

## **An Efficient Adaptive Beamforming Method for Simultaneous Improvement of the Resolution and Contrast of Ultrasound Imaging**

**B. Mohammadzadeh Asl<sup>1</sup>, A. Mahloojifar<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Ph.D Candidate, Department of Biomedical Engineering, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran, b.mohammadzadeh@modares.ac.ir

<sup>2</sup> Associate professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran

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### **Abstract**

In recent years, adaptive beamforming methods have been successfully applied to medical ultrasound imaging, resulting in significant improvement in image quality compared to non-adaptive beamformers. This improvement results from the fact that their weights are chosen based on the priori knowledge of the received data and updated using current statistics of the array signal. Most of the adaptive beamformers presented in the ultrasound imaging literature are based on the minimum variance (MV) beamformer, which can improve the imaging resolution while retaining the contrast. It is desirable that the beamformer could improve the resolution and contrast, at the same time. To this end, in this paper, we have used temporal averaging besides the conventional spatial averaging to estimate the more accurate covariance matrix. Moreover, we have used the coherence factor weighting combined with MV beamforming to enhance the focusing quality and hence reducing the undesired sidelobes. The efficacy of the proposed adaptive beamforming approach is demonstrated via a number of simulated and experimental examples.

**Keywords:** Ultrasound imaging, Resolution; Contrast, Adaptive beamforming, Minimum variance beamforming, Coherence factor weighting, Temporal averaging, Covariance matrix estimation.

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\* Corresponding author

Address: Ali Mahloojifar, Department of Biomedical Engineering, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran

Tel: +98 21 82883304, +98 912 3375155

Fax: +98 21 82883304

E-mail: mahlooji@modares.ac.ir

**b.mohammadzadeh@modares.ac.ir**

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(DAS)

DAS

DAS

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[ ] (MV)

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution  
<sup>5</sup> Beamforming  
<sup>9</sup> Adaptive beamformers  
<sup>13</sup> Wang

<sup>2</sup> Contrast  
<sup>6</sup> Delay And Sum  
<sup>10</sup> Minimum Variance  
<sup>14</sup> Robust

<sup>3</sup> Pulse-echo  
<sup>7</sup> Mainlobes  
<sup>11</sup> Mann and Walker  
<sup>15</sup> Synthetic transmit focusing

<sup>4</sup> Noise  
<sup>8</sup> Sidelobes  
<sup>12</sup> Frost

MV DAS

[ ]  
MV [ ]

MV

$\mathbf{x}_m(t)$  M  
P+1

$s_p(t)$   
 $s_0(t)$

( )  $m$

:

$$x_m(t) = \frac{1}{r_{m,0}} s_0(t) + \sum_{p=1}^P \frac{1}{r_{m,p}} s_p(t) * \delta(t - \tau_{m,p}) + n_m(t) \quad ( )$$

$\tau_{m,p}$   $m$   $p$   $r_{m,p}$   
\*  $m$   $n_m(t)$   
M .

MV

:

$$\mathbf{X}(t) = [x_0(t), x_1(t), \dots, x_{M-1}(t)]^T \quad ( )$$

MV

:

$$z(t) = \sum_{m=0}^{M-1} w_m(t) x_m(t) = \mathbf{w}(t)^H \mathbf{X}_m(t) \quad ( )$$

MV

$\mathbf{w}(t) = [w_0(t), w_1(t), \dots, w_{M-1}(t)]^H$   
 $m$   $w_m(t)$

<sup>16</sup> Sasso  
<sup>20</sup> M-elements array

<sup>17</sup> Synnevag

<sup>18</sup> Speckle

<sup>19</sup> Focusing

$$\hat{\mathbf{R}}(t) = \frac{\sum_{k=-K}^K \sum_{l=0}^{M-L} \bar{\mathbf{X}}_l(t-k) \bar{\mathbf{X}}_l(t-k)^H}{(2K+1)(M-L+1)}, \quad (1)$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{X}}_l(t) = [x_l(t), x_{l+1}(t), \dots, x_{l+L-1}(t)]^T$$

