Integral Equations in Acoustics

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# Introduction

This document describes the mathematical underpinnings of an associated integral equation based acoustic scattering simulation developed by Jack Hamel at the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor. The code is capable of computing the equivalent surface sources on an arbitrary scatterer’s surface due to an arbitrary plane wave or spherical wave impinging on the surface. The user has the option of solving a variety of integral equation formulations to this end as well as using an accelerated solver routine based on the adaptive cross approximation. In addition, the code can compute the Wigner-Smith matrix and ultimately the time delays for each Wigner-Smith mode of the scatterer as well as simulate the scatter when excited by an incident wave that exactly induces any desired Wigner-Smith mode.

This document attempts to be comprehensive though details of some algorithms such as singular integration and the adaptive cross approximation are omitted and the sources exactly describing the implementations in the code are referenced. This document does not directly reference the associated code at this time. Also, please be aware that two different equation editors were used in writing this document and that causes out-of-order and duplicate reference numbers for equations that can lead to confusion. Lastly, there are currently no in-text citations right now. There is an intention to fix these issues at some point.

# Background

## Green’s Theorem

Start by applying divergence theorem over a volume V circumscribed by closed-surface S to *ψ*∇*φ*, where *ψ* and *φ* are scalar functions of position with continuous first and second derivatives in V and on S.

Recall that , where is the outward pointing normal unit vector on S, and the vector identity and the above equation becomes



Equation is known as Green’s first identity.

To derive Green’s second identity (a.k.a Green’s Theorem), start by interchanging ψ and φ in .



Subtracting the above equation from yields Green’s Theorem.



# Volume Integral Equations

## Formulation

In the region depicted in Figure 1 the scalar fields,,and *G*(**r**, **r’**) obey the 3D inhomogeneous wave equations



Where  is the scalar Green’s function and **r**, **r’**, **r**sand **r**i are the position vectors for the observation point, equivalent sources, scatterer sources and incident field sources respectively. It is obvious that *G*(**r**, **r’**) = *G*(**r’**, **r**),and **.**





















V1

V2

S

**Figure 1:** Volume V1 with radius *rs* is circumscribed by the surface S, sitting an infinitesimal distance above the scatterer whose surface is circumscribed by. Volume V2 is bounded by the surface located at radius .

Ignoring the scatterer,, for the time being, and letting the scatterer be the delta function in equation , Green’s Theorem can be applied over V1 to and *G*(**r**, **r’**) 

Substituting in equations



The LHS is piecewise depending on the locations of the sources



Referencing the equation above,  and thus Green’s theorem boils down to



Green’s theorem is now applied over V1 to and *G*(**r**, **r’**)



Substituting in equations , the LHS is piecewise depending on the source locations



Referencing the figure,  and 



Define



Add equations and and apply a change of variable from 



Extinction Theorem

Note that if (after the change of variable) (i.e. the observation point is within S), then the LHS of equation would become zero and the LHS of equation would become  and equation would look like



Meaning the surface sources in the integral term produce a field equal to the incident field inside V1 therefore the total field inside V1 is zero.

With extinction theorem, equation can be interpreted as replacing the sources inside V1 by surface sources  and on S such that the fields in V2 are maintained and the fields in V1 are zero. In fact, this does not apply only to a single delta source in V1. Any arbitrary source sitting inside S can be treated as a sum of delta functions. Thus equation is the volume integral equation for an arbitrary acoustic scatterer circumscribed by surface within V1.

## Define fields

The incident field is further defined to be a spherical wave as follows



Where  and  are incoming and outgoing components, respectively, of the incident field.

Additionally, since is located at , we can define far-field expressions for on it. Far-field expressions are denoted as and are equivalent to their respective expressions with valid far-field approximations applied.

## Boundary Conditions

By applying valid boundary conditions to the problem of the previous chapter, standard acoustical integral equations can be derived. At this point, it is worth clarifying that from Figure 1 the surface S sits an infinitesimal distance above the surface of the scatterer,. This ensures the derivations of section 2.1 remain valid.

### Sound-Soft (Dirichlet)

The sound-soft or Dirichlet, as known in mathematics, boundary condition on S is



Under this condition, equation reduces to



Let 



Restricting  and relating scattered and incident fields



 can be solved for using equation and then the scattered fields can be calculated anywhere outside of V1.

