \,\widehat{\mathbf{\Omega}}^{-1} \mathbf{g}\right|^{2}}{\mathbf{s}^{H} \,\widehat{\mathbf{\Omega}}^{-1} \mathbf{s}}$$

Hybrid Detection Approaches

- Training data usually not completely heterogeneous
- Combine the TDS and SDS approaches \rightarrow take advantage of both

Fixed Scale Hybrid

- Assume training data is statistically homogeneous
- Combine estimates Ω and \widehat{R}
- Fixed Scale Hybrid: covariance matrix estimate and detection statistic

$$\widehat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}_{\text{FSH}} = \frac{(K_T - 1)\boldsymbol{\Omega} + K_t \widehat{\boldsymbol{R}}}{K_T + K_t - 1} \text{, and } y_{\text{FSH}} = \frac{\left| \mathbf{s}^H \widehat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}_{\text{FS}}^{-1} \mathbf{g} \right|^2}{\mathbf{s}^H \widehat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}_{\text{FS}}^{-1} \mathbf{s}}$$

- Fixed scale hybrid gives improved performance in homogeneous environments
- Degrades in heterogeneous environments due to inclusion of training data
- Therefore, screen data for heterogeneity first

Variable Scale Hybrid

- Variable scale hybrid detector
- Use b_k , $k = 1, ..., K_t$ as a measure of heterogeneity of range k wrt CUT
- Covariance matrix estimate \widehat{R} becomes

$$\widehat{\mathbf{R}} = \frac{1}{\operatorname{tr}(\mathbf{B})} \mathbf{Z} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{Z}^{H}$$
 where $\mathbf{B} = diag(\mathbf{b})$

• Variable Scale Hybrid covariance matrix estimate and detection statistic

$$\widehat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}_{\text{VSH}} = \frac{(K_T - 1)\boldsymbol{\Omega} + \text{tr}(\mathbf{B})\widehat{\mathbf{R}}}{K_T + \text{tr}(\mathbf{B}) - 1}, \text{ and } y_{VSH} = \frac{\left|\mathbf{s}^H \widehat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}_{\text{VSH}}^{-1} \mathbf{g}\right|^2}{\mathbf{s}^H \widehat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}_{\text{VSH}}^{-1} \mathbf{s}}$$

• Using Generalised Inner Product for screening the data we have

$$b_k = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } \nu_L \le p_k \le \nu_U \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \text{ where } p_k = \mathbf{z}_k^H \mathbf{Q}^{-1} \mathbf{z}_k$$

Performance Evaluation (MCARM Data)

Texture Estimation and Normalisation Detector

- Maritime clutter modelled using a speckle matrix and a texture
- K-distributed clutter

$$\mathbf{x} \sim CN(\mathbf{0}, \tau_T \mathbf{G})$$

• For each training snapshot we have

$$\mathbf{z}_k \sim CN(\mathbf{0}, \tau_k \mathbf{G})$$

- Partition each snapshot to give $P \times Q$ matrix \mathbf{Z}_k and obtain $\widehat{\mathbf{R}}_k$
- Now

$$Q^{-1}\widehat{R}_k \approx \frac{\tau_k}{\tau_T}\widehat{G}^{-1}\widehat{G}_k$$
$$\approx \frac{\tau_k}{\tau_T} \mathbf{I}$$
Put $\zeta_k = \frac{1}{M} \operatorname{tr}(\mathbf{Q}^{-1}\widehat{\mathbf{R}}_k)$, then ζ_k is an estimate of $\frac{\tau_k}{\tau_T}$

Texture Estimation and Normalisation Detector

- Use ζ_k to normalise the texture in the training snapshots
- Define rescaled covariance matrix

$$\widetilde{\mathbf{R}}_k = \frac{1}{\zeta_k} \widehat{\mathbf{R}}_k \approx \tau_T \widehat{\mathbf{G}}_k$$

- This normalises the heterogeneity resulting from texture variations
- Finally, covariance matrix estimate and detection statistic become

$$\widehat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}_{\text{TEN}} = \frac{1}{K + K_T - 1} \left\{ (K_T - 1)\widehat{\mathbf{Q}} + \sum_k \widetilde{\mathbf{R}}_k \right\}$$

Detection statistic is

$$y_{\text{TEN}} = \frac{\left|\mathbf{s}^{H}\widehat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}_{\text{TEN}}^{-1}\mathbf{g}\right|^{2}}{\mathbf{s}^{H}\widehat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}_{\text{TEN}}^{-1}\mathbf{s}}$$

Performance Evaluation – Simulated Sea Clutter

- Simulated data set uses L-band radar and K-distributed clutter
- Shape parameter a, and scale parameter b, related to mean texture value μ by

$$\mu = \frac{\alpha}{b}$$

 a^2

- Smaller *a* implies stronger heterogeneity
- CPI comprised 135 pulses
- Target injected at 0° azimuth and Doppler 50Hz (equivalent to approximately 20km/h)
- Simulations use a $P_{fa} = 10^{-3}$ and 10,000 Monte Carlo Runs

