

Direction Finding for Bistatic MIMO Radar with Non-Circular Sources

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Abstract—A new direction finding method for multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) radar with non-circular sources is proposed. This method takes advantage of the properties of non-circular sources to formulate a new virtual array. Then based on the ESPRIT like algorithm, the bearing of targets is estimated. In addition, the direction of departure (DOD) and direction of arrival (DOA) are paired automatically. Compared with the uniform circular array estimation of signal parameters by rotational invariance techniques (UCA-ESPRIT), the proposed method can achieve better estimation performance and deal with more targets. We also provide the Cramer-Rao Lower Bound (CRLB) for comparison. Simulation results demonstrate the effectiveness and feasibility of the proposed method.

1. INTRODUCTION

Multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) radar exploits multiple antennas to transmit diversity waveforms and makes use of multiple antennas to receive the signal reflected from targets simultaneously, which has attracted a lot of attention [1–4]. MIMO radar can obtain waveform diversity, spatial diversity, polarization diversity and large degrees of freedom (DOF), thereby has demonstrated the potential to dramatically improve target parameter estimation, target identification and anti-jamming performance [5–7]. It is well known that direction finding and localization of target are two basic functions for radar system. Among the most popular high resolution methods for direction of departure (DOD) and direction of arrival (DOA) estimation, subspace algorithms such as multiple signal classification (MUSIC) [8] and estimation of signal parameters by rotational invariance techniques (ESPRIT) [9] are widely used.

For direction finding of MIMO radar with uniform linear array (ULA), many methods have been proposed [10–14]. Reduced-dimension MUSIC for angle estimation has been derived in [10], which only requires one-dimensional search and can save computational time. Unfortunately, the algorithm will fail to work in the presence of array gain-phase error. It is proved in [11] that the ESPRIT algorithm exploits invariance properties of both transmit and receive ULAs, and can estimate the transmit and receive angles of MIMO radar efficiently. However, the algorithm estimates the two angles separately in each dimension and requires an additional pairing procedure. The ESPRIT method without pairing is proposed in [12], and by doing so, the transmit and receive angles can be paired automatically. Uniform circular array (UCA) can provide both azimuth and elevation angles, which are attractive in many practical applications [15–17]. Based on the MIMO radar with transmit UCA, the three-dimensional (3-D) coordinates of targets are estimated [18].

Most current works on direction finding with MIMO radar do not consider non-circularity characteristics of the sources. Non-circular signals, such as binary phase shift keying (BPSK) and amplitude shift keying (ASK), are widely used in practical scenarios. By exploiting non-circularity

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characteristics of sources, the virtual array elements of MIMO radar can be enlarged, which can improve the performance of parameter estimation [19–21]. Conjugate ESPRIT (C-ESPRIT) algorithm is proposed for direction finding with a bistatic MIMO radar, which can deal with more targets and pair automatically [22]. Based on the Euler’s formula, real-valued ESPRIT (RV-ESPRIT) for non-circular sources is presented [23]. Combining the ESPRIT and ROOT-MUSIC techniques, a joint DOA and DOD estimate method is proposed in [24]. To reduce computational complexity, a low-complexity ESPRIT-ROOT-MUSIC algorithm is presented in [25]. For coexistence of circular and non-circular signals, the ESPRIT and Unitary ESPRIT (U-ESPRIT) [26], and joint digitalization based [27] algorithms are proposed. The above ESPRIT like methods need to perform eigenvalue decomposition (EVD), which are time consuming. To avoid the EVD, propagator method (PM) is applied to direction finding with non-circular sources [28]. Nevertheless, when the array of MIMO radar is the UCA, the above direction finding methods will be disabled. To the best of our knowledge, direction finding for MIMO radar with UCA and non-circular signals has not yet been published.

In this paper, we address the problem of associating direction finding from a scheme of MIMO radar, where the transmit array is a UCA, and the receive array is a ULA. Firstly, we define two selection matrices. By applying the rotational invariance characteristics of receive ULA, the DOA can be firstly estimated. The steering vectors which contain the transmit elevation angle and the azimuth are coupled in the transmit UCA; therefore, the key step for estimating the DOD is to decouple the two angles from the received data. The UCA-ESPRIT algorithm for non-circular signals is derived to estimate the transmit elevation angles and azimuth angles of MIMO radar. The proposed method can be paired automatically. Furthermore, the Cramer-Rao Lower Bound (CRLB) on the estimation of the targets with non-circular sources is also derived.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. The data model for strictly non-circular sources of MIMO radar is introduced in Section 2. In Section 3, a novel joint multiple parameter estimation method for MIMO radar system is proposed. In Section 4, we deduce the CRLB of estimation. Simulation results and performance analysis are shown in Section 5. Finally, Section 6 concludes the paper.