### Sound-Hard (Neumann)

The sound-hard or Neumann, as known in mathematics, boundary condition on S is



Under this condition, equation reduces to



Let 



Restricting  and using equation



Equation is not as pleasant as the sound-soft integral equation because the RHS is discontinuous across the boundary S (switches signs across S) as shown in the figure below. See appendix for more details on the discontinuity.

Diagram

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**Figure:** The surface S lies along y-axis and the plotted lines are the sound-hard integration result

In order to deal with this discontinuity, the principal value of the integral in equation can be determined analytically as follows.

Let S be a flat plate of infinite extent in the X-Y plane with and  everywhere on the plate. The observation point is located at . The scalar Green’s function can be expressed as



The integral in equation becomes



Letting  yields the principal value of the integral



Of course, this is derived using a simple geometry and . To understand what the principal value is for a general problem see figure 3 below. First, recall that . The sub-figure 1 depicts the contributions of sources far from the observation point when propagated by the gradient of the scalar Green’s function. There is a significant contribution from both sources because is appreciable. In sub-figure 2, when the observation point is infinitesimally close to the surface containing the sources, due to sources far away abecause is nearly tangential to the surface. Looking at sub-figure 3, when the observation point is still infinitesimally close to the surface, but highlighting contributions from nearby sources, there is a significant contribution–far more noticeable than from sources shown in sub-figure 2. One can now conclude that only the self-interactions will contribute to the integral when . Additionally, the value of can be arbitrary since only the local effect matters. This holds true for all locally flat surfaces, but not for curved surfaces.

A picture containing diagram

Description automatically generated

**Figure 3:** Local interactions dominate the integral when observing near the sources

The one-half from above becomes



Thus Equation becomes computationally friendly expressed as

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

Where the principal value integration excludes when .

### Sound-Soft Combined Field Integral Equation (CFIE)

The sound-soft and sound-hard integral equations derived in the previous section suffer from resonance issues that make them poor choices when solving problems at mid- to high-frequencies. Looking at equation , if there was a scenario in which the LHS, ,was zero on , then the sources, , would mathematically not have a unique solution while a unique solution to this problem physically does exist. This is the pitfall of the integral equation formulation in that it does not guarantee a unique solution.

Consider a spherical scatterer with an incident spherical wave as an example. The theoretical scenario above occurs at the complimentary problem’s resonant frequencies. In other words, at the frequencies/modes when a standing wave exists inside a spherical cavity, the field on the surface of the cavity are zero and solving the sound-soft IE for this problem will not produce the correct surface sources. These modes only exist when the cavity becomes comparable in size to the wavelength and become more and more common the higher the frequency (or lower the wavelength) becomes hence the sound-soft IE only works predictably well for low frequency problems. Though there is no simple physical example, the sound-hard IE will suffer from the same problem.

Realistic geometries will not be perfect spherical scatterers with perfect incident spherical waves; however, this problem still exists. Skipping ahead to Method of moments terminology, in this scenario the condition number of the matrix **Z** spikes and the spikes will become more frequent the higher the frequency is. At these spikes, it is unlikely any solver will converge to the true solution to the problem. To alleviate this problem, we want an integral equation formulation in which the excitation side (in Method of moments what ultimately becomes the RHS of the matrix equation) of the equation is only zero when the surface sources themselves are zero. To achieve this, we introduce the combined field integral equation (CFIE) which can be formed with either sound-soft or sound-hard boundary conditions.

Consider the sound-soft IE, equation , once more

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

Where . Take the derivative with respect to the unprimed direction of the surface of the scatterer.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

Recalling that and taking the normal derivative

Substituting this into equation (2.3)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

The integral is discontinuous at just as the sound-hard IE is and therefore the same principal value technique can be applied with a sign-change due to the derivative being with respect to un-primed variables yielding

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

Let be an arbitrary weighing constant and we scale equation (2.5) by to make the CFIE non-resonant (see proof below), Multiply equation (2.5) by , equation (2.2) by and sum them to form the sound-soft CFIE restricting so that .

