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## **Abstract**

**Contesto**

**Obbiettivi**

**Metodi**

**Risultati**

# Contents

<b>Acronimi</b>	<b>vi</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Previous Works . . . . .	1
1.2 The ARTVA . . . . .	2
1.3 Gradient, Divergence, and Curl . . . . .	3
1.3.1 Gradient of a Scalar Field . . . . .	3
1.3.2 Definition of a Vector Field . . . . .	3
1.3.3 Divergence of a Vector Field . . . . .	3
1.3.4 Laplacian of a Vector Field . . . . .	4
1.3.5 Curl of a Vector Field . . . . .	4
1.4 Stokes' Theorem . . . . .	4
1.5 Divergence Theorem . . . . .	5
1.6 Null Identity Theorem . . . . .	5
1.7 Phasor Notation . . . . .	5
1.8 Spherical Coordinates . . . . .	6
1.8.1 Conversion from Cartesian to Spherical Coordinates . . . . .	6
1.8.2 Conversion from Cartesian to Spherical Coordinates . . . . .	6
1.8.3 Expressing Spherical Unit Vectors using Cartesian Unit Vectors . . . . .	6
1.8.4 The Gradient, Divergence, and Curl in Spherical Coordinates . . . . .	7
1.9 3D Dirac Delta . . . . .	8
1.10 Green's Function for Poisson Equation . . . . .	8
<b>2 Electromagnetism</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1 Maxwell's Equations . . . . .	10
2.1.1 Conservation of Charge Principle . . . . .	11
2.2 Wave Equation for Magnetic Vector Potential . . . . .	12
2.2.1 Finding the Potential by Solving the Wave Equation . . . . .	12
2.3 Magnetic Dipole . . . . .	13
2.4 Normalized Source Strength . . . . .	18
<b>3 Mathematical Model</b>	<b>19</b>
3.1 Single Victim Case . . . . .	19
3.1.1 Magnitude of Magnetic Field Intensity $H$ . . . . .	20
3.1.2 Finding the ARTVA position . . . . .	21
3.2 Multiple Victim Case . . . . .	24

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3.2.1	Total Magnitude . . . . .	24
<b>4</b>	<b>Literature Review</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Implementation</b>	<b>29</b>
5.1	Introduction . . . . .	29
5.2	Particle Swarm Optimization . . . . .	29
5.2.1	Exploration phase . . . . .	30
5.3	Exploitation Phase . . . . .	31
5.4	Velocity Update . . . . .	31
5.4.1	Exclusion Zones Mechanism . . . . .	32
5.4.2	Complete Modified PSO . . . . .	32
	<b>Glossary</b>	<b>34</b>
	<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>35</b>
	Figure . . . . .	39
	<b>Ringraziamenti</b>	<b>39</b>

# List of Figures

1.1	Spherical and Cartesian coordinates with their respective unit vectors. . . .	6
2.1	Magnetic dipole representation . . . . .	13
2.2	Magnetic dipole representation with the $OPP'$ triangle . . . . .	16
3.1	Inertial frames in the single victim case . . . . .	19
3.2	Polar plot of the actual function $\sqrt{3 \cos^2 \theta + 1}$ in blue and the approximated one $\frac{1}{a^2} \cos^2 \theta + \frac{1}{b^2} \sin^2 \theta$ in orange. . . . .	20
3.3	Only 2 victims case . . . . .	24
5.1	Radial exploration pattern for 5 drones at the end of the Exploration Phase.	32

# List of Tables

2.1	List of electromagnetic physical quantities and their descriptions. . . . .	10
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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 Previous Works

In the context of S&R<sup>1</sup> operations, the support of robots has become more and more extensive in recent years [23],[8] and in particular the necessity and advantages of using *decentralized multi-agent* systems [14]. A particular field of S&R missions focuses on high mountain scenarios, in which UAVs<sup>2</sup> are tasked with localizing avalanche victims. These missions involve the smart collaboration between UAVs and humans, developed also in the context of European founded projects such as the SHERPA one [12].

Different types of sensors can be used to achieve the localization goal, but the fastest and most accurate ones are electromagnetic sensors, which can operate also in noisy environments [19]. Among these, the ARTVAs<sup>3</sup> are the most commonly used in both human-conducted and robot-conducted operations.

Many studies have analyzed and formulated strategies and algorithms in the particular context of S&R operations using UAVs for avalanche victims [32], [28], [31]. Furthermore, in order to address the localization problem, the authors of [6] and [5] propose a robocentric SLAM approach in the broader robotics context. Note that in [6] they also take into consideration the *multiple victims* case.

Avalanche victims rescue missions are particularly difficult with respect to other S&R operations because of some challenging aspects. In particular, the time constraint is quite demanding since the survival chances of avalanche victims diminish rapidly with time. Victims buried under avalanches have a 93% survival rate within the first 15 minutes, which drops to 25% after 45 minutes due to hypothermia [1] and plateaus at 21% from 60 min to 180 minutes [29].

The common human-conducted avalanche victims S&R technique using ARTVA technology relies on three phases. In the first phase, rescuers search for the first valid electromagnetic signal, which can be detected at distances ranging from 20 meters for single-antenna receiver to 80 meters for triple-antenna ones. In the second phase, rescuers are trained to interpret the magnetic field data and follow standard procedures in order to follow magnetic field direction and find the victim's position. In the final phase, rescuers dig to save the buried individual.

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<sup>1</sup>S&R stands for Search and Rescue.

<sup>2</sup>UAV stands for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.

<sup>3</sup>ARTVA stands for the Italian "Apparecchio di Ricerca dei Travolti in VAlanga".



Despite the effectiveness of this technique, it requires a significant amount of time due to the challenges of traversing avalanche terrain. Additionally, rescuers walking on unstable snow face the tangible risk of triggering a secondary avalanche [5]. For these reasons, and given the additional advantage of typically not encountering obstacles in high mountain scenarios, the use of intelligent *autonomous* drones results in a faster and safer search when compared to human rescuers, as shown in [17], [21], [20].

Therefore, the aim of this work is to build upon previous efforts to *automate* and improve the efficiency of the second phase by developing a mathematical/algorithmic framework for solving the localization problem of not just one, but *multiple avalanche victims*, using *multiple decentralized* agents (UAVs). This approach aims to reduce computational complexity without sacrificing accuracy and convergence time.

## 1.2 The ARTVA

The ARTVA technology is composed of two different and easy switchable modalities: in *receiver* mode, the instrument senses and processes the electromagnetic field emitted by the ARTVA *transmitter* (carried by the avalanche victim).

The magnetic field generated by the solenoid antenna of the instrument oscillates with a frequency of 457 kHz and its characteristics are defined in the standard ETS 300 718-1 [30], to ensure compatibility between different brands and models. To save batteries and facilitate detection, the magnetic field is transmitted in pulses of a tenth of a second every second [5].

As will be discussed more in-depth in the following chapter, the magnetic field can be modeled as a three-dimensional vector field, which means that it assigns a certain intensity and direction to each point in space. Therefore, the main difference between different kinds of ARTVAs lies in "*how much*" of this field they can measure. According to this criterion, the instruments can be divided into three different types [5]:

- ARTVAs *with one reception antenna*: the oldest models, usually analog. The same antenna is used in both *transmitter* and *receiver* mode. Therefore, only the projection of the magnetic field on the antenna can be measured. This type of ARTVA is the most difficult to use and the most time-consuming one.
- ARTVAs *with two perpendicular reception antennas*: are based on digital technology such as microprocessors. This type can measure only the intensity and direction of the horizontal component of the field, only when held in horizontal position.
- ARTVAs *with three mutually perpendicular reception antennas*: also based on digital technology. Since these ARTVAs possess three perpendicular antennas, they can measure the complete vector field. For this reason, the instrument can be oriented w.r.t the magnetic field in any way.

In this work, we will consider only new ARTVA transceivers (three antennas), which can achieve a search strip width in digital mode of 80 m and a maximum range in analog mode of 90 m [35]. Furthermore, it is important to point the transceiver in the direction of the avalanche, parallel to the slope. For this reason, in this work, two different types of trajectories have been considered.

## 1.3 Gradient, Divergence, and Curl

We briefly define the following operators which will be used throughout this work.

### 1.3.1 Gradient of a Scalar Field

#### Definition

Given a scalar function  $f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  or scalar field, the gradient of the function is a vector field of partial derivatives and denoted by  $\nabla f$ , is defined as:

$$\nabla f = \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_2}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_3}, \dots, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} \right) \quad (1.1)$$

where  $\nabla$  is the vector differential operator [13].

#### Properties

The gradient is a vector which points in the direction of the greatest ascent of the function and its magnitude is the increase.

### 1.3.2 Definition of a Vector Field

A **vector field** on a subset  $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  is a vector-valued function  $\mathbf{V} : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  that assigns to each point  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in S$  a vector  $\mathbf{V}(\mathbf{x})$  [13].

### 1.3.3 Divergence of a Vector Field

For simplicity and since we are working with  $\mathbb{R}^3$  Euclidean space, we limit our discussion from now on to Euclidean coordinates.

#### Definition

Given a vector field  $\mathbf{V}$ , the divergence of  $\mathbf{V}$  at a point  $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{R}^3$  is defined as the net outward flux of  $\mathbf{V}$  per unit volume  $\Delta v$  as the volume about the point tends to zero:

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V} = \lim_{\Delta v \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\Delta v} \iint_S \mathbf{V} \cdot d\mathbf{s} \quad (1.2)$$

where  $\mathbf{V} \cdot d\mathbf{s}$  is the flux of  $\mathbf{V}$  through the surface  $S$  [15].

