[[1]](#footnote-1)

Versatile Acoustic Shadow Detection from Scanline Statistics of Brightness-Mode and Radiofrequency Ultrasound Images

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*Abstract*—These instructions give you guidelines for preparing papers for IEEE Transactions, but this version is specifically written to describe submission to IEEE TMI. Use this document as a template if you are using Microsoft Word 2010 or later. Otherwise, use this document as an instruction set. The electronic file of your paper will be formatted further at IEEE. Paper titles should be written in uppercase and lowercase letters, not all uppercase. Avoid writing formulas in the title; short formulas that identify the elements are fine (e.g., "Nd–Fe–B"). Keep the title short and do not write “(Invited)” in the title. Full names of authors are preferred in the author field, but are not required. Put a space between authors’ initials. Only authors may appear in the author line of a manuscript. Authors are defined as individuals who have made an identifiable intellectual contribution to a manuscript to the extent that the individual can defend its contents. Define all symbols used in the abstract. Do not cite references in the abstract. Do not delete the blank line immediately above the abstract; it sets the footnote at the bottom of this column. Keep the abstract to 250 words or less.

*Index Terms*—Enter key about five words or phrases in alphabetical order, separated by commas. For a list of suggested keywords see: [https://ieee-tmi.org/tmi-keywords.asp?s=author](https://ieee-tmi.org/tmi-keywords.asp?s=author%20)

# INTRODUCTION

U

LTRASOUD is a popular imaging modality as it provides real-time imaging, is relatively low cost compared to computed tomography of magnetic resonance imaging, and does not produce ionizing radiation. Recently, ultrasound devices have become increasingly affordable and portable, encouraging novice users or point-of-care ultrasound to be adopted more frequently. However, ultrasound is susceptible to unique imaging artefacts that may cause the interpretation of images may be difficult, particularly for novice users. One such artefact is an acoustic shadow. An acoustic shadow occurs when an ultrasound wave from a transducer surface propagates towards a boundary of two materials with significantly different wave impedance properties. The ultrasound wave is then mostly reflected, resulting in a loss of signal beyond the boundary. On an ultrasound brightness-mode (B-Mode) image, this appears as a sudden dark region at all depths beyond the boundary. Acoustic shadows are significant as they are an asset and detriment in ultrasound imaging. Acoustic shadows are known to occur at air-tissue, tissue-bone, and tissue-lesion [3] interface. By observing an acoustic shadow, we can deduce the presence of an air gap due to bad transducer contact, gallstones in the gallbladder, or lesions depending on the context of the imaging location. However, acoustic shadows prevent the visualization of anatomical detail of regions axially deeper than the boundary, increasing the difficulty of interpreting images. Thus, the identification of shadows is important for understanding ultrasound images.

The interpretation of acoustic shadows is commonly performed by manual inspection from an expert, such as a radiologist. However, there are several motivations for the automatic detection of acoustic shadows. First, users with less sonography experience such as family physicians and physical therapists could interpret ultrasound imagery easier with acoustic shadows automatically identified. Secondly, acoustic shadows limit the capability of automated image processing. Recent techniques such as 3D reconstruction, fiducial registration, and training of supervised learning algorithms require features to be identified or flagged as a shadow, which is time consuming if done manually.

There are several existing techniques to automatically detect shadows which all report a high Dice similarity coefficient when compared to the gold standard of manual shadow detection. However, existing techniques require several manually tuned parameters for different ultrasound machines, transducer geometries, and anatomy. As there exists a strong motivation to increase the usability of ultrasound for novice users, a shadow detection method with minimal configuration that requires knowledge of ultrasound machine properties is desired.

We present shadow detection methods based on analysis of scanline statistics from either radiofrequency (RF) and B-Mode data that requires only the transducer pulse width as an input parameter. The detection method was designed to detect shadows from multiple anatomical locations, depths, and transducers.

# Existing Work

## Pixel Intensity Methods

## Geometric Methods

## Learning Methods

Number equations consecutively with equation numbers in parentheses flush with the right margin, as in (1). First use the equation editor to create the equation. Then select the “Equation” markup style. Press the tab key and write the equation number in parentheses. To make your equations more compact, you may use the solidus ( / ), the exp function, or appropriate exponents. Use parentheses to avoid ambiguities in denominators. Punctuate equations when they are part of a sentence, as in

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Be sure that the symbols in your equation have been defined before the equation appears or immediately following. Italicize symbols (*T* might refer to temperature, but T is the unit tesla). Refer to “(1),” not “Eq. (1)” or “equation (1),” except at the beginning of a sentence: “Equation (1) is ... .”