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

Non-Resonance Proof

Consider the sound-soft CFIE without the weights and with the normal derivative terms scaled by an unknown constant

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

To ensure that the CFIE does not suffer from the same resonance issues as the sound-soft and sound-hard IEs, there must be a condition on . In order for the CFIE to be non-resonant

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

Let and apply Green’s theorem to and its complex conjugate on and where is the surface sitting an infinitesimal distance within the scatterer surface and is the volume circumscribed by it.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

When restricting we can also say that due to the sound-soft boundary condition so in imposing the non-resonance in equation (2.13) it can also be stated that

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

Returning to equation (2.9), since does not include the boundary where the sources lie, then and must obey the homogeneous wave equation inside and the LHS of the above equation becomes 0.

Substituting in equation (2.10)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

If is restricted such that , then equation (2.11) will only be zero when on . It is well understood from discussions on the sound-hard IE in section 2.3.2 that when there are non-zero sources on , then there will be a jump discontinuity across in therefore the LHS will only be zero when This proves the sound-soft CFIE is non-resonant as long as . Going forward we set .

### Sound-Hard Combined Field Integral Equation (CFIE)

As with the sound-soft integral equation, the sound-hard integral equation suffers from resonances; however, these do not have an easily interpreted physical meaning. Using the sound-hard combined field integral equation eliminates this problem. Forming the sound-hard CFIE follows the same process as with the sound-soft CFIE. Starting with the sound-hard IE

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (.) |

Take the normal derivative with respect to direction

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| Due to the boundary condition on *S* and |  |
|  | (.) |

Let be an arbitrary weighing constant. Multiply equation (2.1) by , multiply equation (2.13) by and sum them to form the sound-hard IE

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (.) |

Special treatment of the last integral in equation (2.14) is required and to be determined later.

# Method of Moments

The process of discretizing the integral equations can be done using the Method of Moments (MoM). The geometry of the scatterer is first discretized into *N* elements. In this case, (as is the case in my code) planar triangle elements will be used to form the so-called mesh for the scatterer. The method of moments discretization process will be first demonstrated starting with the sound-soft integral equation

## Sound-soft

Step one is discretizing the sources on the mesh using a set of basis functions. While any sufficient basis may be used, linear pulse functions will be used here defined as

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

Therefore, the sources can be approximately represented on the mesh as

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

Where is the weight of the associated basis function.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

Where the integral is now over the surface of the *n*-th element only. The next step is known as the testing procedure which will provide a matrix equation with which the weights,, can be solved for. The left and right sides of equation (3.3) are multiplied by the so-called testing basis functions which for convenience will be the pulse basis functions defined in equation (3.2), but do not need to match the source basis functions. Following this, both sides are integrated over the test element.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

When considering all this forms a matrix equation

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

Where **Z** is a square matrix of size and **J** and **V** are column vectors of size *N.*

## Sound-Soft CFIE

The sound-soft CFIE is discretized following the same procedure as for the sound-soft IE. First substitute in the discretized form of the source terms given by equation (3.2) into equation (2.6)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

The testing procedure is then applied

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

Noting that

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

Which is a matrix equation where

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

Then equation (3.8) more succinctly becomes

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

In my code, an additional scale factor of is added to the and terms to normalize the magnitudes of the vector/matrix entries to those in and

## Numerical Integration

Computing the continuous integrals in equations (3.3) requires numerical integration (a.k.a. quadrature) routines to be done efficiently. The routine employed in my integral equation code is Gaussian quadrature

### Gaussian Quadrature

Gaussian quadrature approximates integration over any smooth function that can be well represented by a set of polynomial functions. An *N*-point Gaussian quadrature rule will exactly integrate a polynomial of degree . These work well for the integrands encountered in acoustic scattering as they are smooth functions with sinusoidal variations in the far- and near-field regions. There are discontinuities that arise for self-interactions that require special handling which will be discussed later. The following is the Gaussian quadrature function

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

That is, the integral over from is approximately equal to the sum of evaluated at the quadrature points and weighted by the corresponding quadrature weights . The set of quadrature points and weights can be chosen to best suit the application. In general, choosing more points will result in more accurate integration.

For the case of integration over triangles, there are well-defined rules to choose from in literature. For triangles with a surface denoted by *S* in my code, equation (3.11) becomes

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

Where *A* is the area of the triangle. Scaling by the area is done because the quadrature rules are defined such that i.e. the rule is designed to integrate a triangle with unit area so for a general triangle we must scale by its area.

