

Parametric Array Loudspeakers and Applications in Active Noise Control

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Thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for
the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

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Karimi, Prof. Xiaojun Qiu]

University of Technology Sydney
Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology

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Declaration of Authorship

I, Jiaxin ZHONG, declare that this thesis entitled, “Parametric Array Loudspeakers and Applications in Active Noise Control”, is submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Doctorate of Philosophy in the school of Mechanical and Mechatronic Engineering at the University of Technology Sydney. The work presented within is my own. I confirm that:

- This thesis is wholly my own work unless otherwise referenced or acknowledged. In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in the thesis.
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UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

Abstract

Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology
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Parametric array loudspeakers (PALs) are known for their capability of generating highly directional audio sound waves. Owing to this feature, they are used as secondary sources in active noise control (ANC) systems to mitigate the unwanted noise in the target regions whilst at the same time minimizing spillover effects on other areas. The primary aim of this thesis is to investigate the feasibility of using multiple PALs in an ANC system to create a large quiet zone. To achieve this, a partial wave expansion model is proposed first based on the quasilinear solution of both Westervelt and Kuznetsov equations to predict the audio sound generated by a PAL in a free field. The model is then extended to accommodate reflection, transmission, and scattering phenomena, which are common in real applications and can have significant effects on the noise reduction performance of ANC systems. The proposed model is validated by experiments conducted in anechoic rooms, and the validated model incorporated with the multi-channel ANC theory is then used to investigate the quiet zone size controlled by multiple PALs.

It is found the existing prediction models for PALs are either inaccurate or time-consuming, while the proposed model is more than 100 times faster in both near and far fields without any loss of accuracy. It therefore enables reliable and fast simulations for multi-channel ANC systems, which require heavy computations due to large numbers of PALs. A key finding is that the directivity of the audio sound generated by a PAL is severely deteriorated if sound waves are reflected from a non-rigid surface, truncated by a thin partition, or scattered by a sphere (simulating a human head). This implies the sharp directivity for PALs is not guaranteed as expected when they are used in complex acoustic environments. Finally, both simulations and experiments showed that multiple PALs can create a large quiet zone of comparable size when compared to traditional omnidirectional loudspeakers. However, the spillover effects of using PALs on the sound field outside the quiet zone are much smaller, which demonstrates PALs provide a promising alternative as secondary sources in multi-channel ANC systems.

List of Publications

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1. **Jiixin Zhong**, Ray Kirby, Mahmoud Karimi, Haishan Zou, and Xiaojun Qiu. “Scattering by a Rigid Sphere of Audio Sound Generated by a Parametric Array Loudspeaker”. In: *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 151.3 (2022), pp. 1615–1626.
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2. **Jiaxin Zhong**, Jiancheng Tao, and Xiaojun Qiu. “Increasing the Performance of Active Noise Control Systems on Ground with Two Vertical Reflecting Surfaces with an Included Angle”. In: *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 146.6 (2019), pp. 4075–4085.
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2. Xiaojun Qiu, Qiaoxi Zhu, Shuping Wang, and **Jiaxin Zhong**. “A Case Study on the New Reverberation Room Built in University of Technology Sydney”. In: *Proceedings of the 23rd International Congress on Acoustics*. Aachen, Germany, 2019.

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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full
2D	Two-dimensional
3D	Three-dimensional
ANB	Active Noise Barrier
ANC	Active Noise Control
BEM	Boundary Element Method
CWE	Cylindrical Wave Expansion
CPU	Central Processing Unit
DFW	Difference Frequency Wave
DSB	Double Sideband
DSP	Digital Signal Processor
FDTD	Finite-Difference Time-Domain
FEM	Finite Element Method
FFT	Fast Fourier Transform
FPGA	Field Programmable Gate Array
FxLMS	Filtered- x Least Mean Square
GBE	Gaussian Beam Expansion
GHF	Generalized Hypergeometric Function
IL	Insertion Loss
KZK	Khokhlov-Zabolotskaya-Kuznetsov
LDV	Laser Doppler Vibrometer
MOSFET	Metal-Oxide-Semiconductor Field-Effect Transistor
NR	Noise Reduction
PAA	Parametric Acoustic Array
PAL	Parametric Array Loudspeaker
PMUT	Piezoelectric Micromachined Ultrasonic Transducer
PNC	Passive Noise Control
PWE	Plane Wave Expansion
RH	Relative Humidity
SSB	Single Sideband
SWE	Spherical Wave Expansion
SPL	Sound Pressure Level
SRT	Square Root
VSBS	Virtual Sound Barrier