Since  $\mathbf{V} = V_x \mathbf{e}_x + V_y \mathbf{e}_y + V_z \mathbf{e}_z$ , the divergence of  $\mathbf{V}$ , can be computed as:

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V} = \frac{\partial V_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial V_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial V_z}{\partial z} \quad (1.3)$$

where  $V_x$ ,  $V_y$ , and  $V_z$  are the components of the vector field  $\mathbf{V}$  in the  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  directions, respectively [13].

### Properties

When the vector field is represented using flux lines (indicating the direction and intensity), the divergence is the amount of flux lines diverging/converging through a given point.

A net outward flux of a vector field through a surface bounding a volume indicates the presence of a source, the divergence measures the strength of the source. The divergence of a vector field is a scalar field.

### 1.3.4 Laplacian of a Vector Field

The Laplacian of a vector field  $\mathbf{V}$ , denoted by  $\nabla^2$ , is similar to the scalar Laplacian and is defined as:

$$\nabla^2 V = \frac{\partial^2 V_x}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V_y}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 V_z}{\partial z^2} \quad (1.4)$$

Alternatively, by taking the curl of the curl of a vector field, the Laplacian can be expressed as:

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{V} = \nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V}) - \nabla \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{V}) \quad (1.5)$$

### 1.3.5 Curl of a Vector Field

#### Definition

The curl of  $\mathbf{V}$ , denoted by  $\nabla \times \mathbf{V}$ , at a point in space  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3$  is a vector field whose magnitude is the maximum net circulation of  $\mathbf{V}$  per unit area as the area tends to zero and whose direction is the normal direction of the area when the area is oriented to make the net circulation maximum:

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{V} = \lim_{\Delta s \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\Delta s} \mathbf{n} \oint_C \mathbf{V} \cdot d\mathbf{l} \quad (1.6)$$

where  $\mathbf{n}$  is the unit normal vector to the surface  $S$ ,  $d\mathbf{l}$  is the differential line element along the boundary, and the integral represents the circulation of  $\mathbf{V}$  around the boundary of the surface [15].

The curl of a vector field  $\mathbf{V}$  can be then computed in terms of its components [13]:

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{V} = \left( \frac{\partial V_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial V_y}{\partial z}, \frac{\partial V_x}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial V_z}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial V_y}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial V_x}{\partial y} \right) \quad (1.7)$$

### Properties

Since the normal to an area can point in two opposite directions, the direction of the curl is given by the right-hand rule. A vortex source causes a circulation of the vector field around it. The circulation of a vector field around a closed path is defined as the scalar line integral of the vector over the path. Note that a circulation of  $\mathbf{V}$  can exist even when the divergence of  $\mathbf{V}$  is zero, meaning there is no net source or sink.

## 1.4 Stokes' Theorem

The surface integral of the curl of a vector field  $\mathbf{V}$  over a surface  $s$  is equal to the line integral of the vector field over the boundary contour  $c$  of the surface:

$$\oint_C \mathbf{V} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = \iint_S (\nabla \times \mathbf{V}) \cdot d\mathbf{s} \quad (1.8)$$

The proof of the theorem comes directly from the definition of the curl 1.6 and by dividing the surface  $S$  into smaller areas. The idea comes from the fact that computing the line integral around the boundary of a surface is equal to compute the integral for all the smaller areas, since the  $d\mathbf{l}$  components of the neighbouring regions are in opposite directions.

## 1.5 Divergence Theorem

The theorem states that the surface integral of a vector field  $\mathbf{V}$  over a closed surface  $S$  is equal to the volume integral of the divergence of  $\mathbf{V}$  over the volume enclosed by  $S$ :

$$\iint_S \mathbf{V} \cdot d\mathbf{s} = \iiint_V (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V}) dv \quad (1.9)$$

The idea of the proof is similar to 1.4, starting from the definition of the divergence 1.2. Considering a volume divided into smaller volumes, the contributions from the internal surfaces cancel each other, leaving only the contribution from the outer surface.

## 1.6 Null Identity Theorem

The divergence of the curl of any vector field is always zero [15]:

$$\nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{V}) = 0 \quad (1.10)$$

The proof leverages the divergence theorem 1.9 applied to the vector field  $\nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{V})$ . Considering that any volume can be divided in half, then the surface bounding the volume would be the sum of 2 surfaces, connected by a common boundary that has been drawn twice. One can then compute the two surface integrals using 1.8, and since the two normals  $\mathbf{n}$  have equal intensity and opposite direction, their sum is zero and the integrand as well.

A converse statement of the theorem is as follows: If a vector field  $\mathbf{B}$  is divergence-less, then it can be expressed as the curl of another vector field  $\mathbf{V}$ :

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0 \implies \mathbf{B} = \nabla \times \mathbf{V}$$

Since the identity  $\nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{V}) = 0$  always holds, it means that for any magnetic field  $\mathbf{B}$  with zero divergence, we can find a vector potential  $\mathbf{V}$  such that  $\mathbf{B}$  is the curl of  $\mathbf{V}$ .

## 1.7 Phasor Notation

For dealing with time-varying vector fields, we use phasor notation to represent sinusoidal varying field vectors (which is usually the case in real-world applications, such as the magnetic dipole) [15]. Phasor notation simplifies the analysis of such fields by converting differential equations into algebraic equations.

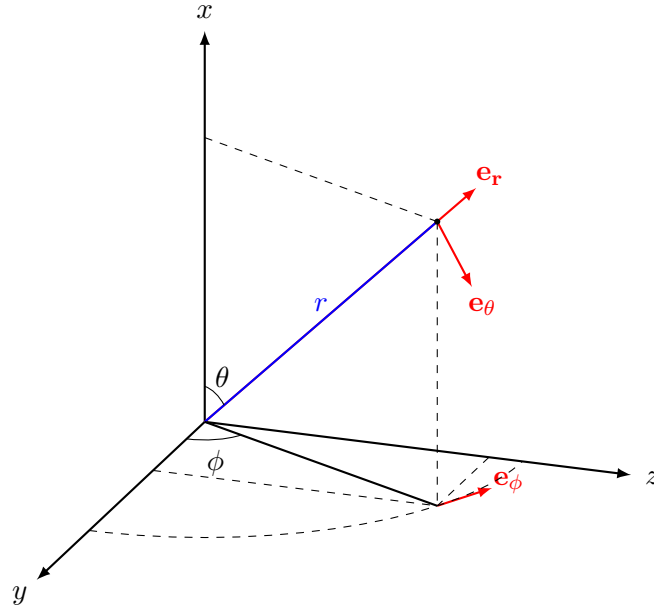
Then, an harmonic vector field  $\mathbf{V}(x, y, z, t) = \mathbf{V}(x, y, z) \cos \omega t$  can be represented by a vector phasor that depends on space coordinates but not on time:

$$\mathbf{V}(x, y, z, t) = \mathbf{V}(x, y, z) e^{j\omega t}$$

where  $\omega$  is the angular frequency and  $\mathbf{V}(x, y, z)$  is a vector phasor that contains information on direction, magnitude, and phase.

The time-domain function can be recovered from the phasor by taking the real part:

$$\mathbf{V}(x, y, z, t) = \text{Re}\{\mathbf{V}(x, y, z) e^{j\omega t}\}$$



**Figure 1.1** Spherical and Cartesian coordinates with their respective unit vectors.

## 1.8 Spherical Coordinates

We define two classical coordinate systems: spherical coordinates  $(r, \theta, \phi)$  and Cartesian coordinates  $(x, y, z)$ , with their respective vector basis  $\{\mathbf{e}_r, \mathbf{e}_\theta, \mathbf{e}_\phi\}$  and  $\{\mathbf{e}_x, \mathbf{e}_y, \mathbf{e}_z\}$ , represented in Figure 1.1, from which the following relationships are evident. Note that we use the convention in [32] for the angles and the axes.

### 1.8.1 Conversion from Cartesian to Spherical Coordinates

$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}, \quad (1.11)$$

$$\theta = \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{\sqrt{z^2 + y^2}}{x} \right), \quad (1.12)$$

$$\phi = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{y}{z} \right). \quad (1.13)$$

### 1.8.2 Conversion from Cartesian to Spherical Coordinates

$$x = r \cos \theta, \quad (1.14)$$

$$y = r \sin \theta \cos \phi, \quad (1.15)$$

$$z = r \sin \theta \sin \phi. \quad (1.16)$$

### 1.8.3 Expressing Spherical Unit Vectors using Cartesian Unit Vectors

A point  $\mathbf{r}$  in Cartesian coordinates is given by:

$$\mathbf{r} = x \mathbf{e}_x + y \mathbf{e}_y + z \mathbf{e}_z.$$

The radial unit vector  $\mathbf{e}_r$  is defined as the normalized position vector, obtained by substituting the coordinates in 1.8.1:

$$\mathbf{e}_r = \frac{\mathbf{r}}{|\mathbf{r}|} = \cos \theta \mathbf{e}_x + \sin \theta \cos \phi \mathbf{e}_y + \sin \theta \sin \phi \mathbf{e}_z. \quad (1.17)$$

The unit vector  $\mathbf{e}_\theta$ , which is perpendicular to  $\mathbf{e}_r$  and lies in the plane formed by the origin and the  $z$ -axis, points in the direction of increasing  $\theta$ . It can be found by taking the partial derivative of the position vector with respect to  $\theta$  and normalize it:

$$\mathbf{e}_\theta = -\sin \theta \mathbf{e}_x + \cos \theta \cos \phi \mathbf{e}_y + \cos \theta \sin \phi \mathbf{e}_z. \quad (1.18)$$

Similarly, the unit vector  $\mathbf{e}_\phi$ , which is perpendicular to both  $\mathbf{e}_r$  and  $\mathbf{e}_\theta$ , points in the direction of increasing  $\phi$ . It can be derived by taking the partial derivative of the position vector with respect to  $\phi$  and normalize it:

$$\mathbf{e}_\phi = \frac{\frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial \phi}}{\left| \frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial \phi} \right|} = -\sin \phi \mathbf{e}_y + \cos \phi \mathbf{e}_z.$$

#### 1.8.4 The Gradient, Divergence, and Curl in Spherical Coordinates

We omit the demonstration of how these formulas are found starting from the definitions given in Cartesian coordinates 1.3, which involve large amount of computations [15].