Notations: The superscripts $(\cdot)^T$, $(\cdot)^H$, $(\cdot)^*$, and $(\cdot)^{-1}$ denote transpose, conjugate transpose, complex conjugate, and matrix inversion, respectively. The Hadamard product of two matrices \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} is represented by $\mathbf{A} \odot \mathbf{B}$, and the Kronecker product is symbolized by $\mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{B}$. \mathbf{I}_f and $\mathbf{0}_f$ denote the $f \times f$ identity matrix and matrices of zeros. In addition, $\text{Re}\{\cdot\}$ extract the real part of a complex matrix, and the matrix $\mathbf{\Pi}_F$ denotes the $F \times F$ exchange matrix with ones on its anti-diagonal and zeros elsewhere.

2. SIGNAL MODEL OF MIMO RADAR

Considering a MIMO radar system consisting of a UCA for transmit array and a ULA for receive array. The transmit UCA has M elements which are distributed over the circumference of a circle with radius r . The receive ULA has N elements with the space d between adjacent antennas. Assuming that the transmit array transmits M narrowband non-circular sources, reflected by K noncoherent targets, and then received by the N receiving arrays at the Y -axis as shown in Fig. 1. The length between the center of UCA and the reference point of ULA is L_a . The k th target is located at $(\alpha_k, \theta_k, \varphi_k)$, where α_k denotes the DOA, θ_k the transmit elevation angle, and φ_k the transmit azimuth.

The output of the receiver can be written as

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \sum_{i=1}^K \rho_i(t) \mathbf{a}_r(\alpha_i) \mathbf{a}_t^T(\theta_i, \varphi_i) \mathbf{b}_i(t) + \mathbf{z}(t) \quad (1)$$

where $\rho_k(t)$ is the reflection coefficient of the k th target, and $\mathbf{a}_r(\alpha_k)$ and $\mathbf{a}_t(\theta_k, \varphi_k)$ are the receive steering vector and transmit steering vector, respectively. $\mathbf{b}_i(t)$ is the transmitting non-circular signal. $\mathbf{z}(t)$ is the additive Gaussian white noise with mean zero and variance σ^2 . Note that the noises are independent of each other. The receive and transmit steering vector can be represented as

$$\mathbf{a}_r(\alpha) = \left[1, e^{j2\pi \frac{d}{\lambda} \cos \alpha}, \dots, e^{j2\pi \frac{d}{\lambda} (N-1) \cos \alpha} \right] \quad (2)$$

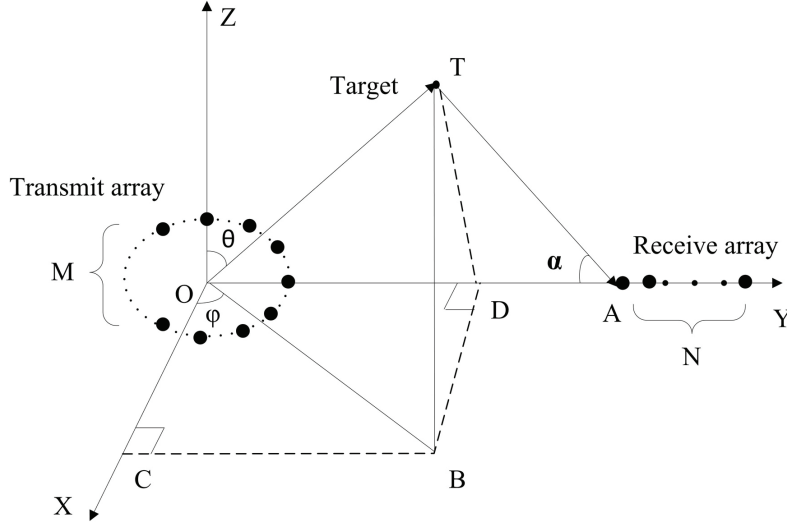


Figure 1. Geometry of MIMO radar.

$$\mathbf{a}_t(\theta, \varphi) = \left[e^{j2\pi r \sin \theta \cos(\varphi - \gamma_0)/\lambda}, e^{j2\pi r \sin \theta \cos(\varphi - \gamma_1)/\lambda}, \dots, e^{j2\pi r \sin \theta \cos(\varphi - \gamma_{M-1})/\lambda} \right] \quad (3)$$

where λ is the wavelength of transmitting signal, and $\gamma_m = \frac{2\pi m}{M}$, $m = 0, 1, \dots, M - 1$.

