NAVAL PHYSICAL AND OCEANOGRAPHIC LABORATORY, DRDO

INTERNSHIP REPORT

Beamforming for Uniform Linear Arrays

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Abstract

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by S.V. RAJENDRAN

Sonar is a class of technologies that involve illuminating an sub-marine environmen with an acoustic signal, recording the returns (echoes) and estimating task-specific characteristics of the underwater environment. For oceanographic tasks, this means sea-floor topology, movement of marine life and presence of alien bodies. For defense tasks, this means detection and neuralizing of threats.

Depending on the task, the system-configuration and parameters varies. Some technologies require the hydrophones (sub-marine microphones) arranged in a uniformly spaced linear array, called ULAs. Due to the loss of elevation-information from such configurations, some technologies require the use of uniformly spaced planar array of hydrophones. And over the years, designing application specific hydrophone arrays are not unheard of. However, uniform linear arrays are ubuiquitous, and shall be the focus of this report.

However, a uniform linear array is the norm when working with sonar. A towed array sonar is a technology that uses this ULA attached to a moving marine-vessel, and pings the surrounding as it moves. And beamforming is the primary method used to obtain useful information from the received signal.

Beamforming is a linear method of combining recorded signals to obtain spatial information in regards to the immediate environment. This method is used in technologies ranging from simple direction-of-arrival estimation all the way to more advanced synthetic-aperture-sonar implementations. We shall be sticking to topics similar to the former owing to the novice nature of this candidate. The method primarily stems from the fact that signals recorded by the sensors have some inherent delay owing to their delay in arrivals.

In this report, we deal with simulation of reception beamforming under different conditions and envionrments, with the sole intention of learning the basics and implementing beamforming.

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List of Abbreviations

SONAR	**SO**und **NA**vigation **A**nd **R**anging
RADAR	**RA**dio **D**etection **A**nd **R**anging
SNR	**S**ignal to **N**oise **R**atio
ULA	**U**niform **L**inear **A**rray

Physical Constants

Speed of Light	$c_0 = 2.997\,924\,58 \times 10^8\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$
Speed of Sound	$c = 1500\,\mathrm{m\,s^{-1}}$

List of Symbols

a	distance	m
P	power	W ($\mathrm{J\,s^{-1}}$)
ω	angular frequency	rad

For Dasher,
Labrador Retriever extraordinaire.

Introduction

SONAR is a technique that uses sound propagation to navigate, communicate with, or detect objects or or under the surface of the water. Many other methods of detecting the presence of underwater targets in the sea have been investigated such as magnetic, optical signatures, electric field signatures, thermal detection (infrared) , Hydrodynamic changes (pressure) and has had a degree of success. Unfortunately, none of them has surpassed SONAR[1] despite it possessing numerous disadvantages .

There are two types of SONAR - Passive SONAR and Active SONAR .

Passive sonar listens to sound radiated by a target using a hydrophone and detects signals against the background of noise. This noise can be self made noise or ambient noise. Self noise is generated inside the receiver and ambient noise may be a combination of sound generated by waves, turbines, marine life and many more.

Active sonar uses a projector to generate a pulse of sound whose echo is received after it gets reflected by the target. This echo contains both signal and noise, so the signal has to be detected against the background noise. The range of the target is calculated by detecting the power of the received signal and thus determining the transmission loss. The transmission loss is directly related to the distance travelled by the signal. In the case of the active sonar, half of the distance travelled by the signal to get attenuated to undergo a transmission loss detected is the range.

Beamforming is a signal processing technique that originates from the design of spatial filters into pencil shaped beams to strengthen signals in a specified direction and attenuate signals from other directions. Beamforming is applicable to either radiation or reception of energy. Here, we consider the reception part. A beamformer is a processor used along with an array to provide a versatile form of spatial filtering. It essentially performs spatial filtering to separate signals that have overlapping frequency content but generate from different spatial directions .

Background

Despite its major success in air to air detection, RADAR isn't used in sub surface identification and detection. The main reason is the radio wave is an EM wave and the sea water is highly conductive and offers an attenuation of $1400\sqrt{f}$ dB/km. This essentially means that the sea water acts a short circuit to the EM energy[1].

Even if we were to use it, to get tangible results, the target should be in short range and shouldn't be completely submerged. Contemporary submarines are nuclear and has the capacity to go deep underwater for indefinite periods. Hence RADAR is useless in subsurface application and can only used along with SONAR without bringing much to the table. Hence SONAR is the dominating method/technology when it comes to underwater detection and ranging.

Beam forming or spatial filtering is the process by which an array of large number of spatially separated sensors discriminate the signal arriving from a specified direction from a combination of isotropic random noise called ambient noise and other directional signals. In the following simulations, we deal with 32 elements separated by a distance of $\frac{\lambda}{2}$, where λ is the wavelength of the frequency for which the beamformer is designed.