For a vector field expressed in spherical coordinates:

$$\mathbf{V} = V_r \mathbf{e}_r + V_\theta \mathbf{e}_\theta + V_\phi \mathbf{e}_\phi$$

the divergence is:

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V} = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r^2 V_r) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (\sin \theta V_\theta) + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial V_\phi}{\partial \phi}. \quad (1.19)$$

The curl in spherical coordinates is:

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{V} = \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{e}_r & r \mathbf{e}_\theta & r \sin \theta \mathbf{e}_\phi \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial r} & \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} & \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \\ V_r & r V_\theta & r \sin \theta V_\phi \end{vmatrix}. \quad (1.20)$$

carrying out the determinant:

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \times \mathbf{V} = \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} & \left[ \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (V_\phi \sin \theta) - \frac{\partial V_\theta}{\partial \phi} \right) \mathbf{e}_r \right. \\ & + \left( \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \frac{\partial V_r}{\partial \phi} - \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r V_\phi) \right) \mathbf{e}_\theta \\ & \left. + \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r V_\theta) - \frac{\partial V_r}{\partial \theta} \right) \mathbf{e}_\phi \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (1.21)$$

## 1.9 3D Dirac Delta

### Definition

Given a point  $\mathbf{r}$  in Cartesian coordinates, the Dirac delta function  $\delta(\mathbf{r})$  is defined as [16]:

- $\delta(\mathbf{r}) = 0$  at all points except at  $\mathbf{r} = (0, 0, 0)$ .
- The integral across the entire space satisfies:

$$\int_V \delta(\mathbf{r}) dv = 1 \quad (1.22)$$

The result of the integral could be the value of any function in zero,  $f(0)$ . For example, the Dirac delta could be the charge density  $\rho$  of a point particle located at the origin whose charge is  $q$ .

## 1.10 Green's Function for Poisson Equation

Poisson's equation using Green's function is written as:

$$\nabla^2 G(\mathbf{r}) = \delta(\mathbf{r}) \quad (1.23)$$

The solution to the above equation is given by:

$$G(r) = -\frac{1}{4\pi r}$$

### Proof

We assume  $G(r)$  to be axis-symmetric, implying that it only depends on the magnitude  $r$ , not the vector position  $\mathbf{r}$ . Considering the point  $(x, y, z)$  and the distance  $r$  from the origin. To find Green function we look for the simplest function that satisfies the equation, which has the form:

$$G(r) = A\frac{1}{r} + B$$

where  $A$  and  $B$  are constants.

Assuming  $B = 0$  for simplicity, we find  $A$  by integrating over a sphere of volume  $\epsilon$ . Substituting Poisson's equation 1.23 in the the definition of the Dirac delta 1.22:

$$\int_V \nabla^2 G(r) dv = 1$$

Using the divergence theorem 1.9:

$$\int_V \nabla^2 G(r) dv = \int_S \nabla G(r) \cdot d\mathbf{s}$$

$$1 = \int_S \nabla G(r) \cdot d\mathbf{s}$$

The right-hand side represents the flux through the surface  $S$ . We take the integral over the surface of a sphere of radius  $r$ , knowing that the surface area is  $4\pi r^2$  and computing the divergence (which is just the derivative thanks to the assumption) of  $A \frac{1}{r}$ :

$$1 = \int_S -\frac{A}{r^2} d\mathbf{s} = -\frac{4\pi r^2 A}{r^2}$$

From which we conclude:

$$A = -\frac{1}{4\pi}$$



## Chapter 2

# Electromagnetism

The ARTVA instrument in transmitter and receiver mode is a magnetic dipole. In order to formulate a coherent mathematical model, it is necessary to report some results of electromagnetic theory. Firstly, we identify and name the fundamental electromagnetic physical quantities.

Symbol	Description	Units
<b>E</b>	Electric field intensity	V/m
<b>D</b>	Electric displacement field	C/m <sup>2</sup>
<b>H</b>	Magnetic field intensity	A/m
<b>B</b>	Magnetic flux density	T
<b>J</b>	Current density	A/m <sup>2</sup>
<b>A</b>	Magnetic vector potential	V s/m
$\rho$	Volume charge density	C/m <sup>3</sup>
$\epsilon$	Permittivity of the medium	F/m
$\mu$	Permeability of the medium	H/m
$c$	Speed of light in vacuum	m/s

**Table 2.1** List of electromagnetic physical quantities and their descriptions.

## 2.1 Maxwell's Equations

We postulate Maxwell's equations in a simple (linear, isotropic, and homogeneous) medium in phasor notation 1.7, which have been discovered experimentally [15]:

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -j\omega\mathbf{B} \quad (2.1)$$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{H} = \mathbf{J} + j\omega\epsilon\mathbf{E} \quad (2.2)$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon} \quad (2.3)$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0 \quad (2.4)$$

In these equations, the space-coordinate arguments have been omitted for simplicity. The fact that the same notations are used for the phasors as are used for their corresponding

time-dependent quantities should create little confusion because we will deal exclusively with sinusoidal vector fields.

From Maxwell's equation 2.4, we know that the magnetic flux density  $\mathbf{B}$  is solenoidal (zero divergence). Then,  $\mathbf{B}$  can be expressed as the curl of another vector field using the Null Theorem 1.10, obtaining 2.4:

$$\mathbf{B} = \nabla \times \mathbf{A} \quad (2.5)$$

Also,  $\mathbf{B}$  relates to the magnetic field intensity  $\mathbf{H}$  through the permeability of the medium  $\mu$ :

$$\mathbf{B} = \mu \mathbf{H} \quad (2.6)$$

Another useful form of Maxwell's first equation 2.1 can be found by substituting 2.5:

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \times \mathbf{E} &= -j\omega(\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) = -\nabla \times j\omega \mathbf{A} \\ \nabla \times (\mathbf{E} + j\omega \mathbf{A}) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Since the sum of vector fields is itself a vector field,  $\mathbf{E} + j\omega \mathbf{A}$  is a vector field, and we can define a **scalar** field, the electric potential  $V$ , such that:

$$\mathbf{E} + j\omega \mathbf{A} = -\nabla V \quad (2.7)$$

If the curl of a vector field is zero, a scalar field exists whose gradient gives the vector field.

### 2.1.1 Conservation of Charge Principle

The principle of conservation of charge states that the net charge within a closed system remains constant over time, meaning no charge can be created nor destroyed [15]:

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J} = -\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} \quad (2.8)$$

The current density  $\mathbf{J}$  is defined as:

$$\mathbf{J} = Nq\mathbf{u} \quad (2.9)$$

where  $N$  is the number of charge carriers per unit volume,  $q$  is the charge of each carrier, and  $\mathbf{u}$  is the drift velocity of the charge carriers.

This means that if a current flows out of a volume, the charge density inside the volume must decrease at a rate equal to the current. The current leaving the volume is the flux of the current density through surface  $S$ :

$$I = \oint_S \mathbf{J} \cdot d\mathbf{s} \quad (2.10)$$

## 2.2 Wave Equation for Magnetic Vector Potential

In order to determine the intensity of the magnetic field, we first need to find an expression for the magnetic vector potential  $\mathbf{A}$ , called the wave equation. Starting from Maxwell's equations, we find the wave equation by substituting 2.5 and 2.6 into the second Maxwell equation 2.2:

$$\nabla \times \nabla \times \mathbf{A} = \mu \mathbf{J} + j\omega\epsilon\mu \mathbf{E}$$

Then we substitute 2.7 for  $\mathbf{E}$  and use the Laplacian 1.5 on the left side:

$$\nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}) - \nabla^2 \mathbf{A} = \mu \mathbf{J} + j\omega\epsilon\mu (-\nabla V - j\omega \mathbf{A})$$

The definition of a vector requires the specification of both its curl and its divergence. Although the curl of  $\mathbf{A}$  is designated  $\mathbf{B}$  in 2.5, we are still at liberty to choose its divergence to simplify the expression [15]:

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} = -j\omega\epsilon\mu V$$

Finally, rearranging the terms and substituting the square of  $j$ , we get:

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{A} + \omega^2\epsilon\mu \mathbf{A} = -\mu \mathbf{J}$$

This is the wave equation for the magnetic vector potential  $\mathbf{A}$ :

$$\nabla^2 \mathbf{A} - k^2 \mathbf{A} = -\mu \mathbf{J} \quad (2.11)$$

where  $k = \omega\sqrt{\mu\epsilon}$  is the wave number, which characterizes the propagation of the electromagnetic wave in the medium.

### 2.2.1 Finding the Potential by Solving the Wave Equation

Since both  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{J}$  are vector fields, the wave equation 2.11 can be written for each component of  $\mathbf{A}$ :

$$\nabla^2 \begin{pmatrix} A_x \\ A_y \\ A_z \end{pmatrix} = k^2 \begin{pmatrix} A_x \\ A_y \\ A_z \end{pmatrix} - \mu \begin{pmatrix} J_x \\ J_y \\ J_z \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.12)$$

In order to solve 2.12, we can use the Green function for Poisson's equation 1.23 for each of the components when  $k = 0$  (the case of static fields). Then, the solution is given by the formula:

$$\mathbf{A} = \frac{\mu}{4\pi} \int_V \mathbf{J} \frac{e^{-jkr}}{r} dv \quad (2.13)$$

by using the superposition principle and by finding the solution of the time-dependent differential equation.