The actual quadrature rules used in my code are given here: https://www.math.unipd.it/~alvise/SETS\_CUBATURE\_TRIANGLE/dunavant/set\_dunavant\_barycentric.m

Rules for integrating triangles are generally defined in terms of barycentric coordinates to generalize them for any triangle.

Barycentric Coordinates

Also known as simplex or area coordinates, barycentric coordinates on triangles are a local coordinate system. They are defined such that

Where **r** is a location in cartesian coordinates corresponding to the location in barycentric coordinates given by and is the cartesian coordinates of the *i-*th triangle vertex. As one can see, a location in barycentric coordinates is relative to the triangle it is defined with respect to and therefore allows for representation of quadrature points that work for any shaped triangle.

The name “area” coordinates is perhaps the most insightful because each component of a coordinate is a normalized area of a sub-triangle formed by the vertices , and . As such, all three components are not independent and knowledge of two out of three is enough to determine the location with the following relation

Add cartesian to barycentric

Applying equation (3.12) to equations (3.5) gives a fully discretized expression for the matrix and right hand side (RHS) entries such that the unknowns can be solved for

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

Note that the test and source quadrature rules do not need to be equivalent.

## Integration Routines

There are different ways integration must be handled depending on where the test and source elements are located with respect to one another. For well separated elements, equations (3.13) as-is will provide accurate results. When the elements are close to one another the Green’s function becomes singular due to and integration must be handled differently. There are two singular cases: 1) two different elements near each other interacting and 2) an element interacting with itself.

Far-Field Integration

As stated above, this is done by directly computing equations (3.13).

Near-Field Integration

This is singular case 1 from above. Element pairs falling into this category are determined by an input parameter to the solve functions that dictate a maximum distance between element centroids that when exceeded constitute a far-field interaction and when within the distance are near-field except for the case when the test and source elements are the same. Integration for the **Z** matrix entries of near-field pairs uses singularity subtraction from the Green’s function followed by numerical integration of the non-singular term and analytical integration of the singular term as shown below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

The left term is integrated numerically and the right term has a purely analytical integration routine as defined in “Potential Integrals for Uniform and Linear Source Distributions on Polygonal and Polyhedral Domains” by Wilton et al. in the section titled *Surface Sources Distributed on Polygons*.

Self-Interactions

The third case for integration is when the test and source elements are one in the same. As for the near-field interactions, the singularity is subtracted like in equation (3.14) and the right term is handled with the same analytical routine. The left term, however, is handled differently. Even though the term is not singular, it is discontinuous as shown in the plot below

A picture containing text, sky, map, different

Description automatically generated

Figure : Plot of real (blue) and imaginary (orange) components of (y-axis) demonstrating its discontinuity at (x-axis).

As discussed in the Gaussian quadrature section, this numerical integration rule only works for curves that can be well approximated by polynomials and discontinuities cannot. To avoid this issue, the triangle/element being integrated over is split into three sub-triangles as shown below.

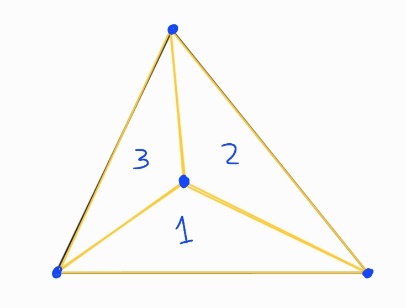


Figure : Triangle divided into three sub-triangles. Central node is the testing location dictated by the test quadrature rule used.

Because the discontinuity is located at the central node, from the perspective of each sub-triangle, the discontinuity is simply the end of the integration domain. Equation (3.5) (elements of **Z** prior to discretization) effectively becomes

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

Where the three source integrals are each over one of the sub-triangles. Gaussian quadrature is applied to each integral as before, but it is not written out for succinctness.

# Scattering Matrix

The scattering matrix provides a means of computing the outgoing fields on , a fictitious spherical surface surrounding the scatterer in its far field, from the incoming fields. To provide physical intuition, imagine a spherical scatterer with an incident spherical wave of degree and order . The only wave reflected from the scatterer will be a spherical wave of degree and order because it is a perfect sphere and a scattering “matrix” of size 1x1 can be formed by the scattering coefficient . If the incident wave contains *N* harmonics of spherical waves, then the scattering matrix becomes a diagonal matrix of size *N* x*N* where the diagonal elements correspond to the reflection coefficients for each harmonic. If the geometry is changed to an arbitrary non-spherical shape, then the scattering matrix will lose its diagonal property because the non-spherical geometric features cause coupling between incident and reflected waves of different harmonics.