# Methods

To detect acoustic shadows, the statistics of a local patch along a scanline is analyzed. If RF data is available, then the RF data is processed with statistical analysis based on the acoustic physics of shadows. The RF data is the raw signal read by the transducer and is representative of the interactions between the acoustic wave and a shadow boundary. However, many ultrasound machines do not provide access to the RF data, which is difficult to visualize on a graphic image and rather provide only B-Mode data. The machines process the RF data with several nonlinear transformations and filtering to produce an enhanced image for visual interpretation by a clinician. This process obscures many features from the RF signal in favor of visual enhancement, such as by smoothing the grainy patches seen in an RF image. However, these features contain information on how the ultrasound signal interacts with the material and can be leveraged to characterize material properties, such as the presence of tissue. In addition, the B-Mode image can be manually enhanced by adjusting parameters such as gain or dynamic range windowing and B-Mode images are subject to operator variability. Thus, we argue that analyzing features such as acoustic shadows from the RF data provides a more consistent and versatile detection.

We also present a scanline statistical analysis on B-Mode data of the same RF data set. This is to provide a shadow detection method in the common scenario where RF data is not available. Both detection methods do not require significant configuration between different imaging scenarios, other than adjusting the window of the scanline patch to correspond to the transducer pulse width.

## Data Collection

# Some Common Mistakes

The word “data” is plural, not singular. The subscript for the permeability of vacuum µ0 is zero, not a lowercase letter “o.” The term for residual magnetization is “remanence”; the adjective is “remanent”; do not write “remnance” or “remnant.” Use the word “micrometer” instead of “micron.” A graph within a graph is an “inset,” not an “insert.” The word “alternatively” is preferred to the word “alternately” (unless you really mean something that alternates). Use the word “whereas” instead of “while” (unless you are referring to simultaneous events). Do not use the word “essentially” to mean “approximately” or “effectively.” Do not use the word “issue” as a euphemism for “problem.” When compositions are not specified, separate chemical symbols by en-dashes; for example, “NiMn” indicates the intermetallic compound Ni0.5Mn0.5 whereas “Ni–Mn” indicates an alloy of some composition NixMn1-x.

Be aware of the different meanings of the homophones “affect” (usually a verb) and “effect” (usually a noun), “complement” and “compliment,” “discreet” and “discrete,” “principal” (e.g., “principal investigator”) and “principle” (e.g., “principle of measurement”). Do not confuse “imply” and “infer.”

Prefixes such as “non,” “sub,” “micro,” “multi,” and “ultra” are not independent words; they should be joined to the words they modify, usually without a hyphen. There is no period after the “et” in the Latin abbreviation “*et al.*” (it is also italicized). The abbreviation “i.e.,” means “that is,” and the abbreviation “e.g.,” means “for example” (these abbreviations are not italicized).

A general IEEE styleguide is available at <http://www.ieee.org/web/publications/authors/transjnl/index.html>



Fig. 1. Magnetization as a function of applied field. Note that “Fig.” is abbreviated. There is a period after the figure number, followed by two spaces. It is good practice to explain the significance of the figure in the caption.

TABLE I

Units for Magnetic Properties

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Symbol | Quantity | Conversion from Gaussian and  CGS EMU to SI a |
| Φ | magnetic flux | 1 Mx → 10−8 Wb = 10−8 V·s |
| *B* | magnetic flux density,  magnetic induction | 1 G → 10−4 T = 10−4 Wb/m2 |
| *H* | magnetic field strength | 1 Oe → 103/(4π) A/m |
| *m* | magnetic moment | 1 erg/G = 1 emu  → 10−3 A·m2 = 10−3 J/T |
| *M* | magnetization | 1 erg/(G·cm3) = 1 emu/cm3  → 103 A/m |
| 4π*M* | magnetization | 1 G → 103/(4π) A/m |
| σ | specific magnetization | 1 erg/(G·g) = 1 emu/g → 1 A·m2/kg |
| *j* | magnetic dipole  moment | 1 erg/G = 1 emu  → 4π × 10−10 Wb·m |
| *J* | magnetic polarization | 1 erg/(G·cm3) = 1 emu/cm3  → 4π × 10−4 T |
| χ*,* κ | susceptibility | 1 → 4π |
| χρ | mass susceptibility | 1 cm3/g → 4π × 10−3 m3/kg |
| μ | permeability | 1 → 4π × 10−7 H/m  = 4π × 10−7 Wb/(A·m) |
| μr | relative permeability | μ → μr |
| *w, W* | energy density | 1 erg/cm3 → 10−1 J/m3 |
| *N, D* | demagnetizing factor | 1 → 1/(4π) |

Vertical lines are optional in tables. Statements that serve as captions for the entire table do not need footnote letters.

aGaussian units are the same as cg emu for magnetostatics; Mx = maxwell, G = gauss, Oe = oersted; Wb = weber, V = volt, s = second, T = tesla, m = meter, A = ampere, J = joule, kg = kilogram, H = henry.