After matched filters, the received data can be expressed as

$$\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{S} + \mathbf{Z} \quad (4)$$

where $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{C}^{MN \times L}$ is the received data sampling, with L being the number of snapshots. $\mathbf{A} = [\mathbf{A}_1, \mathbf{A}_2, \dots, \mathbf{A}_K] \in \mathbb{C}^{MN \times K}$ is the steering vectors of the radar system, with $\mathbf{A}_K = \mathbf{a}_r(\alpha_K) \otimes \mathbf{a}_t(\theta_K, \varphi_K)$. $\mathbf{S} = [\mathbf{s}_1(t), \mathbf{s}_2(t), \dots, \mathbf{s}_K(t)]^T \in \mathbb{C}^{K \times L}$ is the signal matrix, with $\mathbf{s}_K(t) = \rho_K \mathbf{b}_K$ and the noise $\mathbf{Z} \in \mathbb{C}^{MN \times L}$. Due to the non-circularity of sources, the signal matrix \mathbf{S} can be represented as [20]

$$\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{\Psi}\mathbf{S}_0 \quad (5)$$

where $\mathbf{\Psi} = \text{diag}([e^{j\beta_1}, e^{j\beta_2}, \dots, e^{j\beta_K}])$ is a diagonal matrix whose diagonal elements are the stationary complex phase shifts, and \mathbf{S}_0 is a real valued symbol matrix.

3. PROPOSED PARAMETER ESTIMATION METHOD

In this section, we formulate a new virtual array based on the received data and present a direction finding method in which the DOAs and DODs can be paired automatically.

3.1. Estimation of the DOA

In order to utilize the non-circularity of the sources, we define an extended measurement matrix as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{X}^{(nc)} &= \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{X} \\ \mathbf{\Pi}_{MN} \mathbf{X}^* \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}\mathbf{S} \\ \mathbf{\Pi}_{MN} \mathbf{A}^* \mathbf{S}^* \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{Z} \\ \mathbf{\Pi}_{MN} \mathbf{Z}^* \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

It is known that \mathbf{S}_0 in Equation (5) is a real valued symbol matrix, and we have $\mathbf{S}_0 = \mathbf{S}_0^* = \mathbf{\Psi}^{-1}\mathbf{S}$. Equation (6) can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{X}^{(nc)} &= \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}\mathbf{S} \\ \mathbf{\Pi}_{MN} \mathbf{A}^* \mathbf{\Psi}^* \mathbf{S}_0^* \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{Z} \\ \mathbf{\Pi}_{MN} \mathbf{Z}^* \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A} \\ \mathbf{\Pi}_{MN} \mathbf{A}^* \mathbf{\Psi}^* \mathbf{\Psi}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{S} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{Z} \\ \mathbf{\Pi}_{MN} \mathbf{Z}^* \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

Applying eigenvalue decomposition (EVD) to the covariance matrix of $\mathbf{X}^{(nc)}$, we have

$$\mathbf{R}_X = E \left[\mathbf{X}^{(nc)} \mathbf{X}^{H(nc)} \right] = \mathbf{E}_S \mathbf{\Sigma}_S \mathbf{E}_S^H + \mathbf{E}_N \mathbf{\Sigma}_N \mathbf{E}_N^H \quad (8)$$

where $\mathbf{\Sigma}_S$ and $\mathbf{\Sigma}_N$ are diagonal matrices whose diagonal elements contain the largest K eigenvalues and smallest $2MN - K$ eigenvalues. The signal subspace matrix \mathbf{E}_S is composed of K eigenvectors corresponding to K eigenvalues of \mathbf{R}_X , and \mathbf{E}_N is the noise subspace matrix including the rest of eigenvectors.

Define two selection matrices as

$$\mathbf{J}_1 = [\mathbf{I}_{N-1}, \mathbf{0}_{(N-1) \times (N+1)}] \otimes \mathbf{I}_M \quad (9)$$

$$\mathbf{J}_2 = [\mathbf{0}_{(N-1) \times 1}, \mathbf{I}_{N-1}, \mathbf{0}_{(N-1) \times N}] \otimes \mathbf{I}_M. \quad (10)$$

Here \mathbf{J}_1 select the first $(N-1)M$ columns of the matrix, and the index is from 1 to $(N-1)M$. \mathbf{J}_2 select the second $(N-1)M$ columns of the matrix, and the index is from $M+1$ to NM . Let \mathbf{E}_1 and \mathbf{E}_2 be submatrices formed from \mathbf{E}_S as

$$\mathbf{E}_1 = \mathbf{J}_1 \mathbf{E}_S \quad (11)$$

$$\mathbf{E}_2 = \mathbf{J}_2 \mathbf{E}_S \quad (12)$$

Assume that the diagonal elements of $\mathbf{\Lambda}_r = \text{diag}[\eta_1, \eta_2, \dots, \eta_K]$ are the eigenvalues of $\mathbf{\Phi}_r = \mathbf{T}^{-1} \mathbf{\Lambda}_r \mathbf{T}$, which satisfy $\mathbf{E}_2 = \mathbf{E}_1 \mathbf{\Phi}_r$. Then $\mathbf{\Phi}_r$ can be obtained by the least squares method, and the DOA of the k th target can be obtained by

$$\alpha_k = \arccos \left(\frac{\lambda \arg(\eta_k)}{2\pi d} \right), \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, K. \quad (13)$$