List of Symbols

Symbol	Description
a	radius of the circular transducer or PAL
A_n	GBE coefficients
B_n	GBE coefficients
$B_n(\cdot)$	in Appendix A: a Bessel function $J_n(\cdot)$ or a Hankel function $H_n(\cdot)$
$d^3\mathbf{r}$	the volume element $dx dy dz$
$\mathcal{D}(\vartheta, k)$	the directivity at the angle of ϑ and the wavenumber of k
$\exp(x)$	exponential function
f_1, f_2	higher and lower ultrasonic frequencies, respectively. $f_1 > f_2$
f_a	audio frequency
f_u	average ultrasonic frequency
$g(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, k)$	the Green's function in a free field between the points \mathbf{r}_1 and \mathbf{r}_2 at a wavenumber of k
$g_{2D}(\boldsymbol{\rho}_1, \boldsymbol{\rho}_2, k)$	the 2D Green's function in a free field between the points $\boldsymbol{\rho}_1$ and $\boldsymbol{\rho}_2$ at a wavenumber of k
$G(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, k)$	the Green's function in an arbitrary acoustic environment between the points \mathbf{r}_1 and \mathbf{r}_2 at a wavenumber of k
$j_n(z)$	spherical Bessel function of the first kind with an argument of z of order n
$J_n(z)$	Bessel function of the first kind with an argument of z of order n
\mathcal{J}	cost function for the ANC system
k_1, k_2	the wavenumber of ultrasound at higher and lower ultrasonic frequencies, respectively
k_a	the wavenumber of audio sound at the frequency of f_a
$h_n(z)$	spherical Hankel function of the first kind with an argument of z of order n
$H_n(z)$	Hankel function of the first kind with an argument of z of order n
$\mathbf{H}_n(z)$	Struve function with an argument of z of order n
i	imaginary unit
i	1 or 2 indexing the ultrasound when it is used as the subscript
\mathbf{I}	the identity matrix
l	Index distinguishing different modes
\mathcal{L}	Lagrangian density
m	Index distinguishing different modes
n	Index distinguishing different modes
N_e	the number of error sensors in ANC systems
N_p	the number of primary sources in ANC systems
N_s	the number of secondary sources in ANC systems
O	origin of coordinate systems
$p(\mathbf{r}, k)$	the sound pressure field at the field point \mathbf{r} and the wavenumber k
P	ambient pressure

$q(\mathbf{r})$	the virtual source density at point \mathbf{r} for audio sound generated by a PAL
\mathbf{r}	field point position; vector from origin to point with coordinates (x, y, z)
\mathbf{r}_s	position on the transducer surface
$r_{s,<}$	$\min(r, r_s)$
$r_{s,>}$	$\max(r, r_s)$
$r_{v,<}$	$\min(r, r_v)$
$r_{v,>}$	$\max(r, r_v)$
\mathcal{R}	the radial component for audio sound generated by a PAL
\mathcal{R}	Rayleigh distance; pressure-amplitude reflection coefficient
S	the radiation surface of a planar source
t	time
\mathcal{T}	pressure amplitude transmission coefficient
$\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{r}, k)$	the velocity field (also known as acoustic particle velocity vector) at the field point \mathbf{r} and the wavenumber k
v_x, v_y, v_z	the components of the velocity field \mathbf{v} in x , y , and z directions, respectively
v_r, v_θ, v_φ	the components of the velocity field \mathbf{v} in radial r , zenithal θ , and azimuthal φ directions, respectively
v_ρ	the component of the velocity field \mathbf{v} in polar radial ρ direction
V	the volume of the virtual audio sound source
(x, y, z)	rectangular (also known as Cartesian) coordinates

Greek letters

Symbol	Description
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α	pure-tone sound absorption coefficient for atmospheric absorption, describing amplitude decay with distance, Np/m
δ	the sound diffusivity parameter
δ_{mn}	Kronecker delta function; the value is 0 if $m \neq n$, and 1 if $m = n$
ϵ	error function
ϵ_n	Neumann factor
θ	zenith (also known as polar) angle in spherical coordinates
$\Gamma(\cdot)$	Gamma function
ρ	the polar radius in cylindrical coordinates (ρ, φ, z)
ρ_0	linear ambient density of air
$\tilde{\rho}$	the fluid density
$\boldsymbol{\rho}$	the transverse coordinate vector (x, y)
τ	retarded time
$\Phi(\mathbf{r}, k)$	the velocity potential field at the field point \mathbf{r} and the wavenumber k
ω	angular frequency
ω_1, ω_2	the angular frequency of ultrasound
ω_a	the angular frequency of audio sound

Other symbols

Symbol	Description
∇	Gradient operator
∇^2	Laplace operator
∇_{\perp}^2	the transverse Laplace operator
$n!$	factorial of n
$\begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \end{pmatrix}$	Wigner $3j$ symbol

Constants

Symbol	Description
$c_0 = 343 \text{ m/s}$	linear speed of sound
$\rho_0 = 1.21 \text{ kg/s}^3$	linear ambient density of air
$\beta = 1.2$	the nonlinear coefficient in air
$\pi = 3.1415926$	Archimedes's constant