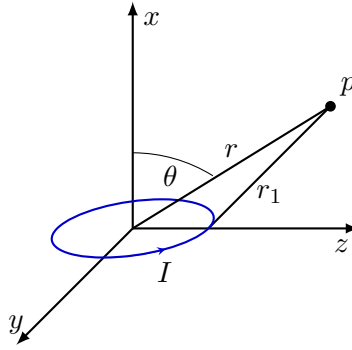


Figure 2.1 Magnetic dipole representation

## 2.3 Magnetic Dipole

We have a small filament loop of radius  $b$ , carrying an AC current  $I(t) = I \cos(\omega t)$  as shown in Figure 2.1. If  $S$  is the cross-section area of the wire and  $dl$  a differential length, we have  $\mathbf{J} \perp \mathbf{s}$ , the normal to the area and the volume:

$$dv = S dl$$

In order to determine the magnetic field intensity  $\mathbf{H}$  at a certain point in space  $p$ , we need to compute the magnetic vector potential  $\mathbf{A}$  first [15]. Since the charges move only in the thin wire, they are located only in the wire region, then from the definition of current 2.10:

$$I = S \mathbf{J}$$

The volume integral in 2.13 becomes:

$$\int_V \mathbf{J} dv = \int_V \mathbf{J} S dl$$

Then, we substitute 2.10 and change the integral type since it is now the sum over the length, so the formula becomes (the current must flow in a closed path):

$$\mathbf{A} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \oint_C \frac{d\mathbf{l}}{r_1} e^{-jk r_1} \quad (2.14)$$

where  $r_1$  is the distance between the point  $p$  and the charges (source element) and  $d\mathbf{l}$  is a vector tangent to the loop of differential length  $dl$ .

### Assumption

We can then simplify 2.14 by considering the radius  $b$  to be small enough, such that  $r_1 - r \approx 0$ . Then by adding and subtracting  $r$  from the power of the exponential:

$$e^{-jk r_1} = e^{-jk(r_1 + r - r)} = e^{-jkr} e^{-jk(r_1 - r)}$$

Then by using Taylor approximation on the second exponential ( $x = r_1 - r \approx 0$ ) we obtain:

$$e^{-jkr_1} = e^{-jkr} [1 - jk(r_1 - r)]$$

Then, we substitute this result in 2.14 and simplify:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A} &= \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} e^{-jkr} [1 - jk(r_1 - r)] \oint_C \frac{d\mathbf{l}}{r_1} \\ &= \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} e^{-jkr} \left( \oint_C \frac{d\mathbf{l}}{r_1} - jk \oint_C (r_1 - r) \frac{d\mathbf{l}}{R_1} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Since the integral of  $d\mathbf{l}$  over a closed loop is zero, because we have considered a small loop  $b \rightarrow 0$ :

$$\oint_C d\ell = 2\pi b \quad \rightarrow \quad \oint_C d\ell \rightarrow 0$$

Then we obtain:

$$\mathbf{A} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} e^{-jkr} \left[ (1 + jkr) \oint \frac{d\mathbf{l}}{r_1} \right] \quad (2.15)$$

### Assumption Quasi-Static Field/Near Field Zone

If we consider a region near the magnetic dipole, we obtain quasi-static fields. We defined the wave number  $k$  as:

$$k = \omega \sqrt{\mu\epsilon} \quad (2.16)$$

Electromagnetic waves propagate with velocity  $u$  (speed of light in vacuum) [15]:

$$u = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu\epsilon}} \quad (2.17)$$

Then, by inverting 2.17 and substituting in 2.16, we can write  $k$  as:

$$k = \frac{\omega}{u} \quad (2.18)$$

From wave theory  $f = \frac{\omega}{2\pi}$  and  $\lambda = \frac{u}{f}$ , we obtain another expression for  $u$ :

$$u = \frac{\lambda \omega}{2\pi} \quad (2.19)$$

Therefore, we can substitute 2.3 in 2.18:

$$k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \quad (2.20)$$

To simplify the expression for  $\mathbf{A}$  2.14, we make the assumption that  $kr \ll 1$ , and if we substitute the found expression of  $k$  2.20:

$$kr \ll 1 \implies \frac{2\pi r}{\lambda} \ll 1 \implies r \ll \frac{\lambda}{2\pi}$$

This means that  $r$  needs to be small in comparison to  $\lambda$ . If this is the case:

$$e^{-jkr} \approx e^0 = 1$$

We eliminate completely the time dependence and obtain the expression for  $\mathbf{A}$ :

$$\mathbf{A} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{4\pi} \oint_C \frac{d\mathbf{l}}{r_1} \quad (2.21)$$

In the ARTVA case, the standard operating frequency is  $f = 475$  kHz and the optimal range of the instrument is  $< 80$  m. Then in the worst case, when  $r = 80$  m, we obtain the approximation  $kr = 0.79$ .

### Symmetry

In the particular case of a magnetic dipole, the magnetic vector potential  $\mathbf{A}$  is symmetric with respect to the  $x$ -axis, therefore independent to the  $\phi$  angle 1.8. This is true since we can choose freely the  $z$ -axis and  $y$ -axis orientation in space around the loop. Then we can choose the point  $\mathbf{p}$  to lie on the  $zx$ -plane or the  $yx$ -plane; in both cases, we will obtain that one of the two  $d\mathbf{l}$  components  $d\mathbf{l}_z$  and  $d\mathbf{l}_y$  will cancel themselves out as we integrate over the loop.

For example, if we consider the point to lie on the  $yx$ -plane, then take a point on the loop where  $d\mathbf{l}$  is and its symmetric w.r.t. the  $y$ -axis, the component  $d\mathbf{l}_y$  of the first will cancel itself out with the one of the second.

We can write the length of a circumference as  $l = r\alpha$ , where  $\alpha$  is the subtended angle by the length  $l$  and  $r$  the radius. In addition, we express  $\mathbf{e}_\phi$  using the Cartesian basis:

$$\mathbf{e}_\phi = -\sin \phi \mathbf{e}_y + \cos \phi \mathbf{e}_z$$

Then,  $d\mathbf{l}$  magnitude depends on the differential angle  $d\phi$  and the radius  $b$ , and has the same direction as  $\mathbf{e}_\phi$ :

$$d\mathbf{l} = b d\phi \mathbf{e}_\phi = b d\phi (-\sin \phi \mathbf{e}_y + \cos \phi \mathbf{e}_z) \quad (2.22)$$

For every  $d\mathbf{l}$ , there is another symmetrically located differential length element on the other side of the  $y$ -axis that will contribute an equal amount to  $\mathbf{A}$  in the  $\mathbf{e}_z$  direction but will cancel the contribution of  $d\mathbf{l}$  in the  $\mathbf{e}_y$  direction. Since  $\mathbf{e}_z = \mathbf{e}_\phi$ , if point  $P$  lies on the  $yx$ -plane, equation 2.21 can be written as:

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{e}_\phi \frac{\mu I b}{4\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{\cos \phi}{r_1} d\phi \quad (2.23)$$

### Computing the Integral in Spherical Coordinates

Firstly, we find  $r_1$  by applying the law of cosines on the triangle  $OPP'$ , Figure 2.2:

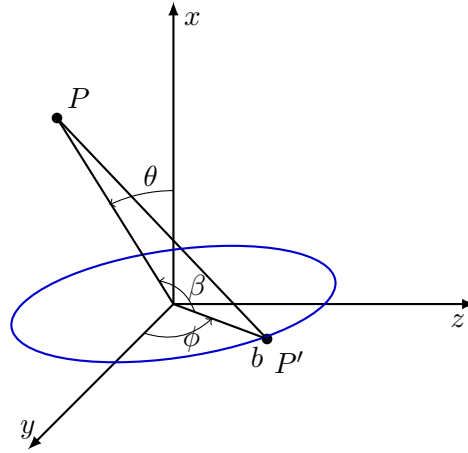
We start with the equation for  $r_1$ :

$$r_1^2 = r^2 + b^2 - 2rb \cos \beta$$

Since we are on the  $xy$ -plane, we can write the  $\mathbf{b}$  and  $\mathbf{r}$  vectors as:

$$\mathbf{r} = r \sin \theta \mathbf{e}_y + r \cos \theta \mathbf{e}_x$$

$$\mathbf{b} = b \cos \phi \mathbf{e}_y + b \sin \phi \mathbf{e}_z$$



**Figure 2.2** Magnetic dipole representation with the  $OPP'$  triangle

Then we find the angle  $\beta$  between  $\mathbf{r}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ :

$$\cos \beta = \frac{\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{r}}{rb} = \sin \theta \cos \phi$$

We have obtained a formula for  $r_1$ :

$$r_1 = \sqrt{r^2 + b^2 - 2rb \sin \theta \cos \phi}$$

Simplifying further, we get:

$$r_1^2 = r^2 \left( 1 + \frac{b^2}{r^2} - 2 \frac{b}{r} \sin \theta \cos \phi \right)$$

Using the same assumption as before, that the loop is very small with respect to  $r$  (i.e.,  $b \ll r$  and therefore  $b^2 \ll r^2$ ), we can write:

$$r_1 \approx r \left( 1 - 2 \frac{b}{r} \sin \theta \cos \phi \right)^{1/2}$$

Then we compute the inverse  $\frac{1}{r_1}$  and use the Taylor approximation to the first derivative, considering  $x = 2 \frac{b}{r} \sin \theta \cos \phi$ , which tends to zero, we obtain:

$$\frac{1}{r_1} \approx \frac{1}{r} \left( 1 + \frac{b}{r} \sin \theta \cos \phi \right) \quad (2.24)$$

Now, substituting 2.24 in 2.23, we can calculate the integral for  $\mathbf{A}$  over the entire loop:

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{e}_\phi \frac{\mu I b}{4\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \left( 1 + \frac{b}{r} \sin \theta \cos \phi \right) \cos \phi d\phi$$

Since  $b$ ,  $r$ , and  $\theta$  do not depend on  $\phi$ , the first integral is zero, and the second one gives  $\pi$ :

$$(1) \quad \int_0^{2\pi} \cos \phi d\phi = \sin \phi \Big|_0^{2\pi} = 0$$

$$(2) \quad \int_0^{2\pi} \cos^2 \phi \, d\phi = \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{1 + \cos(2\phi)}{2} \, d\phi = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 2\pi + \frac{1}{2} \cdot 0 = \pi$$

Therefore, we obtain:

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{e}_\phi \frac{\mu I b^2}{4 r^2} \sin \theta \quad (2.25)$$

### Magnetic Field Intensity $\mathbf{H}$

Finally, we can now obtain an expression in spherical coordinates of the magnetic field intensity  $\mathbf{H}$ , by first finding  $\mathbf{B}$  using 2.5 and then inverting 2.6.