Parameter	Simulated	Ingara
Centre frequency (GHz)	1.33	1.33
Bandwidth (MHz)	140	140
Pulse repetition frequency (Hz)	1500	1500
Number of spatial channels	4	4
Inter-element spacing	$\lambda/2$	1.16 <i>λ</i>
Aircraft speed (m/s)	100	88
Azimuth one-way 3 dB beamwidth	16°	13°
Clutter to noise ratio (dB)	20	10.1

Simulation Results

Experimental Results – Sea Clutter

- Ingara experimental data
- L-band radar with horizontal and vertical polarisations
- Horizontal polarisation with 30° grazing angle
- Douglas sea state between 3 and 4
- Shape parameter found to be 22.1 hence reasonably homogeneous data
- Target injected at 0° azimuth and Doppler 50Hz (approximately 20km/h)
- $P_{fa} = 10^{-3}$ and 10,000 Monte Carlo Runs

Reduced Dimension Detection

- Signal "lives" in a space of L = NM dimensions but affords a more compact representation
- Brennan's rule: clutter rank is $\leq M + \beta N 1 \ll NM$
- Available number of degrees of freedom K

- Reducing dimensionality to D < L
 - improves performance
 - reduces the training data requirements

Reduced Rank Detectors

- What value for *D*? E.g. clutter rank?
- How to determine the new basis i.e. projection matrix **T**?
- Principle Component Analysis
 - ➢ High clutter to noise ratio → clutter eigenvalues larger than noise eigenvalues
 - Separate the clutter subspace from noise subspace
 - Project onto the clutter subspace
- PCA aims to capture the entire clutter subspace
- Projection target-independent \rightarrow Not necessarily compact
- Cross-spectral metric: computationally expensive

Multistage Wiener Filter

- Make target steering vector a dimension of the smaller subspace
- MWF decomposes data vector ${\bf x}$ through successive, nested Wiener filters
- Start with desired response $d_0 = \mathbf{s}^H \mathbf{x}$
- Find direction of maximum correlation with the desired response vector

$$\mathbf{h}_{i} = \mathbf{r}_{\mathbf{x}_{i-1},\mathbf{d}_{i-1}}$$

• Down-project onto the orthogonal subspace using $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{h}\mathbf{h}^{H}$

- Iterate process finding direction of maximum correlation with previous stage
- Can be executed up to L stages or truncated to a smaller subspace

Why MWF?

MWF equivalently represented by transformation T that is
 Constrained to have s as a basis vector
 Tri-diagonalises the covariance matrix

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MWF is the solution of the problem

Find the projection **T** that has **s** as a basis vector and tri-diagonalises the covariance matrix

• MWF basis related to Krylov subspace

Reduced-Rank SDS and Hybrid Detectors

- Reduced rank SDS (SDS-R)
 - Combine the rank-reduction processing of the MWF with SDS
 - \succ Treat g as the data vector x and Ω as the covariance matrix estimate
- Assume T fixed to projection that diagonalises R
 - derive the probabilities of false alarm and detection
 - ➤ show that the resulting detector is CFAR
- >Actual performance shows loss due to T being a random variable

Reduced-Rank SDS and Hybrid Detectors

- Hybrid Reduced Rank FSH (FSH-R)
 - Input data vector g
 - Input covariance matrix $\Sigma_{\text{FSH}} = \frac{1}{K_T + K_t 1} (\mathbf{W}\mathbf{W}^H \mathbf{g}\mathbf{g}^H)$
- Hybrid Reduced Rank VSH (VSH-R)
 - Inversion of $\boldsymbol{\Omega}$ is unstable with low sample support
 - VSH-R overcomes this issue
 - First apply the MWF-SDS to give the down-projection matrix $\mathbf{T} = [\mathbf{s} \ \mathbf{h}_1 \ \mathbf{h}_2 \ ... \ \mathbf{h}_F]$
 - Down-project the CUT and training data

$$\boldsymbol{\Omega}_{r}=\boldsymbol{T}^{\mathrm{H}}\boldsymbol{\Omega}\text{, }\boldsymbol{z}_{r}^{}\!=\boldsymbol{T}^{\mathrm{H}}\boldsymbol{z}\text{, }\boldsymbol{g}_{r}^{}\!=\boldsymbol{T}^{\mathrm{H}}\boldsymbol{g}$$

• Apply the VSH to the rank reduced data

Data Sets and Simulation Parameters

- Sea clutter simulation modelling the X-band Ingara sea-clutter dataset:
 - Evolved Doppler spectrum with K-distributed clutter
 - >Upwind, 30° grazing angle and sea state 3
 - >Two scenarios: a = 1000 (homogenous) and a =
 - 0.2 (heterogeneous)
- Side looking airborne radar with 4 spatial channels
- Swerling-1 target model
- MWF: number of stages (F) \approx clutter rank
- SDS: $P = 16, Q = 4, K_T$ varying but $K_t = 2PQ$
- Monte Carlo simulation performed $P_{\rm FA} = 10^{-3}$

