

# Blind Direct Position Determination Of Multiple Frequency Hopped Signals

Kegang Hao, *Student Member, IEEE*, and Qun Wan, *Member, IEEE*

**Abstract**—The common approach to solve the blind multiple frequency hopped (FH) signals localization problem is AOA (Angle Of Arrival) based methods because they don't require estimating the FH pattern to identify the idle frequencies since the data model is built in space domain. However, in multiple emitters scenario, the AOA based methods have limited accuracy and resolution since they are sensitive to the unmodeled dynamics (i.e. frequency hopping). In order to improve the performance of localizing multiple FH signals, we don't only model the location information in space domain but also in frequency domain. The more complex model means more unknown parameters to estimate. In order to avoid multidimensional searching, we propose a MUSIC (Multiple Signal Classification) based algorithm to Determinate emitter Positions Directly (DPD) from the received data, meanwhile, the idle frequencies are identified and the corresponding noise is removed. The simulation results indicate that the proposed estimator outperforms the AOA based estimator both in the aspects of accuracy and resolution and attains asymptotic optimal performance.

**Index Terms**—frequency hopping Sequence estimation, Direct Position Determination, Multiple Signal Classification (MUSIC)

## I. INTRODUCTION

**F**REQUENCY Hopped Code-Division Multiple Access (FH-CDMA) is an appealing spread spectrum technique in wireless communication because FH provides resistance to multiple-access interference without requiring stringent power control to alleviate the near-far problem, as required for direct-sequence CDMA [1]. Frequency-hopped spread spectrum (FHSS) has been adopted in two commercial standards: IEEE 802.11 (Wireless LAN) and Bluetooth (Wireless PAN) which are very common in our life. It is also the prevailing spread-spectrum technique in military communications [2], largely due to its robustness to jamming coupled with low probability of intercept/ detection (LPI/LPD) and good nearfar properties.

As the FHSS has been applied widely in military and commercial communication systems, the demand for blind localization of FH emitters, such as localization of the illegal Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) nearby airport or the interception of noncooperative military communications, increases rapidly, which has attracted much interests on the localization technique for FH signals [3], [4].

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K.G. Hao and Q. Wan are with the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, Chengdu 611731, China, (e-mail: haokegang@std.uestc.edu.cn).

On the technical side, the blind localization problem is challenging not only because both of FH sequences and the emitter locations are unknown but the hop-timing is also unknown. The method proposed in [3] exactly needs a preprocessing step to detect the hop-timing in the received data stream so that the hop-free data subset can be identified and used to estimate the AOA. While the AOA estimator is sensitive to the unmodeled dynamics which are introduced in by the imperfect hop-timing detection [3]. In the view of information theory, the additional preprocessing steps (including hop-timing detection and estimating DOAs) are likely to result in more loss of information about emitter locations.

The DPD approaches [5]–[7] have recently attracted much interests for its outstanding performance at low Signal to Noise Ratio (SNR), compared with the traditional two-step approach. The DPD approach estimates the parameters of interest by minimizing a single cost function into which all received data batches enter jointly. However, the Time Difference of Arrival (TDOA) based DPD method for multiple FH emitters proposed in [8] assumes FH sequence as a prior knowledge, which is impractical in noncooperative scenario. From the view of information theory, the traditional two-step approach is more likely to damage the position information during the estimation of intermediate parameters that DPD approach avoids. Thus, we tend to build the parameterized data model of the received signals based on the emitter locations and FH sequences directly.

In this paper, we build a data model to describe the location information of multiple FH emitters both in space and frequency domain. Based on the space-frequency data model, the emitter locations and FH sequences are estimated jointly without the prior knowledge of FH patterns. The received data from all sensors are collected to identify the idle frequencies while only data from the reference sensor are used by the estimator in [3]. On the other hand, the location information in frequency domain is exploited to improve the localization performance.

## II. PROBLEM FORMULATION

### A. the received FH signal model

Considering  $N_r$  receivers whose positions are denoted by the vectors of coordinates  $\mathbf{r}_j, j = 1, \dots, N_r$  and each receiver is equipped with an array of  $M$  elements.  $Q$  FH emitters are located at  $\mathbf{p}_q, q = 1, \dots, Q$ . The envelope of  $q$ -th FH signal

is given by

$$u_q(t) = \sum_{h=1}^H u_{q,h}(t - (h-1)T_d) \quad (1)$$

where  $H$  is the number of hopping,  $T_d$  is the duration time of each hopping and  $u_{q,h}(t)$  is the  $h$ -th hopped signal envelope.