The assumptions under which we perform the simulations are:

1. the noise is isotropic
2. ambient noise at the sensor-to-sensor output is uncorrelated
3. the signal at the sensor-to-sensor outputs are fully correlated .

The sensor spacing in the array is decided based on two important considerations namely, coherence of noise between sensors and formation of grating lobes in the visible region. As far as isotropic noise is concerned, the spatial coherence is zero at spacing in multiples of $\frac{\lambda}{2}$ and small at all points beyond $\frac{\lambda}{2}$. To avoid grating lobe, the spacing between sensors must be less than $\frac{\lambda}{2}$. Hence $\frac{\lambda}{2}$ is chosen as the distance between two elements in the array.

We also assume that the source is far away so as a result, the wave fronts are parallel straight lines. Since the source would be at an angle relative to the axis, the wavefront reaches each element with varying delay. As a result, the output of each element will have a phase delay from each other

Using the above figure, we can calculate the corresponding delay of each element. This will help us in determining to what degree we would have to delay the element

outputs to obtain all the outputs of elements in co phase. Once the outputs are made in-phase, they are added. For an M element array, the co-phase addition increases the signal power N^2 times and the uncorrelated noise power N times. Thus the SNR is enhanced by N times.

By changing the delays of the element's output, we can "steer" the setup to give the gain to signals coming from a certain direction. This is called beam steering and is one of the most attractive features of a beamformer. However, as one 'steers' a beamformer, the width of the main lobe goes on increasing because the effective length of the array decreases.

In our simulation, we create a matrix with the columns corresponding to the output of each element for a source at a certain angle. The noise is then added. This is the output of the elements in the array. This is the basic setup. The array is then manipulated or used as input for other array manipulations to obtain the solution to the problem/objective posed.

Let the source signal be $s(k)$. The output of the elements are time-shifted versions of $s(k)$. So, for an element 'i', the output signal would be

$$y(k) = s[k - \tau_i(\theta)]$$

Using the fourier transform, we get

$$Y_i(\omega, \theta) = e^{-j\omega\tau_i(\theta)} S[\omega]$$

where

- $\tau_i(\theta) = \frac{d_m \cos(\theta)}{c} F_s$
- d_m the distance between the element considered and the element where the wavefront first strikes.
- θ the angle the rays make with the array axis
- c speed of sound in the water
- F_s The sampling frequency of the hydrophones/sensors

Steering Vector

Now, we need to construct a steering vector.

$$d(\omega, \theta) = [1, e^{-j\omega\tau_2(\theta)}, e^{-j\omega\tau_3(\theta)}, e^{-j\omega\tau_4(\theta)}, ..., e^{-j\omega\tau_M(\theta)}]$$

To obtain the element output, we multiply this matrix with the signal function.

$$\mathbf{Y}(\omega,\theta) = d(\omega,\theta)S[\omega]$$

The output signal is given by

$$\begin{aligned} Z(\omega,\theta) &= \sum_{i=1}^{M} F_i^{\star}(\omega)Y_i(\omega,\theta) \\ &= F^H(\omega)Y(\omega,\theta) \end{aligned}$$

where F^H is the matrix containing the complex weights

Complex Radiation Field

The complex radiation field produced by a linear array of N passive receivers is given by

$$Z(\omega,\theta) = \frac{1}{M}\sum_{m=1}^{M} s(\omega)e^{-j(m-1)\frac{\omega d}{c}(\cos(\theta)-\cos(\phi))}$$

Chapter 1

Single-sensor signal simulation

1.1 Aim

Here, a sine wave is created and simulated to replicate the conditions in beamforming and to see the output of a single element in the array. The noise is added by processing the SNR parameter. The changes are then observed by changing SNR. The changes are observed in both time and frequency domain. The change in time domain is observed by plotting amplitude vs time. The change in frequency domain is observed by first taking fourier transform and then plotting absolute value vs frequency.