Mathematically, the scattering matrix is a unitless matrix, **S**, that relates a set of incoming waves to a set of outgoing waves in the far-field

Where is the outgoing wave of t-th mode (or harmonic) on , is the complex conjugate of the incoming wave of p-th mode on and is the entry of **S** in the t-th row and p-th column. Each entry of **S** relates a specific incoming mode from a defined set of modes to another mode in the same set.

In theory, a scattering matrix relates any arbitrary set of incoming modes to outgoing modes. However, to completely define the scattering properties of an object, all possible modes would be required. In practice, as higher and higher modes are sent in, the electrical size of the object decreases and the matrix can be truncated as the scattering coefficients will go to zero. There is more on this later in the section.

### Acoustic Derivation

The acoustic scattering matrix is first derived from the sound-soft integral equation.



The first exponential term in the Green’s function can be rewritten using the asymptotic form of a Hankel function of the second kind and the second exponential term can be expanded in terms of spherical harmonics



Now we can write an expanded form of the Green’s function



Since is arbitrary, the terms outside the summation with -dependence can be distributed onto the terms within.



Finally, the scattered far-field can be written in an expanded form as



The scattered far-field is also defined to be



Where term and can be expanded into two summations over and *m* as seen in the Green’s function expansion above. Expanding the sum and substituting in **P***tp* and equation noting that  yields



Which verifies that equation is a valid expression for the scattered far-field.

The scattering matrix can now be defined as follows from previous expressions starting with total field.



Expand the incident field using equation and scattered fields using equation



The outgoing field and incoming field can be related as follows:



Instead of the incoming field, let the incoming field be the incoming field and applying the relation 



Substituting this back into the expression for 



Where are entries of the scattering matrix, which relates the incoming field to the totaloutgoing field, and  is the Kronecker delta function.

Truncating the Scattering Matrix

The scattering matrix cannot contain all possible harmonics that excite the system or else it would be infinite in size. It turns out that the degree, , of the spherical harmonics can be truncated when where k is the wavenumber and is the largest dimension of the scatterer. This rule seems to only hold for electrically large objects and not when the size is less than or comparable to a wavelength.

### Scattering Matrix Implementation

Fortunately, computation of the scattering matrix is straightforward with a Method of Moments code.

The scattering matrix formed by can be separated into a sum of two matrices. The first matrix is the identity-like matrix formed by the entries



The second matrix looks as follows



Upon further dissection



Recall that in a MoM code, is represented as a sum of weighted basis functions



The entries of the matrix above are discretized with the following representation



And the matrix becomes



Which can be written as the product of two matrices



It is now clear that the left matrix’s rows correspond to excitation vectors (or RHSs) of the sound-soft IE in a method of moments formulation for the *p* th harmonic as denoted by **V** in equation (3.5). The right matrix’s columns correspond to source vectors (or solution vectors) in a method of moments formulation for the *p* th harmonic as denoted by **J** in equation (3.5). The final matrix equation for the scattering matrix can be written using and as



The subscript *s* is to differentiate these matrices from the vectors in the method of moments formulations shown earlier.

#### Properties of the Scattering Matrix

The scattering matrix is unitary where **I** is the identity matrix of equal dimension as **S**



The scattering matrix is symmetric



#### Frequency Derivative

The derivative of the scattering matrix with respect to frequency (i.e. wavenumber, k) is computed as follows



Applying chain rule



Recalling that in the method of moments



Additionally, it is true that for any system of equations where Z is square



Under full Galerkin testing (i.e. same basis and quadrature rules for test and source integrals), Z becomes symmetric and



Substituting equations and into equation



Now to compute the derivative of 



The incident field is given by equation and its frequency derivative is



The frequency derivative of is given by



Where which no longer has any singularities. can be computed for non-self-terms using standard Gaussian quadrature; however, due to the discontinuity at , Gaussian quadrature is inaccurate since it is derived to approximate integrals well modeled by polynomials. The triangle splitting method in section 3.4 can be used for self-terms in the matrix since it effectively places the discontinuity on the boundary of the integrals.