We compute the curl of  $\mathbf{A}$  in spherical coordinates 1.20:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{B} = \nabla \times \mathbf{A} &= \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{e}_r & \mathbf{e}_\theta r & \mathbf{e}_\phi r \sin \theta \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial r} & \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} & \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \\ 0 & 0 & r \sin \theta A_\phi \end{vmatrix} = \\ &= \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \left( \mathbf{e}_r \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (r \sin \theta A_\phi) - \mathbf{e}_\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r \sin \theta A_\phi) \right) \end{aligned}$$

where  $A_\phi$  is the magnitude of the vector field found in 2.25, while  $A_r$  and  $A_\theta$  are zero since the potential has only the  $\mathbf{e}_\phi$  direction. Substituting 2.25:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{B} &= \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\mu b^2 I}{4\pi} \left( \mathbf{e}_r \frac{2}{r} \cos \theta \sin \theta + \mathbf{e}_\theta r \sin^2 \theta r^{-2} \right) = \\ &= \frac{\mu I b^2}{4 r^3} (\mathbf{e}_r 2 \cos \theta + \mathbf{e}_\theta \sin \theta) \end{aligned}$$

Then, by inverting equation 2.6, we obtain the final expression for  $\mathbf{H}$ :

$$\mathbf{H} = \frac{I b^2}{4 r^3} (\mathbf{e}_r 2 \cos \theta + \mathbf{e}_\theta \sin \theta) \quad (2.26)$$

which can also be expressed using the Cartesian unit vectors  $(\mathbf{e}_x, \mathbf{e}_y, \mathbf{e}_z)$  by substituting  $\mathbf{e}_r$  with 1.17 and  $\mathbf{e}_\theta$  with 1.18:

$$\mathbf{H} = \frac{I b^2}{4\pi r^3} \left[ (2 \cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta) \mathbf{e}_x + 3 \cos \theta \sin \theta \cos \phi \mathbf{e}_y + 3 \cos \theta \sin \theta \sin \phi \mathbf{e}_z \right]$$

or in vector form:

$$\mathbf{H} = \frac{I b^2}{4 r^3} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta \\ 3 \cos \theta \sin \theta \cos \phi \\ 3 \cos \theta \sin \theta \sin \phi \end{bmatrix}$$

We can finally find the expression for  $\mathbf{H}$  using only Cartesian coordinates by inverting the equations in 1.8.2:

$$\mathbf{H} = \frac{I b^2}{4 r^5} \begin{bmatrix} 2x^2 - y^2 - z^2 \\ 3xy \\ 3xz \end{bmatrix}$$

which has been derived by exploiting the Pythagorean identity.



## 2.4 Normalized Source Strength

Since the mag field is sensible to rotation, we need invariants

## Chapter 3

# Mathematical Model

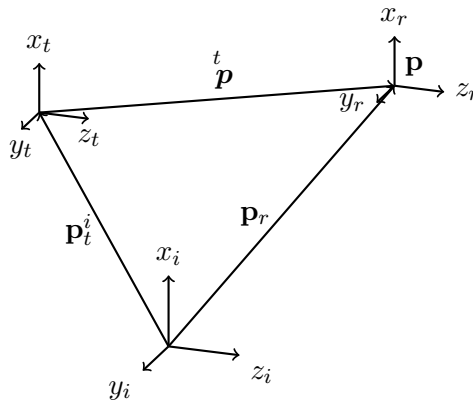
### 3.1 Single Victim Case

Three Cartesian coordinate frames are defined as [32] and shown in 3.1:

- (i) Frame  $i$  (inertial): denoted as  $F_i = (O_i, x_i, y_i, z_i)$ , is the inertial frame with origin  $O_i$ .
- (ii) Frame  $r$  (receiver ARTVA): denoted as  $F_r = (O_r, x_r, y_r, z_r)$ , is the body right-hand frame associated with the receiver installed on the drone.
- (iii) Frame  $t$  (transmitter ARTVA): denoted as  $F_t = (O_t, x_t, y_t, z_t)$ , is the body right-hand frame associated with the transmitter worn by the victim.

For the sake of simplicity, we assume that the body frame of the drone coincides with  $F_r$ . The position of  $O_r$  relative to  $O_t$  is indicated by the vector  $\mathbf{p} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ , with  $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{p}_r - \mathbf{p}_t$ , while the positions of  $O_r$  and  $O_t$  relative to  $O_i$  are indicated, respectively, by the vectors  $\mathbf{p}_r \in \mathbb{R}^3$  and  $\mathbf{p}_t \in \mathbb{R}^3$ . We use the apex  $i, r$  or  $t$  on the right of the vector to indicate in which frame the vector is expressed, e.g.  $\mathbf{p}^r$ . If it is not specified, we assume the inertial frame.

**Figure 3.1** Inertial frames in the single victim case



### 3.1.1 Magnitude of Magnetic Field Intensity $\mathbf{H}$

We have found an expression of  $\mathbf{H}$  in spherical coordinates, 2.26, whose magnitude is found as:

$$|\mathbf{H}| = \frac{Ib^2}{4r^3} \sqrt{4\cos^2\theta + \sin^2\theta} = \frac{Ib^2}{4r^3} \sqrt{3\cos^2\theta + 1} \quad (3.1)$$

#### Approximation

We use the same approximation in [32] in order to remove the non-linearity given by the square root term  $\sqrt{3\cos^2\theta + 1}$ . Therefore we approximate:

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{3\cos^2\theta + 1}} \approx \frac{1}{a^2} \cos^2\theta + \frac{1}{b^2} \sin^2\theta$$

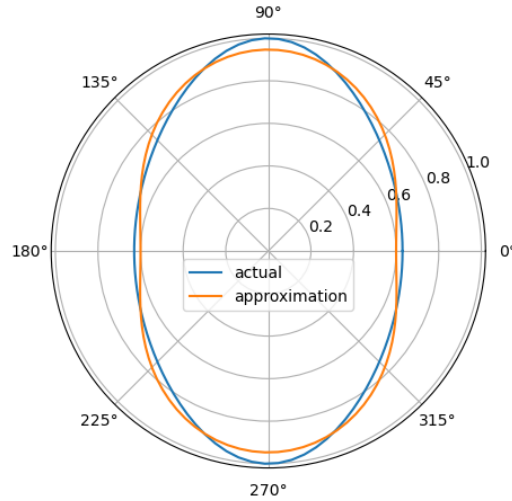
of which the polar plot is shown in Figure 3.2 when  $a$  and  $b$  have values 1.291 and 1.028, respectively, which minimize the relative mean squared error = 0.123%.

Thus, the square root term becomes:

$$\sqrt{3\cos^2\theta + 1} \approx \frac{1}{\left(\frac{1}{a^2} \cos^2\theta + \frac{1}{b^2} \sin^2\theta\right)^{3/2}} \quad (3.2)$$

Using the approximation (3.2) in (3.1):

$$|\mathbf{H}| = \frac{Ib^2}{4r^3} \left(\frac{1}{a^2} \cos^2\theta + \frac{1}{b^2} \sin^2\theta\right)^{2/3} \quad (3.3)$$



**Figure 3.2** Polar plot of the actual function  $\sqrt{3\cos^2\theta + 1}$  in blue and the approximated one  $\frac{1}{a^2} \cos^2\theta + \frac{1}{b^2} \sin^2\theta$  in orange.

Now we can express the magnitude using the Cartesian coordinates relative to the frame of the transmitter ARTVA  $F_t$ . If we consider the point  $\mathbf{p}^t$

$$\mathbf{p}^t = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix}$$

having these coordinates  $(x, y, z)$  in frame  $t$ , then remembering  $r$  from 1.8.1 and  $\cos \theta$  from 1.8.2:

$$\begin{cases} r^2 = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 \\ \cos \theta = \frac{x}{r} \end{cases}$$

Substituting the expressions for  $r$  and  $\cos \theta$  in 3.3:

$$|\mathbf{H}| = \frac{Ib^2}{4} \frac{1}{(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^3} \left( \frac{1}{a^2} \frac{x^2}{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} + \frac{1}{b^2} \frac{y^2 + z^2}{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} \right)^{2/3}$$

After simplifications and further calculations, we obtain:

$$|\mathbf{H}| = \frac{m}{4\pi} \left( \frac{(ab)^2}{b^2x^2 + a^2(y^2 + z^2)} \right)^{3/2} \quad (3.4)$$

where we call  $I \pi b^2$  the magnetic moment  $m$ . Then, we can define  $\eta$  as [32]:

$$\eta = \left( \frac{m}{4\pi |\mathbf{H}|} \right)^{2/3} \cdot (ab)^2 =$$

by substituting 3.4:

$$\begin{aligned} &= \left( \frac{m}{4\pi \frac{m}{4\pi} \left( \frac{(ab)^2}{b^2x^2 + a^2(y^2 + z^2)} \right)^{3/2}} \right)^{2/3} \cdot (ab)^2 = \\ &= \left( \left( \frac{b^2x^2 + a^2(y^2 + z^2)}{(ab)^2} \right)^{3/2} \right)^{2/3} \cdot (ab)^2 \end{aligned}$$

So:

$$\eta = b^2x^2 + a^2(y^2 + z^2) \quad (3.5)$$

### 3.1.2 Finding the ARTVA position

In order to find the victim's position  $\mathbf{p}_t$  with respect to the inertial frame  $F_i$ , we need to use homogeneous transformations [7]. Also from Figure 3.1, we can express the position of the receiver  $\mathbf{p}_r$  in the inertial frame as the sum of the other two vectors:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{p}^i &= \mathbf{p}_t^i + \mathbf{p}^t \\ \mathbf{p}^t &= R_t^i \mathbf{p}^t \end{aligned}$$

where  $R_t^i$  is the rotation matrix that rotates axis  $i$  to  $t$  [25].