( ) MV

$$P(t) = E[|z(t)|^2], \quad (2)$$

MV

MV

L

DAS

[ ] ( )

$$\min_{\mathbf{w}(t)} \mathbf{w}(t)^H \mathbf{R}(t) \mathbf{w}(t) \quad \text{subject to} \quad \mathbf{w}(t)^H \mathbf{a} = 1 \quad (3)$$

$$\mathbf{a} \quad \mathbf{R}(t) = E[\mathbf{X}(t)\mathbf{X}(t)^H]$$

$$\hat{z}(t) = \frac{1}{M-L+1} \sum_{l=0}^{M-L} \mathbf{w}(t)^H \bar{\mathbf{X}}_l(t). \quad (4)$$

(CF)

( )

$$\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{1}_{M \times 1}$$

t

: ( )

MV

$$CF(t) = \frac{\left| \sum_{m=1}^M \mathbf{x}_d(m, t) \right|^2}{M \sum_{m=1}^M |\mathbf{x}_d(m, t)|^2} \quad (5)$$

m

$\mathbf{x}_d(m, t)$

$$\mathbf{w}(t) = \frac{\mathbf{R}(t)^{-1} \mathbf{a}}{\mathbf{a}^H \mathbf{R}(t)^{-1} \mathbf{a}}. \quad (6)$$

[ ]

CF

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$\mathbf{R}(t)$

M

CF

[ ]

[ ]

M-L+

K+

MV

:

( )

L

<sup>21</sup> Near-field

<sup>22</sup> Coherence Factor

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CF

( )

CF

( )

DAS

MV

$$\hat{z}(t) = \frac{CF(t)}{M-L+1} \sum_{l=0}^{M-L} \mathbf{w}(t)^H \bar{\mathbf{X}}_l(t). \quad ( )$$

$L=M/$

MV DAS

MV

CF

MV

t

K t

t

dB

/ dB/cm/MHz

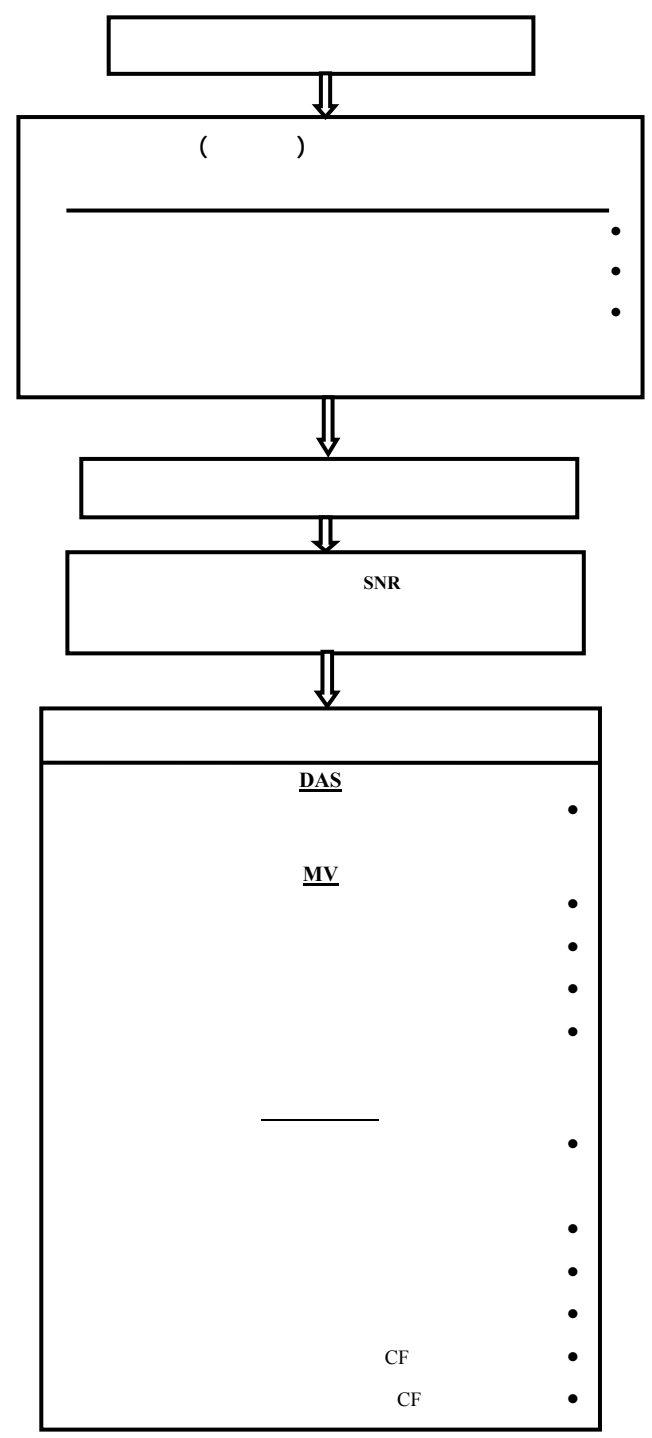
[ ]