# Wigner-Smith

## Introduction

In acoustics, Wigner-Smith (WS) theory describes a methodology for characterizing acoustic scattering based on the dwell time of acoustic waves in a system using WS time-delay matrices given by

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

Where **S** and **S’** are the scattering matrix and its frequency derivative (with respect to *k*) given by equations and . Diagonalizing **Q** results in a set WS modes (eigenvectors) that describe a set of all possible incident fields (read: all incident fields included in construction of **S**) that produce an outgoing wave with the corresponding dwell times (eigenvalues) in the system. The diagonalization of Q is as follows using equation of the appendix



In which the columns of **W** are the eigenvectors and is a diagonal matrix of the eigenvalues.

## Derivation of Q

### One-port System

Diagram, schematic

Description automatically generatedThe figure below depicts an *M*-port network that is linear, time-invariant, lossless and reciprocal.

**Figure:** An *M*-port network characterized by **S** and **Q**

Let *M* = 1 and the incoming field on the line be



Where *w* is the distance away from the port towards the left in the figure and is the propagation constant along the line. The outgoing field on the line is related to the incoming field by the scattering coefficient 



Since the network is lossless, the scattering coefficient has unity magnitude and can be written as



Now let the incoming pulse be a narrowband signal, , with an envelope given by



Centered at frequency *ω*0 with a bandwidth of 2Δ*ω*. The incoming signal is



In which  due to the narrowband nature of the signal and the time-shifting and frequency-shifting properties were used to derive the final expression. The outgoing signal is determined via equation to be



Which like equation uses the fact that and the same FT properties.

From equation the group time delay of the signal centered at is  in the envelope of the signal. This is the single entry of the WS time-delay matrix for this simple one-port network given by



Which is simply the time-delay of the outgoing field in the one-port system.

### Multi-port System

Let the same network as above have *M­*-ports. Now let the *p*-th line support an incoming field given by



Where  and the outgoing field on line *m* due to the incoming field on line *p* is given by



The scattering matrix populated by **S***mp* is both unitary and symmetric.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |
|  |  |  |

Where is an identity matrix.

The outgoing field can be written as

Apply Taylor series expansion to

The first integral is of the same form as the outgoing field in the one-port case. The second integral can be solved by first multiplying by

Now the second integral has the same form as the outgoing field in the one-port system with the additional factor of which results in a time-derivative in the time-domain due to the frequency-shifting property.

Since the envelope function is relatively smooth and narrowband, its time-derivative is small and the second term in the above equation can be ignored.

As before, the group delay of the outgoing signal is given by and therefore

Which is, of course, different than demonstrated from the one-port system. In order to reconcile this with equation (3.7), a weighted-average time-delay is defined

This quantity is the average time-delay of the field from input port *p* to all other ports in which each time-delay is weighted by , the fraction of the total field’s power delivered from port *p* to port *m*. Substituting in

Therefore, the diagonal elements of **Q** are the average time-delays of the incoming field for the multi-port system. There is no direct physical interpretation of the off-diagonal elements, but they remain important.

## WS Modes

### Properties of Q

It turns out that **Q** is actually Hermitian as shown by the following

Taking the derivative with respect to of equation (5.2) yields a useful relationship

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

Therefore, it is shown that **Q** is Hermitian

And all Hermitian matrices are normal matrices so **Q** can be diagonalized such that

This is an eigenvalue decomposition of **Q** so the column vectors of **W** are the eigenvectors of **Q** and the diagonal entries of are its real-valued eigenvalues. It is a property of Hermitian matrices that their eigenvalues are real-valued. **S** can be factorized by **W** as follows

Substituting the previous two equations into equation (5.1) yields

Since **S** is unitary, and **S** is symmetric so or alternatively, any unitary matrix’s inverse is its Hermitian (i.e. complex conjugate transpose) and therefore **.**  Substituting in the diagonalized forms of **S** and **Q**

The matrix, **W**, is unitary, therefore

Since **S** is symmetric, then and therefore so is a diagonal matrix. The importance of this is illustrated by the following

Since the matrices on the left and right sides of the above equation are diagonal, each WS mode corresponding to an entry of is uniquely determined by the corresponding entry in and thus it can be said that the WS modes are entirely decoupled from one another and the entries of entirely characterize the time delays of the system.