The complex envelope of the signals intercepted by the  $j$ -th receiver is given as

$$s_j(t) = \sum_{q=1}^Q \mu_{j,q} \mathbf{a}_j(\mathbf{p}_q) u_q(t - \tau_j(\mathbf{p}_q)) + \mathbf{n}_j(t) \quad t \in [0, T] \quad (2)$$

where  $\mu_{j,q}$  is an unknown complex scalar representing the signal attenuation due to path loss between the  $j$ -th receiver and the  $q$ -th emitter.  $u_q(t - \tau_j(\mathbf{p}_q))$  is the  $q$ -th transmitted signal delayed by  $\tau_j(\mathbf{p}_q) \triangleq \|\mathbf{r}_j - \mathbf{p}_q\|/c$ ,  $c$  is the light velocity.  $\mathbf{n}_j(t)$  represents zero-mean, white, circular complex Gaussian noise whose covariance matrix is  $\sigma^2 \mathbf{I}_M$ . The steering vector

$$\mathbf{a}_j(\mathbf{p}_q) \triangleq [1 \quad \dots \quad e^{j\mathbf{k}_j^T(\mathbf{p}_q)\mathbf{d}_M}]^T \quad (3)$$

where

$$\mathbf{k}_j(\mathbf{p}_q) \triangleq \frac{2\pi f_c(\mathbf{r}_j - \mathbf{p}_q)}{c\|\mathbf{r}_j - \mathbf{p}_q\|} \quad (4)$$

$\mathbf{d}_m$  denotes the location of the  $m$ -th array element relative to that of the reference array element.

The observed signal time interval  $[0, T]$  can be partitioned into  $L$  sections, each of length  $T/L$ . Sampling the received signal (2) by period  $T_s$  in every section, the discrete sample data are given as,

$$\mathbf{s}_j(nT_s, l) = \sum_{q=1}^Q \mu_{j,q} \mathbf{a}_j(\mathbf{p}_q) u_q(nT_s - \tau_j(\mathbf{p}_q), l) + \mathbf{n}_j(nT_s, l) \quad (5)$$

where  $l = 1, \dots, L$  are the batch indexes and  $n = 1, \dots, N$  are the sample indexes of each batch. It is assumed that  $\max_j \tau_j(\mathbf{p}_q) \ll T/L$ , which can be obtained by using long enough observation interval for the region of interest.

### B. frequency hopping/non-hopping sequences

During each observation section, We sample total  $K$  frequency points in frequency band of interest. For the  $K$  frequency points,  $2^K$  possible frequency hopping/non-hopping sequence per FH signal can be formed. The  $\kappa$ -th possible sequence reads  $S_{q,\kappa} = (b_q(1), \dots, b_q(K))_\kappa$ ,  $\kappa = 1, \dots, 2^K$ , where  $b_q(k)$  is a binary variable that corresponds to the case where the  $q$ -th FH signal has hopped to the  $k$ -th frequency. For the given  $q$ -th FH pattern, it is assumed that the probability of hopping to the  $k$ -th frequency  $P(b_q(k) = 1) = P_{q,k}$  is constant. The probability of occurrence of a particular frequency hopping/non-hopping sequence is given by

$$P(S_{q,\kappa}) = \prod_{k \in K_\kappa} P_{q,k} \prod_{\bar{k} \in \bar{K}_\kappa} (1 - P_{q,\bar{k}}) \quad (6)$$

where  $K_\kappa$  and  $\bar{K}_\kappa$  are the number of frequency points where the  $q$ -th FH signal does hop to and does not hop to, respectively.