From which we can find  $\mathbf{p}_t$  by multiplying by  $R^T$  since  $R$  is orthogonal (orthogonal  $R^T = R^{-1}$ ):

$$\mathbf{p}^t = R_t^{iT} (\mathbf{p}_r - \mathbf{p}_t) \quad (3.6)$$

In addition, remembering how we defined the coordinates of  $\mathbf{p}^t$ , then from linear algebra:

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \mathbf{e}_x^T \mathbf{p}^t \\ y &= \mathbf{e}_y^T \mathbf{p}^t \\ z &= \mathbf{e}_z^T \mathbf{p}^t \end{aligned}$$

also,

$$x^2 = x \cdot x = \left( \mathbf{e}_x^T \mathbf{p}^t \right)^T \cdot \left( \mathbf{e}_x^T \mathbf{p}^t \right)$$

and the same is valid for the other two coordinates, we will omit the calculations for the other two from now on. We can then substitute the expression we found for  $\mathbf{p}^t$  3.6 and apply linear algebra properties of the transpose:

$$(ABC)^T = C^T B^T A^T$$

to calculate the transpose of  $\mathbf{e}_x^T R_t^{iT} (\mathbf{p}_r - \mathbf{p}_t)$ :

$$(\mathbf{e}_x^T R_t^{iT} (\mathbf{p}_r - \mathbf{p}_t))^T = (\mathbf{p}_r - \mathbf{p}_t)^T R_t^i \mathbf{e}_x$$

The expression for  $x^2$  then becomes:

$$x^2 = (\mathbf{p}_r - \mathbf{p}_t)^T R_t^i \mathbf{e}_x \mathbf{e}_x^T R_t^{iT} (\mathbf{p}_r - \mathbf{p}_t) \quad (3.7)$$

Furthermore:

$$\mathbf{e}_x \mathbf{e}_x^T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \text{diag}(1, 0, 0)$$

and:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{e}_y \mathbf{e}_y^T &= \text{diag}(0, 1, 0) \\ \mathbf{e}_z \mathbf{e}_z^T &= \text{diag}(0, 0, 1) \end{aligned}$$

Lastly we substitute the result found in 3.7 in the expression of  $\eta$  3.5:

$$\begin{aligned} \eta &= b^2 (\mathbf{p}_r - \mathbf{p}_t)^T R_t^i \mathbf{e}_x \mathbf{e}_x^T R_t^{iT} (\mathbf{p}_r - \mathbf{p}_t) + \\ &+ a^2 (\mathbf{p}_r - \mathbf{p}_t)^T R_t^i \mathbf{e}_y \mathbf{e}_y^T R_t^{iT} (\mathbf{p}_r - \mathbf{p}_t) + \\ &+ a^2 (\mathbf{p}_r - \mathbf{p}_t)^T R_t^i \mathbf{e}_z \mathbf{e}_z^T R_t^{iT} (\mathbf{p}_r - \mathbf{p}_t) = \end{aligned}$$

collect common terms,

$$\begin{aligned} &= (\mathbf{p}_r - \mathbf{p}_t)^T R_t^i \left( b^2 \mathbf{e}_x \mathbf{e}_x^T + a^2 \mathbf{e}_y \mathbf{e}_y^T + a^2 \mathbf{e}_z \mathbf{e}_z^T \right) R_t^{iT} (\mathbf{p}_r - \mathbf{p}_t) = \\ &= (\mathbf{p}_r - \mathbf{p}_t)^T R_t^i \text{diag}(b^2, a^2, a^2) R_t^{iT} (\mathbf{p}_r - \mathbf{p}_t) \end{aligned} \quad (3.8)$$

We call the  $R_t^i \text{diag}(b^2, a^2, a^2) R_t^{iT}$  matrix  $M$  and the diagonal matrix  $\text{diag}(b^2, a^2, a^2)$   $D$ .

**Symmetry of  $M$** **Definition**

A matrix  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is symmetric if and only if  $M = M^T$ .

**Proof**

We compute  $M^T$ :

$$M^T = \left( R_t^i D R_t^{iT} \right)^T = \left( R_t^{iT} \right)^T D^T R_t^i = R_t^i D^T R_t^{iT}$$

Since  $D$  is a diagonal matrix, it is equal to its transpose  $D^T = D$ :

$$M^T = R_t^i D R_t^{iT} = M$$

**Final expression for  $\eta$** 

By applying the distributive property to 3.8 and since  $M$  is symmetric:

$$\eta = \mathbf{p}_r^T M \mathbf{p}_r - \mathbf{p}_r^T M \mathbf{p}_t - \mathbf{p}_t^T M \mathbf{p}_r + \mathbf{p}_t^T M \mathbf{p}_t \quad (3.9)$$

The vector  $\hat{\mathbf{p}}_t$  gives an estimate of the true position  $\mathbf{p}_t$ :

$$\hat{\mathbf{p}}_t = M \mathbf{p}_t$$

and since  $M$  is symmetric:

$$\hat{\mathbf{p}}_t^T = \mathbf{p}_t^T M^T = \mathbf{p}_t^T M$$

We substitute these expressions in 3.9 and use the definition of the scalar product:

$$\eta = \mathbf{p}_r^T M \mathbf{p}_r - \mathbf{p}_r^T \hat{\mathbf{p}}_t - \hat{\mathbf{p}}_t^T \mathbf{p}_r + \mathbf{p}_t^T M \mathbf{p}_r = \mathbf{p}_r^T M \mathbf{p}_r - 2\mathbf{p}_r^T \hat{\mathbf{p}}_t + \mathbf{p}_t^T M \mathbf{p}_t$$

If we define the coordinates of  $\mathbf{p}_r$ :

$$\mathbf{p}_r = \begin{pmatrix} x_r \\ y_r \\ z_r \end{pmatrix}$$

and

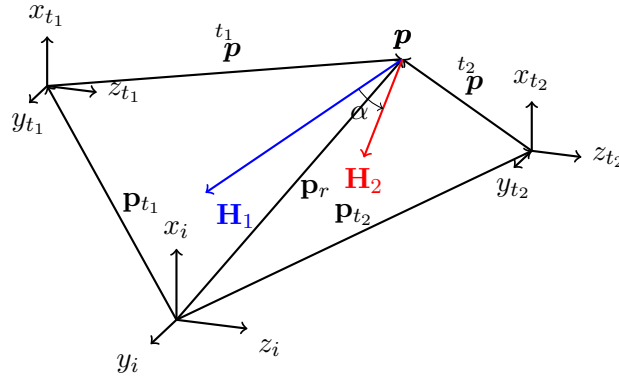
$$M = \begin{pmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} & m_{13} \\ m_{12} & m_{22} & m_{23} \\ m_{13} & m_{23} & m_{33} \end{pmatrix}$$

we can compute  $\mathbf{p}_r^T M \mathbf{p}_r$ :

$$\mathbf{p}_r^T M \mathbf{p}_r = m_{11} x_r^2 + 2 m_{12} x_r y_r + 2 m_{13} z_r x_r + m_{22} y_r^2 + 2 m_{23} y_r z_r + m_{33} z_r^2$$

Then, we obtain a final expression for  $\eta$  as in [32]:

$$\begin{aligned} \eta = & m_{11} x_r^2 + 2 m_{12} x_r y_r + 2 m_{13} z_r x_r \\ & + m_{22} y_r^2 + 2 m_{23} y_r z_r + m_{33} z_r^2 \\ & - 2 x_r x_t - 2 y_r y_t - 2 z_r z_t \\ & + \mathbf{p}_t^T M \mathbf{p}_t \end{aligned} \quad (3.10)$$

**Figure 3.3** Only 2 victims case

## 3.2 Multiple Victim Case

In the multiple victim case an ARTVA transmitter is attached to every one of the  $n$  avalanche victims, therefore each receiver is affected by  $n$  generated electromagnetic fields. In Figure 3.3, the two victims case is represented, using the same frames as the single victim one. For brevity we will call  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  the relative orientations of frames  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  with respect to the reference frame  $i$ .