3.2. Estimation of the DOD

In this part, we firstly extract the matrices which contain steering vector of the transmitting array from the received data. Then based on the UCA-ESPRIT algorithm for non-circular sources, the elevation angle and azimuth of target can be estimated.

Similar to \mathbf{J}_1 and \mathbf{J}_2 , we also define another two selection matrices as

$$\mathbf{J}_3 = [\mathbf{I}_{N-1}, \mathbf{0}_{(N-1) \times 1}] \otimes \mathbf{I}_M \quad (14)$$

$$\mathbf{J}_4 = [\mathbf{0}_{(N-1) \times 1}, \mathbf{I}_{N-1}] \otimes \mathbf{I}_M. \quad (15)$$

Then the rotated factor can be expressed as

$$\mathbf{X}_1 = \mathbf{J}_3 \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{J}_3 \mathbf{A} \mathbf{S} + \mathbf{J}_3 \mathbf{Z} \quad (16)$$

$$\mathbf{X}_2 = \mathbf{J}_4 \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{J}_4 \mathbf{A} \mathbf{S} + \mathbf{J}_4 \mathbf{Z}. \quad (17)$$

The autocorrelation and crosscorrelation matrixes of \mathbf{X}_1 and \mathbf{X}_2 are $\mathbf{R}_1 = E[\mathbf{X}_1 \mathbf{X}_1^H]$, $\mathbf{R}_2 = E[\mathbf{X}_2 \mathbf{X}_1^H]$, owing to $\mathbf{J}_4 \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{J}_3 \mathbf{A} \mathbf{Q}$, where the diagonal elements of \mathbf{Q} are the steering vector of receiver array. According to [18], define the matrix \mathbf{R}_S as

$$\mathbf{R}_S = \mathbf{R}_2 (\mathbf{R}_1 - \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}_{MN-1})^{-1}. \quad (18)$$

Via eigenvalue decomposition of \mathbf{R}_S , we can then obtain the eigenvector $\mathbf{E}_S^{(K)}$ that spans the beamspace signal subspaces, where $\mathbf{E}_S^{(K)} = \mathbf{J}_3 \mathbf{A}$.

Define a selection matrix \mathbf{J}_5 as

$$\mathbf{J}_5 = [\mathbf{a}_r(\hat{\alpha}_1), \mathbf{a}_r(\hat{\alpha}_2), \dots, \mathbf{a}_r(\hat{\alpha}_K)]^H \otimes \mathbf{I}_M \quad (19)$$

where α_k is the estimation of DOA in Equation (13). Finally, the matrix which contains the steering vector of the transmitting array can be obtained by

$$\mathbf{Y}_t = \frac{1}{N-1} \mathbf{J}_5 \mathbf{E}_S^{(K)}. \quad (20)$$

Based on the phase mode excitation method, the non-circular (NC) UCA-ESPRIT algorithm can be used to estimate the transmit elevation angle and azimuth of non-circular sources. The beamformer \mathbf{F}_e^H is defined as [15]

$$\mathbf{F}_e^H = \mathbf{C}_B \mathbf{V}^H \quad (21)$$

where $\mathbf{C}_B = \text{diag}(j^{-P}, \dots, j^{-1}, j^0, j^{-1}, \dots, j^{-P})$, $P = 2\pi r/\lambda$. Assuming $r = \lambda$, we have the maximum mode order $P = 6$. $\mathbf{V} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}} [\mathbf{v}_{-P}, \dots, \mathbf{v}_0, \dots, \mathbf{v}_P]$ and $\mathbf{v}_p = [1, e^{j2\pi p/M}, \dots, e^{j2\pi p(M-1)/M}]^H$, $p = 1, 2, \dots, P$. Thus, the beamspace data matrix can be written as $\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{F}_e^H \mathbf{Y}_t = \mathbf{A}_e \mathbf{S} + \mathbf{Z}_e$.