We call the collection for the sequences of all FH signals an event. For  $Q$  FH signals,  $2^{KQ}$  collections of independent frequency hopping/non-hopping sequences are the possible events. The probability of occurrence of a particular event  $E_{\kappa_1 \dots \kappa_Q} = (S_{1,\kappa_1}, \dots, S_{Q,\kappa_Q})^T$ , is given by

$$P(E_{\kappa_1 \dots \kappa_Q}) = \prod_{q=1}^Q P(S_{q,\kappa_q}) \quad (7)$$

Given a particular event  $E_{\kappa_1 \dots \kappa_Q}$ , the effective number of FH signals at  $k$ -th frequency point is given as  $Q_k = \sum_{q=1}^Q b_q(k)$ . It can be seen that only a part of FH signals ( $Q_k < Q$ ) are observed at every frequency point and each FH signal tends to occur at frequency points with high probabilities  $P_{q,k}$ . Thus, in order to localize the  $q$ -th FH signal accurately, we need to identify the idle frequency points of the  $q$ -th FH signal ( $b_q(k) = 0$ ) and remove the noise at these frequency points.

### C. data model

In order to extract the position information from the transmitted waveform  $u_q(nT_s - \tau_j(\mathbf{p}_q), l)$ , each section of received signal (5) need to be represented in frequency domain by the Discrete Fourier Transformation (DFT),

$$\bar{\mathbf{s}}_j(k, l) = \sum_{q=1}^Q \mu_{j,q} \bar{\mathbf{a}}_j(k, \mathbf{p}_q) b_q(k, l) \bar{u}_q(k, l) + \bar{\mathbf{n}}_j(k, l) \quad (8)$$

where

$$\bar{\mathbf{a}}_j(k, \mathbf{p}_q) \triangleq \mathbf{a}_j(\mathbf{p}_q) e^{-j2\pi k \tau_j(\mathbf{p}_q)/(NT_s)} \quad (9)$$

contains all information about emitter positions.  $k = 1, \dots, K$  are the indexes of Fourier coefficients.  $b_q(k, l)$  is the sample of random variable  $b_q(k)$ , which is a binary variable that corresponds to the case where the  $q$ -th FH signal has hopped to the  $k$ -th frequency during the  $l$ -th observation section.  $\bar{u}_q(k, l)$  and  $\bar{\mathbf{n}}_j(k, l)$  are the DFT of the transmitted signal and noise respectively.

By stacking the sample vectors in (6) along the index  $j$ , we get

$$\bar{\mathbf{s}}(k, l) = \sum_{q=1}^Q \bar{\mathbf{a}}(k, \mathbf{p}_q, \boldsymbol{\mu}_q) \tilde{u}_q(k, l) + \bar{\mathbf{n}}(k, l) \quad (10)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\mathbf{s}}(k, l) &\triangleq [\bar{\mathbf{s}}_1^T(k, l) \quad \dots \quad \bar{\mathbf{s}}_{N_r}^T(k, l)]^T && \in \mathbb{C}^{N_r M} \\ \bar{\mathbf{a}}(k, \mathbf{p}_q, \boldsymbol{\mu}_q) &= \begin{bmatrix} \mu_{1,q} \bar{\mathbf{a}}_1(k, \mathbf{p}_q) \\ \vdots \\ \mu_{N_r,q} \bar{\mathbf{a}}_{N_r}(k, \mathbf{p}_q) \end{bmatrix} && \in \mathbb{C}^{N_r M \times 1} \\ \boldsymbol{\mu}_q &= [\mu_{1,q} \quad \dots \quad \mu_{N_r,q}]^T && \in \mathbb{C}^{N_r \times 1} \\ \tilde{u}_q(k, l) &= b_q(k, l) \bar{u}_q(k, l) && \in \mathbb{C} \\ \bar{\mathbf{n}}(k, l) &= [\bar{\mathbf{n}}_1^T(k, l) \quad \dots \quad \bar{\mathbf{n}}_{N_r}^T(k, l)]^T && \in \mathbb{C}^{N_r M} \end{aligned}$$

And then, the matrix form of (8) is given as,

$$\bar{s}(k, l) = \bar{A}_k(\xi, \theta) \cdot \tilde{u}(k, l) + \bar{n}(k, l) \quad (11)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \xi &= \{p_1, \dots, p_Q\}, \quad \theta = \{\mu_1, \dots, \mu_Q\} \\ \bar{A}_k(\xi, \theta) &= [\bar{a}(k, p_1, \mu_1) \quad \dots \quad \bar{a}(k, p_Q, \mu_Q)] \in \mathbb{C}^{N_r M \times Q} \\ \tilde{u}(k, l) &= [\tilde{u}_1(k, l) \quad \dots \quad \tilde{u}_Q(k, l)]^T \in \mathbb{C}^{Q \times 1} \end{aligned}$$