Now, if the receiver is positioned at point  $\mathbf{p}$  in space, the summed effect of the electromagnetic fields can be expressed as the sum of the magnetic field intensity vector fields  $\mathbf{H}_n$ :

$$\mathbf{H}_{\text{tot}} = \mathbf{H}_1 + \mathbf{H}_2 + \dots + \mathbf{H}_n$$

For the single magnetic field intensity vector of the  $i$ -th victim, remembering 2.26:

$$\mathbf{H}_i = \frac{Ib^2}{4\pi r^3} (\mathbf{e}_{r_i} 2 \cos \theta + \mathbf{e}_{\theta_i} \sin \theta)$$

Furthermore, we use the same homogeneous transformations as 3.6:

$$\mathbf{p}_{t_1} + R_1 \mathbf{p}^{t_1} = \mathbf{p}_r$$

$$\mathbf{p}_{t_2} + R_2 \mathbf{p}^{t_2} = \mathbf{p}_r$$

which become again:

$$\mathbf{p}^{t_1} = R_1^T (\mathbf{p}_R - \mathbf{p}_{t_1})$$

$$\mathbf{p}^{t_2} = R_2^T (\mathbf{p}_R - \mathbf{p}_{t_2})$$

### 3.2.1 Total Magnitude

Suppose the case of only two victims, the results can be then generalized. If  $\alpha$  is the angle between the two vectors  $\mathbf{H}_1$  and  $\mathbf{H}_2$  on the only plane which contains both vector fields, we have:

$$\|\mathbf{H}_{\text{tot}}\|^2 = \|\mathbf{H}_1\|^2 + \|\mathbf{H}_2\|^2 + 2 \|\mathbf{H}_1\| \|\mathbf{H}_2\| \cos \alpha$$

Substituting the formula of the magnetic field magnitude after the approximation, with the Cartesian coordinates of reference frame  $F_t$  3.4:

$$\begin{aligned}
 ||\mathbf{H}_{\text{tot}}||^2 &= \left(\frac{m}{4\pi}\right)^2 \left(\frac{(ab)^2}{b^2 x_1^2 + a^2 (y_1^2 + z_1^2)}\right)^3 + \left(\frac{m}{4\pi}\right)^2 \left(\frac{(ab)^2}{b^2 x_2^2 + a^2 (y_2^2 + z_2^2)}\right)^3 + \\
 &+ 2 \cos \alpha \left(\frac{m}{4\pi}\right)^2 \left(\frac{(ab)^2}{b^2 x_1^2 + a^2 (y_1^2 + z_1^2)}\right)^{3/2} \left(\frac{(ab)^2}{b^2 x_2^2 + a^2 (y_2^2 + z_2^2)}\right)^{3/2} = \\
 &= \left(\frac{m(ab)^3}{4\pi}\right)^2 \left(\left(\frac{1}{b^2 x_1^2 + a^2 (y_1^2 + z_1^2)}\right)^3 + \left(\frac{1}{b^2 x_2^2 + a^2 (y_2^2 + z_2^2)}\right)^3 + \right. \\
 &\left. + 2 \cos \alpha \left(\frac{1}{(b^2 x_1^2 + a^2 (y_1^2 + z_1^2))(b^2 x_2^2 + a^2 (y_2^2 + z_2^2))}\right)^{3/2}\right)
 \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $a$  and  $b$ , have the same values for all the fields since they have been chosen in order to optimize the magnitude on any magnetic field intensity. Also we suppose that the radius  $b$  and the current  $I$  are the same for all the devices (so same magnetic moment  $m$ ).

Bringing the common terms to the left side and inverting all the fractions:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left(\frac{m(ab)^3}{4\pi ||\mathbf{H}_{\text{tot}}||}\right)^2 &= \left(b^2 x_1^2 + a^2 (y_1^2 + z_1^2)\right)^3 + \left(b^2 x_2^2 + a^2 (y_2^2 + z_2^2)\right)^3 + \\
 &+ 2 \cos \alpha \left((b^2 x_1^2 + a^2 (y_1^2 + z_1^2))(b^2 x_2^2 + a^2 (y_2^2 + z_2^2))\right)^{3/2}
 \end{aligned}$$



## Chapter 4

# Literature Review

[26] This article proposes a new method to simultaneously estimate the locations and magnetic moments of multiple magnetic dipole sources without the prior knowledge of the number of dipoles in the 3-D detection region. By initializing a large number of dipole sources evenly spaced in the detection region as potential candidates for the true dipoles, we introduce an indicator parameter for each dipole candidate such that its Sigmoid function is the probability that the candidate converges to a true dipole. A joint optimization is then formulated to minimize the mean square of the regularized error between the measured magnetic gradients and the calculated gradients from the estimated dipoles. The proposed nonlinear optimization is solved by the Levenberg–Marquardt algorithm, yielding the indicators and their corresponding dipole locations and magnetic moments.

[24] Multi-magnetic source resolution in spacecraft has been a difficult problem in the field of magnetic surveys. Detection technology of magnetic gradient tensor is available to solve this issue due to its high resolution and precision. A spacecraft magnetic source model is established, and a multi-magnetic source model fitting method for spacecraft is presented. The principal invariants of the magnetic field gradient tensor are introduced to determine the number and horizontal location of the sources, while Euler equations are used to compute the source depth, achieving a resolution of up to 0.012m, which meets engineering requirements.

[3] Nothing much is a real application.

[22] Questo è il paper utile dove ci sono tutti i plot.

[33] This article presents a new method for detecting and localizing multiple dipole-like magnetic sources using magnetic gradient tensor data. The tilt angle (ratio of vertical to horizontal magnetic field components) is used to determine the number of sources, while the rotational-invariant normalized source strength (NSS) is used to estimate the horizontal coordinates. The Differential Evolution (DE) algorithm estimates the locations and moments of the sources.

[27] This paper presents a simple formula for the localization of a magnetic dipole. First, the position vector is derived from the analytical expressions of the magnetic field vector and the magnetic gradient tensor. The proposed algorithm provides the true position of the

dipole regardless of the singularity of the magnetic gradient tensor matrix.

[37] This paper proposes a new edge detection method using magnetic gradient tensor components for magnetic exploration, which is free from geomagnetic interference and provides abundant information. The method is compared with others, such as THDz, AS, tilt angle, and theta map, under various conditions. The experimental results show that the proposed method is more precise and delivers high-quality edge detection with strong anti-interference capabilities.

[34] This paper proposes a two-point magnetic gradient tensor localization model to overcome errors caused by geomagnetic fields. The model uses the spatial relation between the magnetic target and observation points derived from tensor invariants. A new method is presented for accurately locating magnetic targets, achieving nearly error-free results in the absence of noise.

[11] This paper introduces new methods for inverting magnetic gradient tensor data to obtain source parameters for various models, such as dipoles and thin sheets. Eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the tensor are used in combination with normalized source strength (NSS) to uniquely determine source locations. NSS analysis is extended to vertical pipes by calculating eigenvalues of the vertical derivative of the tensor.

[36] This article introduces a novel magnetic dipole localization method based on normalized source strength (NSS) to overcome asphericity errors in magnetic anomaly detection (MAD). A closed-form localization formula is derived, and an optimization method is proposed to improve noise immunity. Simulation and field experiments demonstrate high localization accuracy, real-time performance, and robustness against noise and misalignment errors.

[9] For a number of widely used models, normalized source strength (NSS) can be derived from eigenvalues of the magnetic gradient tensor. NSS is proportional to a constant normalized by the distance between observation and integration points. It is independent of magnetization direction and satisfies Euler's homogeneity equation, allowing for Euler deconvolution of the NSS to estimate source location. The method was applied to aeromagnetic data from the Tuckers Igneous Complex, Queensland, Australia, improving the interpretation of magnetic anomalies with strong remanent magnetization.

[4] Closed loop formula to find  $z$ .

[10] Recent technological advances suggest that we are on the threshold of a new era in applied magnetic surveys, where acquisition of magnetic gradient tensor data will become routine. In the meantime, modern ultrahigh resolution conventional magnetic data can be used, with certain important caveats, to calculate gradient tensor elements from total magnetic intensity (TMI) or TMI gradient surveys. Until the present, not a great deal of attention has been paid to processing and interpretation of gradient tensor data. New methods for inverting gradient tensor surveys to obtain source parameters have been developed for a number of elementary, but useful, models. These include point pole, line of poles, point dipole (sphere), line of dipoles (horizontal cylinder), thin and thick dipping sheets, sloping

step, and contact models. A key simplification is the use of eigenvalues and associated eigenvectors of the tensor. The scaled source strength, calculated from the eigenvalues, is a particularly useful rotational invariant that peaks directly over compact sources, 2D sources, and contacts, independent of magnetization direction. New algorithms for uniquely determining the location and magnetic moment of a dipole source from a few irregularly located measurements or single profiles have been developed. Besides geological applications, these algorithms are readily applicable to the detection, location, and classification (DLC) of magnetic objects, such as naval mines, UXO, shipwrecks, archaeological artifacts, and buried drums. As an example, some of these new methods are applied to analysis of the magnetic signature of the Mount Leyshon gold-mineralized system, Queensland.

[18] In this paper, a modified particle swarm optimization (PSO) algorithm is developed for solving multimodal function optimization problems. The difference between the proposed method and the general PSO is to split up the original single population into several subpopulations according to the order of particles. The best particle within each subpopulation is recorded and then applied into the velocity updating formula to replace the original global best particle in the whole population. To update all particles in each subpopulation, the modified velocity formula is utilized. Based on the idea of multiple subpopulations, for the multimodal function optimization, several optima including the global and local solutions may be found by these best particles separately. To show the efficiency of the proposed method, two kinds of function optimizations are provided, including a single modal function optimization and a complex multimodal function optimization. Simulation results will demonstrate the convergence behavior of particles by the number of iterations, and the global and local system solutions are solved by these best particles of subpopulations.

## Chapter 5

# Implementation

### 5.1 Introduction

Simulations have been done in MATLAB.

### 5.2 Particle Swarm Optimization

The PSO<sup>1</sup> algorithm was first introduced in 1995 [2], and it has since proven to be a powerful tool for solving various optimization problems. In the standard PSO algorithm, a population of particles is randomly initialized to represent potential candidate solutions for the optimization problem. Each particle relies on two important pieces of information: its individual best, referred to as *pbest*, and the global best across the entire population, referred to as *gbest*. These two values guide the search direction of all particles over the search space. The evaluation of the *pbest* for each particle and the *gbest* for the entire population is determined by the function that needs to be optimized.