1.2 Plots

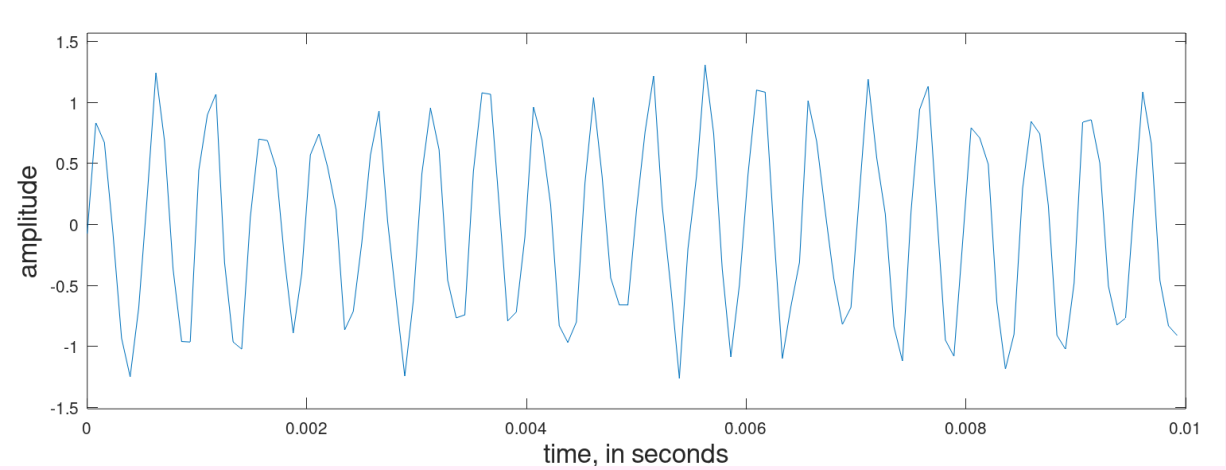

FIGURE 1.1: Time Domain Representation of Signal

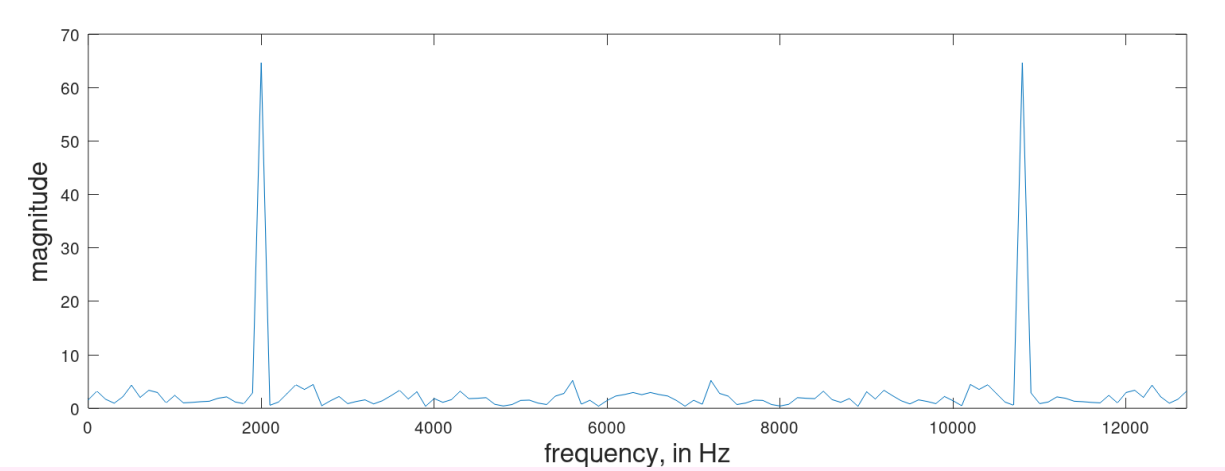

FIGURE 1.2: Magnitude of DFT of input-signal

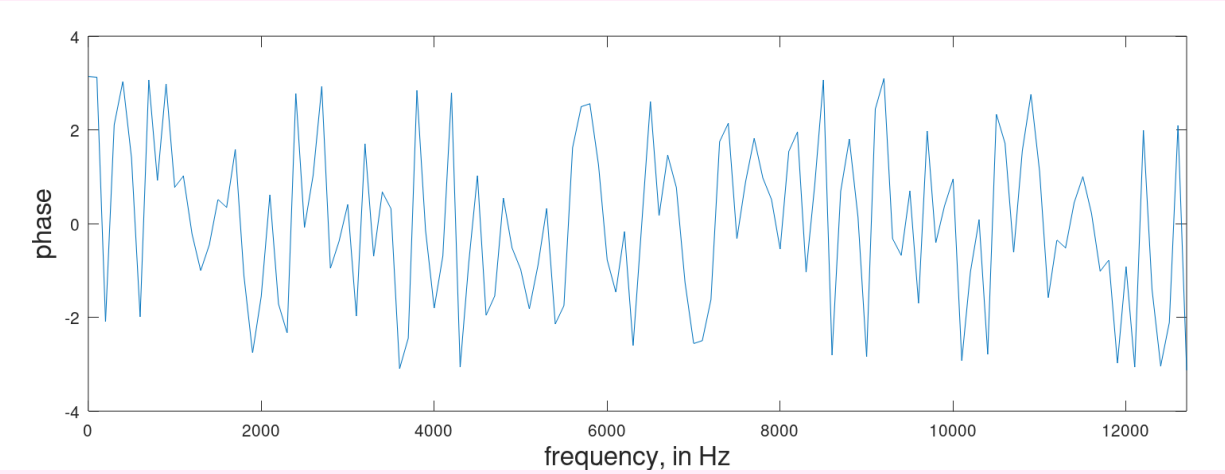

FIGURE 1.3: Phase of DFT of input-signal

1.3 C++ Code

```
// ================================================================================
#include "include/before.hpp"
// main-file ======================================================================
int main(){

    // starting timer
    auto logfile    {string("../csv-files/logfile.csv")};
    Timer timer(logfile);

    // init-variables
    auto f          {2000};                                     // frequency of
    signal
    auto Fs         {12800};                                    // sampling
    frequency
    auto Ts         {1/static_cast<double>(Fs)};                // corresponding
    time-period
    auto N          {128};                                      // num-samples

```

```
    auto snr        {10};                                       // signal-to-noise
    ratio
    auto snrweight  {std::pow(10, (-1 * snr * 0.05))};          // corresponding
    weight

    // building time-array
    vector<double> t(N,0); t.reserve(N);
    t = linspace(0.0, static_cast<double>(N-1), static_cast<size_t>(N)) * Ts;
    fWriteVector(t, "../csv-files/t-Objective1.csv");

    // creating sine-wave
    auto y = t;
    std::transform(t.begin(),
                   t.end(),
                   y.begin(),
                   [&](const auto x){return std::sin( 2 * std::numbers::pi * f *
    x);});

    // adding noise to the vector
    auto newmat     {y + snrweight * rand(-1.0, 1.0, y.size())};
    auto timeaxis   {linspace(static_cast<double>(0),
                              static_cast<double>((N-1)*Ts),
                              N)};
    fWriteVector(timeaxis,  "../csv-files/timeaxis-Objective1.csv");
    fWriteVector(newmat,    "../csv-files/newmat-Objective1.csv");

    // Taking the fourier transform
    auto nfft       {N};
    auto fend       {static_cast<double>((nfft-1) * Fs) /
    static_cast<double>(nfft)};
    auto waxis      {linspace(static_cast<double>(0),
                              static_cast<double>(fend),