Keep stacking the signal model along the index  $k$ , the compact signal model can be written as,

$$\bar{s}(l) = \tilde{A}(\xi, \theta) \tilde{u}(l) + \bar{n}(l) \quad (12)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{s}(l) &\triangleq [\bar{s}^T(1, l) \quad \dots \quad \bar{s}^T(K, l)]^T \in \mathbb{C}^{K N_r M \times 1} \\ \tilde{A}(\xi, \theta) &= \text{diag}\{\tilde{A}_1(\xi, \theta), \dots, \tilde{A}_K(\xi, \theta)\} \in \mathbb{C}^{K N_r M \times K Q} \\ \tilde{u}(l) &= [\tilde{u}^T(1, l) \quad \dots \quad \tilde{u}^T(K, l)]^T \in \mathbb{C}^{K Q \times 1} \\ \bar{n}(l) &= [\bar{n}^T(1, l) \quad \dots \quad \bar{n}^T(K, l)]^T \in \mathbb{C}^{K N_r M \times 1} \end{aligned}$$

It can be seen that all information about emitter locations is embedded in the array manifold  $\tilde{A}(\xi, \theta)$ . Thus, our blind DPD of multiple FH emitters problem can be stated as follows: Estimate all the emitter positions  $\xi$  directly from all received data batches  $\{\bar{s}(l)\}_{l=1}^L$ , without the prior knowledge of the FH patterns and hopping rates.

### III. LOCALIZATION ALGORITHM

It is straightforward to write the probability density function, under appropriate assumptions, of the observations presented in (12), as a function of the unknown parameters. The unknown parameters include the  $KQL$  snapshots of the transmitted signals  $\{\tilde{u}(l)\}$ , the  $N_r Q$  complex attenuation factors of the signals at the base stations  $\theta$ , the  $KQ$ -dimensional discrete variable FH event  $E_{\kappa_1 \dots \kappa_Q}$  and the two-dimensional real-valued location vector of each emitter  $\xi$ . The MLE will therefore require a multidimensional search over the parameter space.

In order to identify the idle frequency points for the  $q$ -th FH signal (i.e.  $b_q(k) = 0$ ) and avoid the multidimensional search, we start with the autocorrelation matrix of the received data vector  $\bar{s}$ ,

$$E\{\bar{s}\bar{s}^H\} = \tilde{A}(\xi, \theta) R_{\tilde{u}} \tilde{A}^H(\xi, \theta) + \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}_{K N_r M} \quad (13)$$

where

$$R_{\tilde{u}} \triangleq E\{\tilde{u}\tilde{u}^H\} \quad (14)$$

is the autocorrelation matrix of the transmitted data vector. It is assumed that FH signals are uncorrelated between emitters and between frequencies. Thus,  $R_{\tilde{u}}$  is a diagonal matrix and the  $(k-1)Q + q$ -th diagonal elements are given by

$$R_{\tilde{u}}((k-1)Q + q) = P_{q,k} E\{|\tilde{u}_q(k)|^2\} \quad (15)$$

It can be seen that the idle frequency point corresponding to  $P_{q,k} \approx 0$  results in  $R_{\tilde{u}}((k-1)Q + q) \approx 0$ , which is the characteristic of idle frequency points of the  $q$ -th FH signal in our data model. The corresponding columns of the array

manifold  $\tilde{A}(\xi, \theta)$  span the idle frequency subspace while the other columns (corresponding to  $R_{\tilde{u}}((k-1)Q + q) \neq 0$ ) are orthogonal to the noise subspace and are contained in the information subspace.

Next, we use the subspace based classical MUSIC algorithm to distinguish the information subspace from the idle frequency subspace and the noise subspace. The autocorrelation matrix  $R_{\bar{s}} = E\{\bar{s}\bar{s}^H\}$  can be approximated by the sample autocorrelation matrix

$$\hat{R}_{\bar{s}} = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{l=1}^L \bar{s}(l) \bar{s}^H(l) \quad (16)$$