The number of available beams is doubled by forming

$$\mathbf{Y}^{(nc)} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{Y} \\ \mathbf{I}_{M'} \mathbf{Y}^* \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}_e \mathbf{S} \\ \mathbf{I}_{M'} \mathbf{A}_e^* \mathbf{S}^* \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{Z}_e \\ \mathbf{I}_{M'} \mathbf{Z}_e^* \end{bmatrix} \quad (22)$$

where $M' = 2P + 1$. Similar to Equation (7), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{Y}^{(nc)} &= \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}_e \\ \mathbf{I}_{M'} \mathbf{A}_e^* \mathbf{A}_e^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{S} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{Z}_e \\ \mathbf{I}_{M'} \mathbf{Z}_e^* \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \mathbf{A}^{(nc)} \mathbf{S} + \mathbf{Z}^{(nc)} \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

Define the unitary matrix

$$\mathbf{Q}_{2M'}^H = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I}_{M'} & \mathbf{\Pi}_{M'} \\ j\mathbf{I}_{M'} & -j\mathbf{\Pi}_{M'} \end{bmatrix}, \quad (24)$$

and the matrix

$$\mathbf{B}^{(nc)} = \mathbf{Q}_{2M'}^H \mathbf{Y}^{(nc)}. \quad (25)$$

Assume that the K dominant left singular vector of $\mathbf{B}^{(nc)}$ is $\mathbf{S}_r^{(nc)}$ which spanning the column space of $\mathbf{Q}_{2M'}^H \mathbf{A}^{(nc)}$; therefore, the matrix $\mathbf{Q}_{2M'} \mathbf{S}_r^{(nc)}$ spans the space of $\mathbf{A}^{(nc)}$. Let $\mathbf{C}_0^{(nc)} = \mathbf{I}_2 \otimes \mathbf{C}_0$, where $\mathbf{C}_0 = \text{diag} \{ (-1)^P, \dots, (-1)^1, 1, 1, \dots, 1 \} \in \mathbb{C}^{M' \times 1}$. The signal subspace matrix can be expressed as

$$\mathbf{S}_0^{(nc)} = \mathbf{C}_0^{(nc)} \mathbf{Q}_{2M'} \mathbf{S}_r^{(nc)}. \quad (26)$$

We define $\mathbf{\Delta}^{(-1)} = [\mathbf{I}_{M''}, \mathbf{0}_{M'' \times 2}]$, $\mathbf{\Delta}^{(0)} = [\mathbf{0}_{M'' \times 1}, \mathbf{I}_{M''}, \mathbf{0}_{M'' \times 1}]$, and $\mathbf{\Delta}^{(1)} = [\mathbf{0}_{M'' \times 2}, \mathbf{I}_{M''}]$, where $M'' = 2P - 1$. The selection matrices $\mathbf{\Delta}^{(-1)}$, $\mathbf{\Delta}^{(0)}$ and $\mathbf{\Delta}^{(1)}$ choose the first, middle and last M'' elements. Let

$$\mathbf{W}^{(i)} = \mathbf{I}_2 \otimes \mathbf{\Delta}^{(i)} \quad (27)$$

$$\mathbf{\Gamma}^{(nc)} = \mathbf{I}_2 \otimes \mathbf{\Gamma} \quad (28)$$

$$\mathbf{S}_{nc}^{(i)} = \mathbf{W}^{(i)} \mathbf{S}_0^{(nc)} \quad (29)$$

where $\mathbf{\Gamma} = \lambda/(\pi r) \text{diag} \{ 1 - P, \dots, -1, 0, 1, \dots, P - 1 \}$, and $i = -1, 0, 1$. Therefore, the submatrices of the signal subspace matrix $\mathbf{S}_0^{(nc)}$ satisfy

$$\mathbf{E}^{(nc)} \bar{\mathbf{\Psi}} = \mathbf{\Gamma}^{(nc)} \mathbf{S}_{nc}^{(0)} \quad (30)$$

where $\mathbf{E}^{(nc)} = [\mathbf{S}_{nc}^{(-1)}, \mathbf{S}_{nc}^{(1)}]$, and $\bar{\mathbf{\Psi}} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{\Psi} \\ \mathbf{\Psi}^* \end{bmatrix}$. Equation (30) is overdetermined when $M'' > K$, and

has a unique solution $\bar{\mathbf{\Psi}}$ by utilizing the least squares method. Considering that the eigenvalues of $\bar{\mathbf{\Psi}}$ are γ_k , $k = 1, 2, \dots, K$, then the transmitting elevation angles θ_k and azimuth ϕ_k can be obtained by

$$\theta_k = \arcsin(|\gamma_k|) \quad (31)$$

$$\phi_k = \arg(\gamma_k). \quad (32)$$

From Equations (19), (20), and (21), we note that the beamspace matrix \mathbf{Y} in Equation (22) for estimating the DODs is formed by the estimated DOAs. There is no mismatch in the eigenvalues η_k and γ_k ; therefore, the estimated DOAs, elevation angles, and azimuth angles can be paired automatically for the same target. Because the number of available sensors is virtually doubled, the non-circular ESPRIT like algorithm can improve the resolution capability and noise robustness. In addition, the proposed method can double the number of resolvable sources.