/ mm

MHz

MHz

DAS  
 - MV  
 DAS  
 MV CF  
 mm mm  
 mm  
 DAS MV  
 CF  
 MV+CF  
 CF  
 DF SLL FWHM  
 FWHM  
 SLL dB  
 DF  
 mm



mm  
dB

<sup>24</sup> Full Width At Half Maximum

<sup>25</sup> Side Lobe Level

<sup>26</sup> Distinguished Factor







CR

CR <sup>1</sup> (dB)			
	(dB) <S <sub>i</sub> >	(dB) <S <sub>o</sub> >	
/	/	/	DAS
/	/	/	MV (K= )
/	/	/	MV(K= )
/	/	/	MV+CF(K= )
/	/	/	MV+CF(K= )

$$^1 CR = |<S_o> - <S_i>|$$

CR [ ]

DAS (K= ) MV / dB

MV

MV

DAS

[ ]

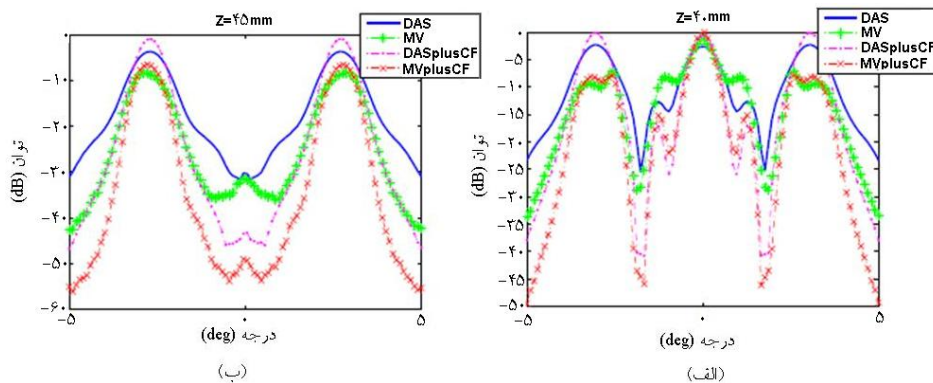
/ dB K= MV MV  
DAS / dB K=  
MV CF

%

(MV+CF(K= ))

MV

mm mm



% MV+CF (K= ) DAS+CF(K= ) MV (K= ) DAS  
L=M/ MV+CF MV ( ) mm ( ) mm  
 $\Delta = 1/ L$

$\hat{\mathbf{R}}(t)$

$\varepsilon$

$\hat{\mathbf{R}}(t) + \varepsilon \mathbf{I}$

[ ]

$\Delta$

MV

DAS

MV

CF MV

MV

[ ]

$\varepsilon = \Delta \cdot \text{tr}\{\hat{\mathbf{R}}(t)\}$

( )