# Guidelines for Graphics Preparation and Submission

## Types of Graphics

The following list outlines the different types of graphics published in IEEE journals. They are categorized based on their construction, and use of color / shades of gray:

### *Color/Grayscale figures*

### Figures that are meant to appear in color, or shades of black/gray. Such figures may include photographs, illustrations, multicolor graphs, and flowcharts.

### *Lineart figures*

### Figures that are composed of only black lines and shapes. These figures should have no shades or half-tones of gray. Only black and white.

### *Author photos*

### Head and shoulders shots of authors which appear at the end of papers. Not allowed for papers in TMI.

### *Tables* Data charts which are typically black and white, but sometimes include color.

## Multipart figures

Figures compiled of more than one sub-figure presented side-by-side, or stacked. If a multipart figure is made up of multiple figure types (one part is lineart, and another is grayscale or color) the figure should meet the stricter guidelines.

## File Formats For Graphics

Format and save your graphics using a suitable graphics processing program that will allow you to create the images as PostScript (PS), Encapsulated PostScript (.EPS), Tagged Image File Format (.TIFF), Portable Document Format (.PDF), or Portable Network Graphics (.PNG) sizes them, and adjusts the resolution settings. If you created your source files in one of the following programs you will be able to submit the graphics without converting to a PS, EPS, TIFF, PDF, or PNG file: Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, or Microsoft Excel. Though it is not required, it is recommended that these files be saved in PDF format rather than DOC, XLS, or PPT. Doing so will protect your figures from common font and arrow stroke issues that occur when working on the files across multiple platforms. When submitting the final files for your paper once it is accepted, the graphics should all be submitted individually in one of these formats along with the manuscript.

## Sizing of Graphics

Most charts, graphs, and tables are one column wide (3.5 inches / 88 millimeters / 21 picas) or page wide (7.16 inches / 181 millimeters / 43 picas). The maximum depth a graphic can be is 8.5 inches (216 millimeters / 54 picas). When choosing the depth of a graphic, please allow space for a caption. Figures can be sized between column and page widths if the author chooses, however it is recommended that figures are not sized less than column width unless when necessary.

## Resolution

The proper resolution of your figures will depend on the type of figure it is as defined in the “Types of Figures” section. Color and grayscale figures should be at least 300 dpi. Lineart, including tables should be a minimum of 600 dpi.

## Vector Art

While IEEE does accept, and even recommends that authors submit artwork in vector format, it is our policy is to rasterize all figures for publication. This is done in order to preserve the figures’ integrity across multiple computer platforms.

## Color Space

The term color space refers to the entire sum of colors that can be represented within the said medium. For our purposes, the three main color spaces are Grayscale, RGB (red/green/blue) and CMYK (cyan/magenta/yellow/black). RGB is generally used with on-screen graphics, whereas CMYK is used for printing purposes.

All color figures should be generated in RGB or CMYK color space. Grayscale images should be submitted in Grayscale color space. Lineart may be provided in grayscale OR bitmap color space. Note that “bitmap color space” and “bitmap file format” are not the same thing. When bitmap color space is selected, .TIF/.TIFF is the recommended file format.

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## Using Labels Within Figures

### Figure Axis labels

Figure axis labels are often a source of confusion. Use words rather than symbols. As an example, write the quantity “Magnetization,” or “Magnetization *M*,” not just “*M*.” Put units in parentheses. Do not label axes only with units. As in Fig. 1, for example, write “Magnetization (A/m)” or “Magnetization (Am−1),” not just “A/m.” Do not label axes with a ratio of quantities and units. For example, write “Temperature (K),” not “Temperature/K.”

Multipliers can be especially confusing. Write “Magnetization (kA/m)” or “Magnetization (103 A/m).” Do not write “Magnetization (A/m) × 1000” because the reader would not know whether the top axis label in Fig. 1 meant 16000 A/m or 0.016 A/m. Figure labels should be legible, approximately 8 to 10 point type.

### Subfigure Labels in Multipart Figures and Tables

Multipart figures should be combined and labeled before final submission. Labels should appear centered below each subfigure in 8 point Times New Roman font in the format of (a) (b) (c).

## File Naming

Figures (lineart or photograph) should be named starting with the first 5 letters of the corresponding author’s last name. The next characters in the filename should be the number that represents the sequential location of this image in your article. For example, in author “Anderson’s” paper, the first three figures would be named ander1.tif, ander2.tif, and ander3.ps.