In our implementation, each particle corresponds to an individual drone within the swarm, and the velocity and position of each drone are updated in accordance with the aforementioned standard PSO algorithm. Let  $\mathbf{p}_i \in \mathbb{R}^2$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$  represent the position vectors of the drones in the 2D plane, where  $n$  is the total number of drones. The motion of each particle is governed by two fundamental equations: the velocity update equation (Eq. 5.1) and the position update equation (Eq. 5.2).

$$\mathbf{v}_i(t+1) = \omega \mathbf{v}_i(t) + c_1 r_1 (\mathbf{pbest}_i(t) - \mathbf{p}_i(t)) + c_2 r_2 (\mathbf{gbest}(t) - \mathbf{p}_i(t)) \quad (5.1)$$

$$\mathbf{p}_i(t+1) = \mathbf{p}_i(t) + \mathbf{v}_i(t+1) \quad (5.2)$$

where  $\mathbf{p}_i$ ,  $\mathbf{pbest}_i$ , and  $\mathbf{gbest}$  represent the position vector of the  $i$ -th particle, the  $i$ -th particle's individual best position vector, and the global best position vector,  $\omega$  is the inertia weight,  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are positive constants, and  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  are random variables uniformly distributed over the interval  $[0, 1]$ .

In the standard PSO algorithm, there is only one global best particle, which means that only one optimal solution can be found. This limitation poses a challenge when dealing with our problem, where we are looking for multiple sources, and therefore, multiple local and global optima exist. To address this challenge, we employ the same strategy of a modified

---

<sup>1</sup>PSO stands for Particle Swarm Optimization.

version of the PSO algorithm [18]. In this modification, the swarm is divided into  $M$  subpopulations, each tasked with exploring different regions of the search space. Following this idea, the *gbest* is referred to as the best particle of each subpopulation, not as the global best particle in the whole population. This means that these  $M$  best particles are separately able to catch different optima, at most  $M$  optima.

The function `sort_drones_in_groups` returns the number of groups and sorts the particles in different groups based on the following logic (see Algorithm 1):

---

**Algorithm 1** `sort_drones_in_groups` (MATLAB function)

---

```

1: Inputs:
2: n_drones: Number of drones available for assignment
3: n_sources: Number of sources to which drones need to be assigned
4: Outputs:
5: group_indices: A vector of size n_drones indicating the assigned group
6: n_groups: The obtained number of groups
7: if n_particles > n_sources then
8:     Assign at least one particle to each group, following mathematical order
9:     Randomly assign remaining particles to existing groups
10: else if n_particles = n_sources then
11:     Assign each particle to a unique group
12: else
13:     Orderly assign particles up to n_drones
14: end if
15: Set the number of groups: n_groups = max(group_indices)

```

---

Note that the function `sort_drones_in_groups` ensures the creation of sufficient groups for the localization of multiple sources only when the number of drones is equal to or greater than the number of sources.

### 5.2.1 Exploration phase

Unlike the modified PSO algorithm, in our implementation, the drones are not randomly initialized. At the start of the simulation, all drones are located at the origin of the search space. An Exploration Phase begins where the PSO algorithm is not yet employed. During this phase, the drones move according to predefined trajectories at maximum speed  $v_{\max}$ . The trajectories are determined based on the number of drones and follow a radial pattern, as shown in Figure 5.1. The drones follow these trajectories until they have covered a distance *travel\_distance* equivalent to half the boundary of the search space. The goal each drone needs to reach is computed using the following Algorithm 2:

**Algorithm 2** `exploration_goals` (MATLAB function)

---

```

1: Input:  $n\_drones, x\_max$ 
2: Output:  $goals$ 
3: Initialize an empty array  $goals$ 
4: Set  $angle\_step = 360/n\_drones$ 
5: Set  $travel\_distance = x\_max/2$ 
6: for each drone  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n\_drones$  do
7:   Get angle for the current drone:  $drone\_angle = i \cdot angle\_step$ 
8:   Calculate slope:  $m = \tan(\deg2rad(drone\_angle))$ 
9:   if  $drone\_angle > 315$  or  $drone\_angle \leq 45$  then
10:      $goal = [travel\_distance, m \cdot travel\_distance]$  ▷ 1st quadrants
11:   else if  $drone\_angle > 45$  and  $drone\_angle \leq 135$  then
12:      $goal = [travel\_distance/m, travel\_distance]$  ▷ 2nd quadrant
13:   else if  $drone\_angle > 135$  and  $drone\_angle \leq 225$  then
14:      $goal = [-travel\_distance, m \cdot -travel\_distance]$  ▷ 3rd quadrant
15:   else if  $drone\_angle > 225$  and  $drone\_angle \leq 315$  then
16:      $goal = [-travel\_distance/m, -travel\_distance]$  ▷ 4th quadrant
17:   end if
18:   Store the goal for drone  $i$  in  $goals[i]$ 
19: end for
20: Return  $goals$ 

```

---

where  $angle\_step$  is the angular increment to uniformly divide the space,  $drone\_angle$  represents the angle assigned to each drone, determining its trajectory, while  $m$  is the slope of the trajectory calculated from the drone's angle.

## 5.3 Exploitation Phase

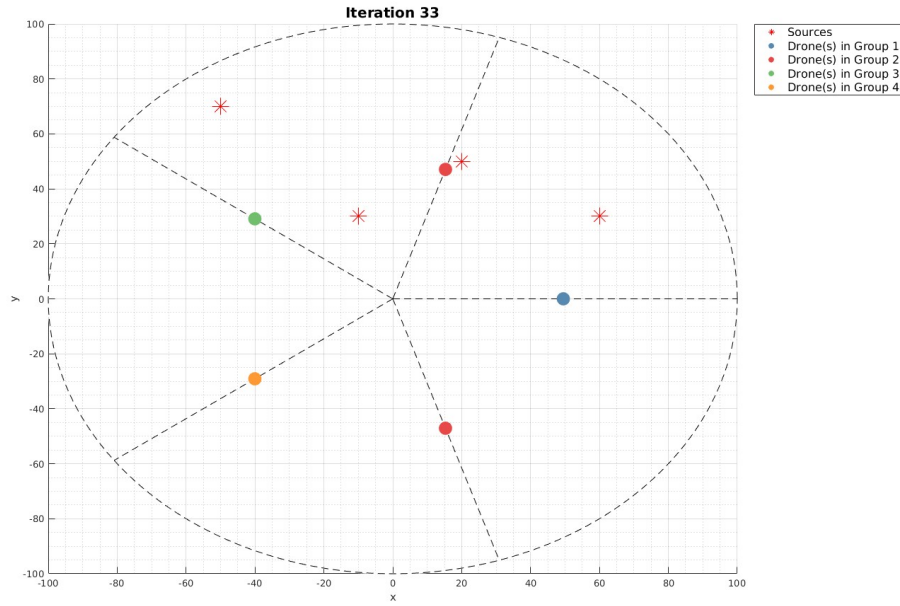
## 5.4 Velocity Update

At each time step, the velocity update of the standard PSO algorithm is modified in order to favor the complete exploration of the search space and to avoid premature convergence to local maxima, where a source is not present. A uniform random noise is added to the velocity of each particle to achieve a *persistence of excitation*, allowing every drone to explore new and different directions, as described in the following formula:

$$\mathbf{v}_i = \mathbf{v}_i + \beta \cdot \mathbf{r} \cdot \|\mathbf{v}_i\|$$

where:

- $\beta$  is an hyperparameter chosen in the  $[0,1]$  range.
- $\mathbf{r} \sim \mathcal{U}(-1, 1)$  represents a random vector where each component is uniformly distributed between  $-1$  and  $1$ .
- $\|\mathbf{v}_i\|$  is the magnitude of the velocity vector of particle  $i$ .



**Figure 5.1** Radial exploration pattern for 5 drones at the end of the Exploration Phase.

Furthermore, not only because of the physical velocity limitations of the drones, but also to ensure smoother updates and prevent instability due to excessive velocity, we clamp the velocity of each drone to a maximum value  $v_{\max}$ :

$$\mathbf{v}_i = \begin{cases} \mathbf{v}_{\max}, & \text{if } \|\mathbf{v}_i\| \geq v_{\max} \\ \mathbf{v}_i, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

#### 5.4.1 Exclusion Zones Mechanism

#### 5.4.2 Complete Modified PSO

**Algorithm 3** Particle Swarm Optimization for Multi-Source Localization

---

```

1: Initialize group best positions  $G_{\text{best}}$  and values  $V_{\text{best}}$ 
2: Assign each drone to a group corresponding to one of the sources
3: for each iteration  $t = 1$  to  $n_{\text{iterations}}$  do
4:   for each drone  $i$  do
5:     Update velocity:

$$v_i(t+1) = \omega v_i(t) + c_1 \cdot r_1 \cdot (p_{\text{best}} - p_i(t)) + c_2 \cdot r_2 \cdot (G_{\text{best}} - p_i(t))$$

6:     Limit the velocity to  $v_{\text{max}}$ 
7:     Update position:

$$p_i(t+1) = p_i(t) + v_i(t+1)$$

8:     Apply boundary conditions to keep  $p_i(t+1)$  within bounds
9:     for each other drone  $j \neq i$  do
10:      if  $\|p_i(t+1) - p_j(t+1)\| \leq r_{\text{comm}}$  then
11:        if drone  $i$  or  $j$  has found a source then
12:          Share exclusion zones between drones
13:        end if
14:      end if
15:    end for
16:    Check if drone  $i$  is within an exclusion zone
17:    if drone  $i$  is in an exclusion zone then
18:      if drone  $i$  is not alone in its group then
19:        Reassign drone  $i$  to a new group
20:      else
21:        Move drone  $i$  away from the exclusion zone
22:        Introduce randomness to position and reset personal best  $p_{\text{best}}$ 
23:      end if
24:    else
25:      Evaluate NSS at  $p_i(t+1)$ 
26:      if current NSS > personal best NSS then
27:        Update personal best  $p_{\text{best}}$ 
28:      end if
29:      if current NSS > group best NSS then
30:        Update group best  $G_{\text{best}}$ 
31:      end if
32:    end if
33:  end for
34: end for
35: Return estimated source positions

```

---





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# Ringraziamenti

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