Parameter	Value
Carrier frequency, $f_{\rm c}$	10 GHz
Bandwidth, B	200 MHz
Pulse repetition frequency, f_r	3000 Hz
Polarisation	Horizontal
Platform velocity, $v_{\rm p}$	70 m/s
Azimuth two way 3 dB beamwidth	12.5°
Clutter to noise ratio	30 dB
Shape parameter, a	1000 and 0.2

Simulation Results

Homogeneous Clutter (a = 1000)

Independent Case

Partitioned Case

Simulation Results

Heterogeneous Case (a = 0.2)

Independent Case

Partitioned Case

The Rank Estimation Problem

- Recall the question "What value for *D*? E.g. clutter rank?"
- Reduced rank techniques require the dimensionality of the subspace of interest
 - \succ Underestimating the dimensionality \rightarrow worse interference suppression
 - \succ Overestimating the dimensionality \rightarrow sample support requirement
- Require clutter rank
- Challenge: How to robustly estimate the clutter rank?
- Threshold based techniques
 - ≻New Information
 - ➢ Ritz Value Estimation

Information Theoretic Criteria - MDL

- Avoid need user-defined threshold
- Trade the likelihood of the model against its cost
- Minimise the cost function

$$\mathcal{L}(F) = -2\mathcal{L}\mathcal{L}(F) + p(F)$$

• Covariance matrix $\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{R}_{c} + \sigma^{2} \mathbf{I}$, assuming **Z** is available

$$\mathcal{LL}(F|\mathbf{Z}) = \ln\left(\frac{\prod_{i=F+1}^{L}\lambda_i^{\frac{1}{L-F}}}{\frac{1}{L-F}\sum_{i=F+1}^{L}\lambda_i}\right)^{(L-F)}$$

 The penalty function accounts for the degrees of freedom (DOFs) of the model

$$p(F) = F(2L - F) \ln K$$

RVE-based MDL

- Aim to embed MDL into MWF
- RVEs are good approximations for the eigenvalues
- Can use RVE values in the MDL expression

$$\mathcal{LL}(F|\mathbf{Z}) = \ln\left(\frac{\prod_{i=F+1}^{L} \theta_i^{\frac{1}{L-F}}}{\frac{1}{L-F} \sum_{i=F+1}^{L} \theta_i}\right)^{(L-F)K}$$

- Eliminates need for threshold
- Requires full execution of MWF
- Need another way of embedding MDL to avoid full execution of MWF

Embedded MDL

- Desire to avoid eigen decomposition
- Embed MDL within MWF structure for truncation \rightarrow evaluate cost function at each stage
- Need to avoid reliance on smallest eigenvalues (later stages)
- Arithmetic mean of smallest (L F)-th eigenvalues obtained from trace of covariance matrix at the *F*-th stage

$$\sum_{i=F+1}^{L} \lambda_i = \operatorname{Tr}(\mathbf{R}_F)$$

• Produce and hence geometric mean smallest (L - F)-th eigenvalues expressed in terms of F largest eigenvalues

$$\prod_{i=F+1}^{L} \lambda_i = \frac{\det(\mathbf{R})}{\prod_{i=1}^{F} \lambda_i}$$

Embedded MDL

Substituting into the log-likelihood

$$\mathcal{LL}(F) = \ln \left(\frac{\det(\mathbf{R})}{\frac{1}{L-F} \operatorname{Tr}(\mathbf{R}_F) \prod_{i=1}^F \lambda_i} \right)^{(L-F)F}$$

- Determinant of R constant and can be ignored
- The cost function is calculated at each stage
- Execution is continued until a turning point is observed
- Therefore, need r + 1 stages where r is the clutter rank

Simulation Results

- N=4, M=16, 10,000 runs
- Brennan's rule rank 19
- CNRs from 0 to 40 dB
- Standard MDL: gives19 at high CNR
- RVE methods: impact of threshold 'tuning'
- Embedded MDL and MDL RVE slight overestimation at high CNR

Parameter	Value
Carrier frequency, f_c	1.32 GHz
Pulse repetition frequency, f_r	1500 Hz
Platform velocity, $v_{\rm p}$	85 m/s
Beam pattern	Cosine

Target-Focused MWF Truncation

- Truncation is based on clutter rank
- Current implementations of MWF aim to capture entire clutter subspace
- Not all clutter is relevant to target direction
- Known that fewer stages than clutter rank needed for maximum P_d

Problem Reformulation

- Current approaches estimate clutter rank
- Question that should be ask is" Which clutter dimensions actually matter to the target location
- MWF stage determination should seek to answer this question
- Derive an MDL-like solution
- Maximise information between
 recovered subspace and target signal
- Future work will analyse this approach and improve it

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Thank you

Questions?

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