4. DERIVATION OF THE CRLB

Here we derive the CRLB for MIMO radar with non-circular sources. CRLB is the low bound for parameter estimation error, which is usually used to measure the performance of the estimation algorithm. It is known that the inverse of the Fisher information matrix (FIM) is the CRLB [29], which bounds the error variance of the estimation from the radar system. Under the signal and system model in this paper, the FIM can be expressed as

$$\mathbf{F}_M = \frac{2L}{\sigma^2} \left\{ \text{Re} \left[\left(\mathbf{D}^H \mathbf{\Pi}_A^\perp \mathbf{D} \right) \odot \mathbf{R}_S^T \right] \right\} \quad (33)$$

where σ^2 is the variance of the additive Gaussian white noise, and L is the number of snapshots. $\mathbf{D} = [\mathbf{D}_\alpha, \mathbf{D}_\theta, \mathbf{D}_\varphi]$, with $\mathbf{D}_k(\alpha) = \frac{\partial \mathbf{a}_r(\alpha_k)}{\partial \alpha} \otimes \mathbf{a}_t$, $\mathbf{D}_k(\theta) = \mathbf{a}_r \otimes \frac{\partial \mathbf{a}_t(\theta_k)}{\partial \theta}$, and $\mathbf{D}_k(\varphi) = \mathbf{a}_r \otimes \frac{\partial \mathbf{a}_t(\varphi_k)}{\partial \varphi}$. Moreover, $\mathbf{\Pi}_A^\perp = \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{A}^H \mathbf{A})^{-1} \mathbf{A}^H$, $\mathbf{R}_S^T = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{S}^H/L$.

Define the FIM for the target as

$$\mathbf{F}(\alpha, \theta, \varphi) = \begin{bmatrix} F_{\alpha\alpha} & F_{\alpha\theta} & F_{\alpha\varphi} \\ F_{\theta\alpha} & F_{\theta\theta} & F_{\theta\varphi} \\ F_{\varphi\alpha} & F_{\varphi\theta} & F_{\varphi\varphi} \end{bmatrix} \quad (34)$$

where

$$\mathbf{F}_{v\omega} = \frac{2L}{\sigma^2} \left\{ \text{Re} \left[\left(\mathbf{D}_k(v) \right)^H \mathbf{\Pi}_A^\perp \mathbf{D}_k(\omega) \right) \odot \mathbf{R}_S^T \right] \right\} \quad (35)$$

and $v, \omega \in [\alpha, \theta, \varphi]$.

Therefore, the CRLB can be obtained by

$$\mathbf{B}(\alpha, \theta, \varphi) = \mathbf{F}(\alpha, \theta, \varphi)^{-1}. \quad (36)$$

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, we provide three simulations to illustrate the performance of the proposed method. For all the simulations, the transmit array is a UCA of radius $r = \lambda$, and the number of transmit elements is chosen as $M = 21$. Meanwhile, the receive array is a ULA with $d = \lambda/2$, and the number of receive elements is chosen to be $N = 21$. The length between the center of UCA and the reference point of ULA is $L_a = 80$ km. The radar system transmits the BPSK signals which are noncoherent.

The root mean square error (RMSE) is defined to evaluate the performance of estimation, which is expressed as

$$\text{RMSE} = \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{i=1}^C (\hat{\chi}_{ki} - \chi_k)^2} \quad (37)$$

where K is the number of targets, $C = 500$ the number of Monte Carlo simulations, $\hat{\chi}_{ki}$ the estimated result of the k th target, and the χ_k the real parameter of the k th target. To analyze the performance of the proposed algorithm, we have compared the simulation results with that of the UCA-ESPRIT algorithm in [15] and Li's method in [18]. In addition, the CRLB of the estimated parameters with non-circular source is also included for comparison.

In the first test, we study the performance for parameter estimation against the SNR. The SNR is varied from 0 dB to 20 dB, and the number of snapshots is 120. There are two noncoherent sources from directions $(15^\circ, 44^\circ, 63^\circ)$ and $(20^\circ, 60^\circ, 80^\circ)$. In Fig. 2, we depict the RMSE of the DOA and DOD of target 1, respectively. The estimate results of target 2 are achieved in Fig. 3. To further evaluate the estimation performance, the CRLB is also plotted for comparison. From the results, we see that the RMSE decreases with improvement of SNR in the above algorithms, and it is obvious that the performance of our method is better than Li's method and UCA-ESPRIT algorithm.