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# Conclusion

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Appendix and the use of Supplemental files

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The preferred spelling of the word “acknowledgment” in American English is without an “e” after the “g.” Use the singular heading even if you have many acknowledgments. Avoid expressions such as “One of us (S.B.A.) would like to thank ... .” Instead, write “F. A. Author thanks ... .” In most cases, sponsor and financial support acknowledgments are placed in the unnumbered footnote on the first page, not here.

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All listed references must be cited in text at least once. Use number citations that are placed in square brackets and inside the punctuation. Multiple references are each numbered with separate brackets. When citing a section in a book, please give the relevant page numbers. In text, refer simply to the reference number. Do not use “Ref.” or “reference” except at the beginning of a sentence: “Reference [3] shows ... .” Please do not use automatic endnotes in *Word*, rather, type the reference list at the end of the paper using the “References” style.

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Indecipherable English is a valid reason for immediate rejection. If in the opinions of the reviewers the ideas are not clearly presented, the paper will be rejected as a result of the review. TMI allows only one major review. There is a service available that can help improve your English writing for a fee, and the link to that service can be found at <http://www.ieee.org/web/publications/authors/transjnl/index.html>.

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References

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1. J. K. Author, “Title of chapter in the book,” in *Title of His Published Book, x*th ed. City of Publisher, Country if not
2. USA: Abbrev. of Publisher, year, ch. *x*, sec. *x*, pp. *xxx–xxx.*

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*Examples:*

1. J. U. Duncombe, “Infrared navigation—Part I: An assessment   
   of feasibility,” *IEEE Trans. Electron Devices*, vol. ED-11, no. 1, pp. 34–39, Jan. 1959.
2. E. P. Wigner, “Theory of traveling-wave optical laser,” *Phys. Rev*.,   
   vol. 134, pp. A635–A646, Dec. 1965.
3. E. H. Miller, “A note on reflector arrays,” *IEEE Trans. Antennas Propagat*., to be published.

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2. J. H. Davis and J. R. Cogdell, “Calibration program for the 16-foot antenna,” Elect. Eng. Res. Lab., Univ. Texas, Austin, Tech. Memo. NGL-006-69-3, Nov. 15, 1987.

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1. Musical toothbrush with adjustable neck and mirror, by L.M.R. Brooks. (1992, May 19). *Patent D 326 189*

[Online]. Available: NEXIS Library: LEXPAT File: DESIGN

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1. J. K. Author, “Title of paper,” in *Abbreviated Name of Conf.*, City of Conf., Abbrev. State (if given), year, pp. *xxxxxx.*

*Example:*

1. D. B. Payne and J. R. Stern, “Wavelength-switched pas- sively coupled single-mode optical network,” in *Proc. IOOC-ECOC,* 1985,   
   pp. 585–590.

*Example for papers presented at conferences (unpublished):*

1. D. Ebehard and E. Voges, “Digital single sideband detection for interferometric sensors,” presented at the 2nd Int. Conf. Optical Fiber Sensors, Stuttgart, Germany, Jan. 2-5, 1984.

*Basic format for patents:*

1. J. K. Author, “Title of patent,” U.S. Patent *x xxx xxx*, Abbrev. Month, day, year.

*Example:*

1. G. Brandli and M. Dick, “Alternating current fed power supply,”   
   U.S. Patent 4 084 217, Nov. 4, 1978.

*Basic format**for theses (M.S.) and dissertations (Ph.D.):*

1. J. K. Author, “Title of thesis,” M.S. thesis, Abbrev. Dept., Abbrev. Univ., City of Univ., Abbrev. State, year.
2. J. K. Author, “Title of dissertation,” Ph.D. dissertation, Abbrev. Dept., Abbrev. Univ., City of Univ., Abbrev. State, year.

*Examples:*

1. J. O. Williams, “Narrow-band analyzer,” Ph.D. dissertation, Dept. Elect. Eng., Harvard Univ., Cambridge, MA, 1993.
2. N. Kawasaki, “Parametric study of thermal and chemical nonequilibrium nozzle flow,” M.S. thesis, Dept. Electron. Eng., Osaka Univ., Osaka, Japan, 1993.

*Basic format for the most common types of unpublished references:*

1. J. K. Author, private communication, Abbrev. Month, year.
2. J. K. Author, “Title of paper,” unpublished.
3. J. K. Author, “Title of paper,” to be published.

*Examples:*

1. A. Harrison, private communication, May 1995.
2. B. Smith, “An approach to graphs of linear forms,” unpublished.
3. A. Brahms, “Representation error for real numbers in binary computer arithmetic,” IEEE Computer Group Repository, Paper R-67-85.

*Basic format for standards:*

1. *Title of Standard*, Standard number, date.

*Examples:*

1. IEEE Criteria for Class IE Electric Systems, IEEE Standard 308, 1969.
2. Letter Symbols for Quantities, ANSI Standard Y10.5-1968.

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