Then, we get the eigen-decomposition of the sample autocorrelation matrix,

$$\hat{R}_{\bar{s}} = U_s \Lambda_s U_s^H + U_n \Lambda_n U_n^H \quad (17)$$

where  $U_s \in \mathbb{C}^{K N_r M \times \sum_{q,k} b_q(k)}$  denotes the information subspace and corresponds to the largest eigenvalues  $\Lambda_s$ .  $U_n \in \mathbb{C}^{K N_r M \times (K N_r M - \sum_{q,k} b_q(k))}$  denotes the noise subspace and corresponds to the smallest eigenvalues  $\Lambda_n$ . While the dimensions of information subspace  $\sum_{q,k} b_q(k)$  is unknown since the FH pattern  $b_q(k)$  is prior unknown. Therefore, we make use of the classical K-means clustering algorithm [9], [10] to separate  $U_s$  and  $U_n$  by clustering the eigenvalues into two groups, the bigger eigenvalue group corresponding to  $U_s$ . Note that the idle frequency subspace is included in the noise subspace  $U_n$  since the corresponding  $R_{\tilde{u}}((k-1)Q + q) \approx 0$ .

Based on the information subspace  $U_s$ , the position estimation can be written as,

$$(\hat{p}, \hat{\mu}) = \arg \max_{p, \mu} f(p, \mu) = \tilde{a}^H(p, \mu) U_s U_s^H \tilde{a}(p, \mu) \quad (18)$$

where

$$\tilde{a}(p, \mu) = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{a}(1, p, \mu) \\ \vdots \\ \bar{a}(K, p, \mu) \end{bmatrix} \quad (19)$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \text{diag}\{\bar{a}_1(1, p), \dots, \bar{a}_{N_r}(1, p)\} \\ \vdots \\ \text{diag}\{\bar{a}_1(K, p), \dots, \bar{a}_{N_r}(K, p)\} \end{bmatrix} \mu \quad (20)$$

$$= \tilde{A}(p) \mu \quad (21)$$

And then, the estimators of  $(\hat{p}, \hat{\mu})$  can be written as,

$$(\hat{p}, \hat{\mu}) = \arg \max_{p, \mu} f(p, \mu) = \mu^H (\tilde{A}^H(p) U_s U_s^H \tilde{A}(p)) \mu \quad (22)$$

Without loss of generality, we can assume  $\|\mu\|^2 = 1$ . The pseudo-spectrum function  $f(p, \mu)$  has the form of Rayleigh Quotient. Therefore, Given the emitter position  $p$ , we can maximize  $f(p, \mu)$  with respect to  $\mu$  and get

$$\hat{p} = \arg \max_p \lambda_{\max}(\tilde{A}^H(p) U_s U_s^H \tilde{A}(p)) \quad (23)$$

It can be seen that the location estimators correspond to the peaks of the location pseudo-spectrum function

$$g(p) = \lambda_{\max}(\tilde{A}^H(p) U_s U_s^H \tilde{A}(p)) \quad (24)$$

Where  $\lambda_{\max}(\cdot)$  denotes the maximum eigenvalue.

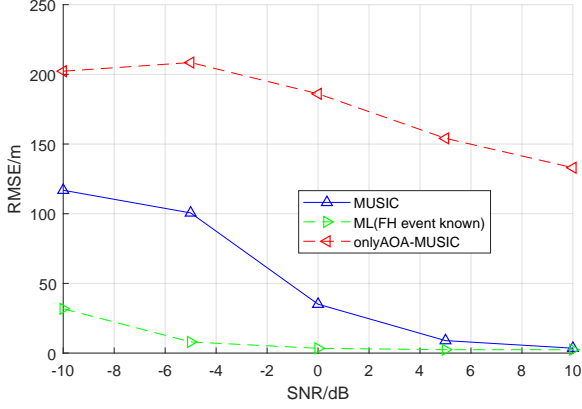


Fig. 1. the accuracy of estimators vs SNR

#### IV. NUMERICAL SIMULATION RESULTS

In this section, we design numerical experiments to verify and evaluate the performance of the proposed MUSIC based location estimator (23). The proposed estimator is compared with the ML (Maximum Likelihood) estimator and the traditional AOA based estimator. To reducing the searching dimensions, the FH event  $E_{\kappa_1 \dots \kappa_Q}$  is assumed known in the ML estimator so it's RMSE (root mean square of error) becomes the low bound of the performance of other blind estimators.