DAS

MV

MV

) MV

(

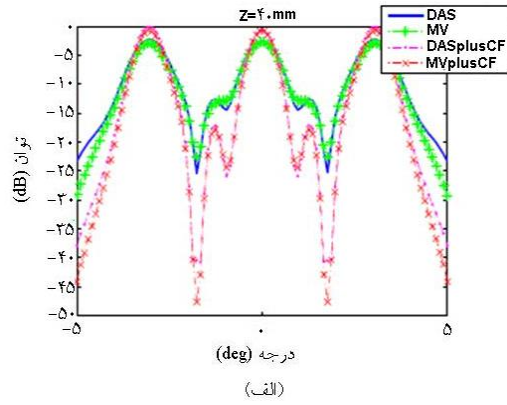
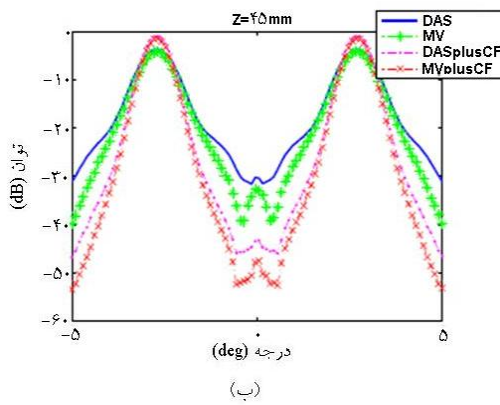
$L=M/ \quad L=M/$

$\Delta = /L$

DAS

)

(



% MV+CF (K= ) DAS+CF(K= ) MV (K= ) DAS

$\Delta = 1/L$

$L=M/$

MV+CF MV

( ) mm ( ) mm

/ MHz

MV+CF

/ MHz

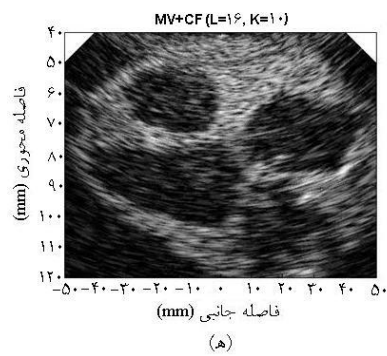
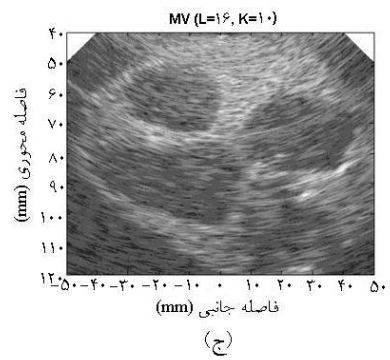
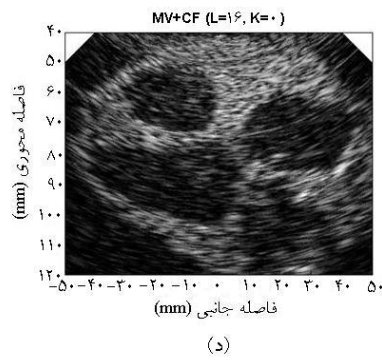
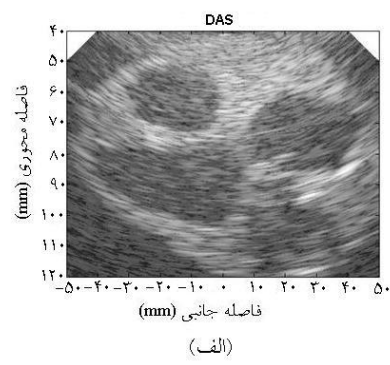
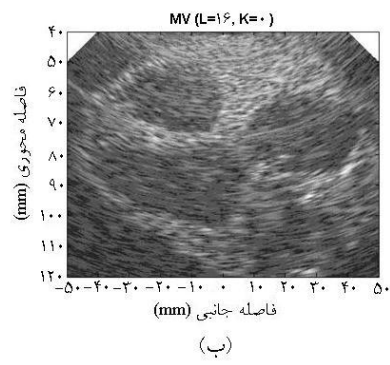
dB

MV

DAS

DAS

MV



(L= K= ) ( ) MV(L= K= ) ( ) DAS

dB

( ) MV+CF (L= K= ) ( ) MV+CF (L= K= ) ( ) MV

---

MV

DAS

MV

MV

CF

DAS

MV

CR

(MV+CF(K= ))

MV

CF

CR

DAS

DAS

MV

MV

K=

DAS

DAS

MV

DAS

MV

DAS

MV

DAS

MV

CR

DAS

DAS

MV

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MV

CF

DAS

CF

MV

CF

MV

CF

( ) MV

( ) CF

---

CF

CF

MV+CF

MV DAS

DAS

MV DAS

DAS

DAS

MV+CF(K= )

MV

MV

CF

MV

MV DAS

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DAS

MV

MV

MV

CF

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