### What does represent?

From the multi-port system analysis in section 5.2.2, it is well established that the diagonal entries of Q correspond to the average time-delay experienced by the incoming wave in port *p* exiting from all ports. The diagonal elements of correspond to time delays as well, but not in the same sense. The WS modes described by the eigenvectors and eigenvalues of **Q** each provide a unique set of incoming waves (eigenvectors; columns of **W**) to all ports of the system such that all outgoing waves from all ports exit the system with the same exact time delay (eigenvalue; diagonal entries of ).

### Fields of WS Modes

As mentioned in the previous section, the -column of **W** provides a set of weights that when multiplied by their corresponding incoming waves, provide a total incoming wave of the WS mode. More formally, if the matrix at a frequency is obtained and diagonalized with the methods shown above providing the eigenvectors in , then

Is the total incoming wave of the WS mode. When the system is excited with , then the outgoing wave dwells in the system for the exact amount of seconds given by the corresponding eigenvalue in .

### WS and Method of Moments

If the incoming wave generated based on WS modes is used in a method of moments code, the corresponding sources can be solved for as in a traditional solve using any valid integral equation with the following steps

1. Compute **Q** for geometry of interest making sure to use enough harmonics for scattering matrix
2. Diagonalize **Q**
3. Create new incident field from *q*-th column of **W**
4. Use new incident field to fill the RHS when solving the desired integral equation

**Q** can be computed directly or indirectly.

Indirect calculation of **Q**



Direct calculation



# Adaptive Cross Approximation

The adaptive cross approximation (ACA) is a general-purpose algorithm for compressing low rank matrices into two matrices that when multiplied with matrix multiplication approximate the original matrix. “General-purpose” meaning that the algorithm is agnostic to the context of the matrix or the mathematical functions generating the matrix. This makes it easy to implement and convenient for general codes such as mine where I have multiple integral equation options. As implemented in the code, ACA allows for simple swapping of the function generating the matrix entries used in the ACA routine to change integral equations. ACA compression of the Z matrix can be used in all integral equation solvers as well as in computing the scattering matrix.

## Algorithm

Let be a sub-matrix of the total **Z** matrix encapsulating interactions between two well separated groups of elements in a MoM formulation. The goal of ACA is to approximate this matrix by the matrix which is decomposed into two matrices, andsuch that

Where *r* is the rank of .The objective of the following ACA algorithm is to minimize the error between and given by

Where is the Frobenius norm, is an arbitrary tolerance and is the error matrix.

The exact implementation of ACA used in my code is outlined in “The Adaptive Cross Approximation Algorithm for Accelerated Method of Moments Computations of EMC Problems” by Zhao et al.

## Metrics

Insight into the performance of the ACA algorithm can be predicted with an understanding of key metrics describing the approximation. Compression ratio, the number of elements per node and the rank of compressed matrices are such metrics.

Compression Ratio

The compression ratio is defined as the total number of elements stored across all sub-Z matrices used in the ACA solver whether compressed or uncompressed divided by the total number of matrix elements stored in the full Z matrix used in the direct solver. The compression ratio shows approximately how much memory is saved and how many fewer multiplications are needed in the ACA solver. This metric will be less than 1 when an ACA solver outperforms a traditional solver and is probably the most insightful metric computed in my code. Note that if a few matrices are heavily compressed, but most node-to-node interactions are uncompressible, then the compression ratio will remain high. It is also useful to store the percentage of sub-Z matrices that were compressed since this information is ignored in compression ratio.

Elements Per Node

The second most useful metric is the number of elements per node. My code computes the average, minimum and maximum across all non-empty nodes of the octree. Correlating the average number of elements per node with compression ratio will help build intuition on the size of the octree and expected performance of the ACA solver when compared with the traditional solver.

Matrix Rank

The average, minimum and maximum rank of compressed matrices is saved. In combination with the number of elements per node, this is useful. A low average rank compared to the average number of elements per node means there is a lot of compression going on. This information does not suffer from an effect akin to uncompressed matrices raising the compression ratio.

# Appendix

## Linear Algebra

### Matrix Diagonalization

A diagonal matrix **A** is a square matrix for which

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | (.) |

Where **D** is a diagonal matrix of the eigenvalues of **A** and the columns of **P** are the eigenvectors of **A**.

In the case that **A** is also self-adjoint (), then equation becomes



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