In experiments, the  $N_r = 4$  receivers located at (0,0)km, (0,1)km, (1,1)km and (1,0)km respectively, each of which equipped with an uniform circle array (UCA) of  $M = 8$  elements, intercept  $Q = 2$  FH signals. The hopping range of the FH signals is 2MHz, the hopping interval is 62.5kHz (so the number of DFT points can be  $K = 32$ ), the hopping rate is 1000hops/s and the central frequency is 400MHz. The number of observation sections  $L = 1200$  which corresponds to the length of observation 20ms. The SNR is defined as  $\text{SNR} = |\bar{u}_q(k, l)|^2 / \sigma^2$ , which is the ratio of the power of the received signal to the noise power at FH frequency. We use the root mean square of error (RMSE) to describe the statistic performance of the estimators.

In the first experiment, we put the two emitters at (300,500)m and (700,500)m and change the SNR between (-10,10)dB. The figure 1 shows the RMSE (for the first emitter) of the AOA based estimator, the ML estimator ( $E_{\kappa_1 \dots \kappa_Q}$  known) and the proposed estimator vary with SNR. It can be seen that the ML and the proposed estimators outperform the AOA based estimator because the later only utilized the location information in space domain. The performance of the proposed estimator converges to that of ML estimator which is the performance bound. That is, the proposed estimator has the asymptotic optimal performance since the idle frequencies can be identified perfectly at high SNR.

In the second experiment, we fix the SNR=10dB and consider two neighboring emitters at (400,500)m and (600,500)m to verify the high resolution of the proposed MUSIC based estimator. The figures 2 and 3 demonstrates the proposed high resolution location spectrum and the AOA based MUSIC

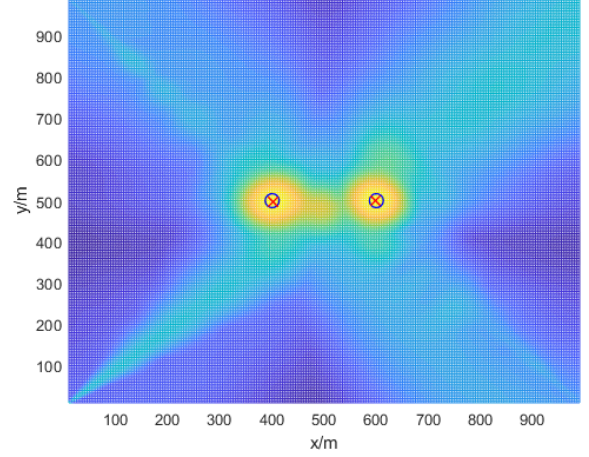


Fig. 2. the proposed high resolution location spectrum (SNR=10dB, the blue circle denotes the real emitter locations and the red cross denotes the location estimations, the same below.)

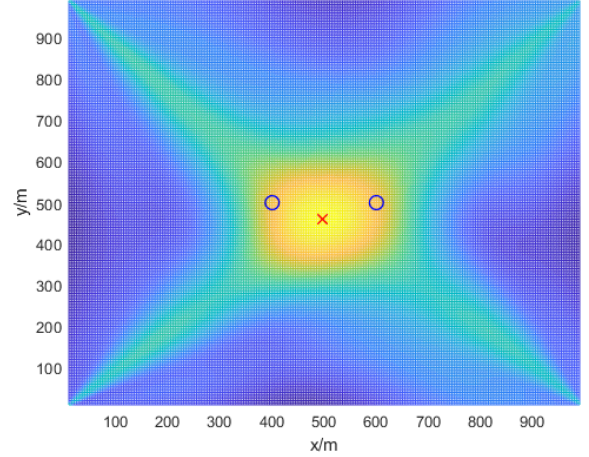


Fig. 3. the AOA based MUSIC location spectrum

location spectrum. It can be seen that there are two sharp peaks at the real emitter locations in the proposed location spectrum while there are only one wide main lobe the AOA based MUSIC location spectrum.

#### V. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we build a data model to describe location information of multiple FH emitters both in space and frequency domain. Based on the data model, a MUSIC based algorithm is proposed to identify the idle frequencies and estimate the emitter locations simultaneously. The proposed estimator outperforms the AOA based methods since the former integrates the location information both in space and frequency domain and the noise at idle frequencies are identified and removed. The simulation results indicate that the proposed estimator outperforms the AOA based estimator both in the aspects of accuracy and resolution and attains asymptotic optimal performance.

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