In the second test, the relationship between the estimation performance and number of snapshots is studied. Here, the number of snapshots is varied from 50 to 300, and the SNR is fixed at 10 dB. The remaining parameters are the same as the first simulation.

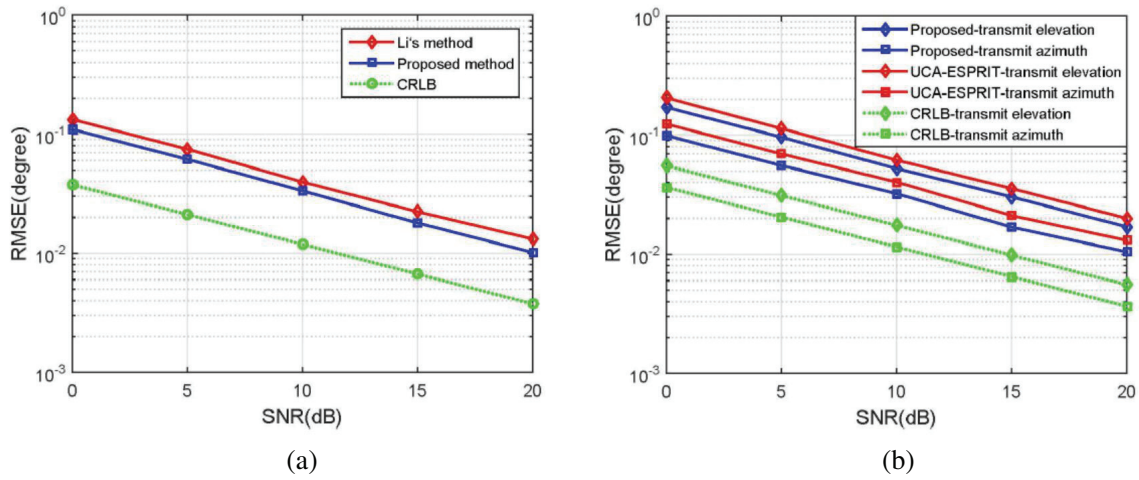


Figure 2. (a) DOA and (b) DOD estimation performance of target 1.

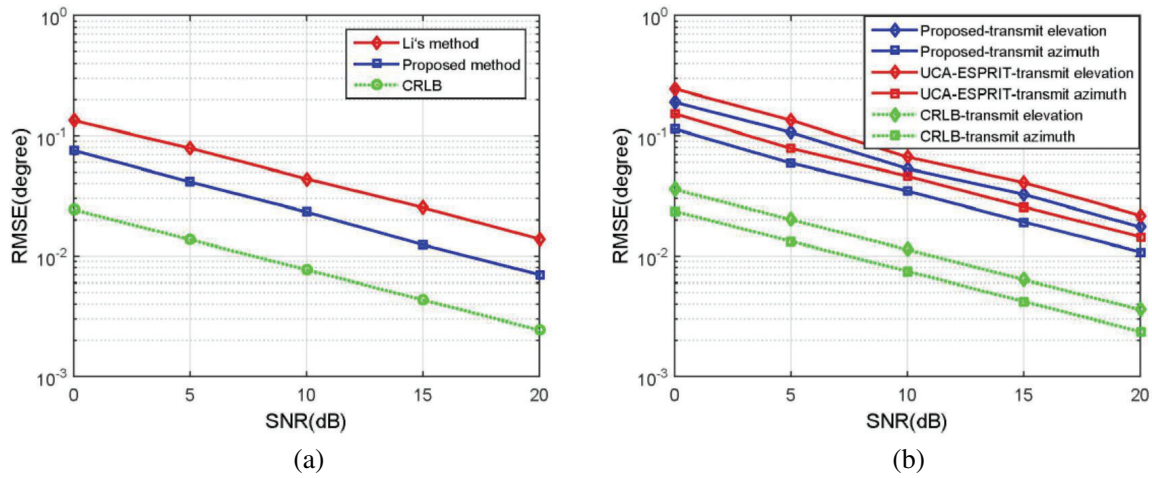


Figure 3. (a) DOA and (b) DOD estimation performance of target 2.

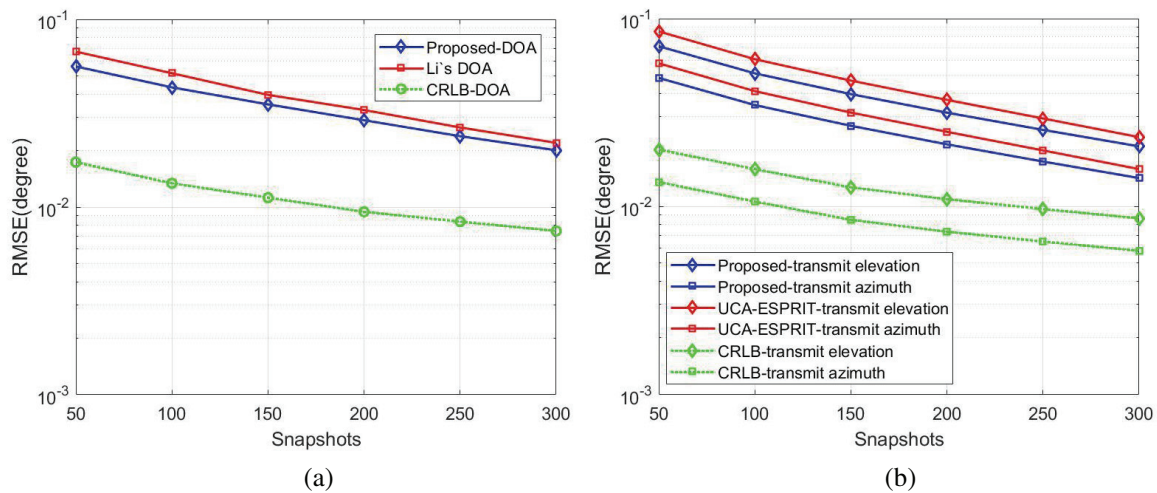


Figure 4. (a) DOA and (b) DOD estimation performance versus snapshots.

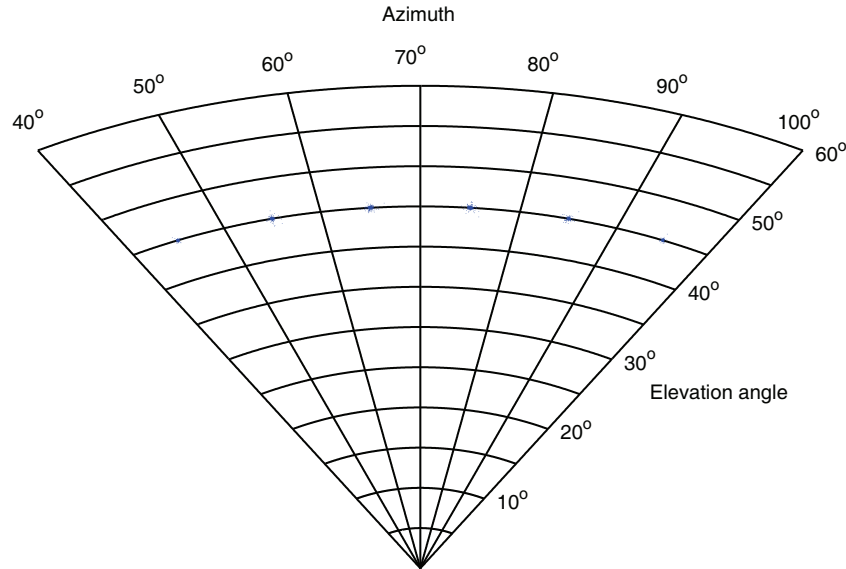


Figure 5. Transmit elevation angle and azimuth for six sources.

Figure 4 shows the simulation result of target 1. It is indicated that the parameter estimate performance is improved with the increase of snapshots.

In the final test, we study the maximum of the estimated sources. As a fact, the UCA-ESPRIT for circular signal can only deal with the sources that are less than $K = 5$ in the case of $r = \lambda$. However, the theoretical analysis shows that the recognizable sources of the proposed method are twice as many as that of the UCA-ESPRIT. Herein, we consider the six non-circular sources case for comparison. In this case, the DOA and transmit elevation angles of the six sources are the same at $(35^\circ, 45^\circ)$. The azimuths are $45^\circ, 55^\circ, 65^\circ, 75^\circ, 85^\circ$, and 95° , respectively, and the SNR is fixed at 25 dB. From the first and second simulations, we obtain that the estimation DOA of target has a high precision. Therefore, we only show estimation results of the transmit angles and azimuth angles in Fig. 5. Obviously, it is shown that the proposed method can deal with more sources than the UCA-ESPRIT.

6. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we present a direction finding method for MIMO radar with non-circular sources. In this method, the characteristics of non-circular sources are utilized; therefore, the estimate performance is better than Li's method and the UCA-ESPRIT. Moreover, because the number of available sensors is virtually doubled, the proposed method can deal with more sources than the UCA-ESPRIT. Results of simulation demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed method.

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