                              nfft)};
    auto Fourier    {fft(newmat)};
    fWriteVector(waxis,     "../csv-files/waxis-Objective1.csv");
    fWriteVector(Fourier,   "../csv-files/Fourier-Objective1.csv");

    // return
    return(0);

}
```

1.4 Octave Code

```
%% Basic Setup
clc; clear all; close all;
addpath("./include/")

%% Loading the files
timeaxis    = csvread("../csv-files/timeaxis-Objective1.csv");
newmat      = csvread("../csv-files/newmat-Objective1.csv");
waxis       = csvread("../csv-files/waxis-Objective1.csv");
newmatfft   = fReadCSV("../csv-files/Fourier-Objective1.csv");
```

```
10
11 %% Plotting
12 plotwidth   = 1515;
13 plotheight  = 500;
14
15 figure(1)
16 set(gcf, 'Position', [0 0 plotwidth plotheight]);   % [left bottom width height]
17 plot(timeaxis, newmat);
18 xlabel("time, in seconds",  "fontsize", 16);
19 ylabel("amplitude",         "fontsize", 16);
20 ylim([1.2 * min(newmat), 1.2 * max(newmat)]);
21 saveas(gcf, "../Figures/y-objective1.png");
22
23 figure(2);
24 set(gcf, 'Position', [0 0 plotwidth plotheight]);   % [left bottom width height]
25 plot(waxis, abs(newmatfft) );
26 xlabel("frequency, in Hz",  "fontsize", 16);
27 ylabel("magnitude",         "fontsize", 16);
28 xlim([min(waxis), max(waxis)]);
29 saveas(gcf, "../Figures/abs-yfft-objective1.png");
30
31 figure(3);
32 set(gcf, 'Position', [0 0 plotwidth plotheight]);   % [left bottom width height]
33 plot(waxis, angle(newmatfft) );
34 xlabel("frequency, in Hz",  "fontsize", 16);
35 ylabel("phase",             "fontsize", 16);
36 xlim([min(waxis), max(waxis)]);
37 saveas(gcf, "../Figures/phase-yfft-objective1.png");
```

Appendix A

C++ Function Definitions

A.1 before.hpp

```cpp
// including header-files
#include <algorithm>
#include <complex>
#include <bitset>
#include <climits>
#include <cstddef>
#include <iostream>
#include <limits>
#include <map>
#include <new>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <unordered_map>
#include <vector>
#include <set>
#include <numeric>
#include <fstream>
#include <numbers>
#include <cmath>
#include <random>

// custom definitions
#include "hashdefines.hpp"
#include "usings.hpp"
#include "DataStructureDefinitions.hpp"
#include "PrintContainers.hpp"
#include "TimerClass.hpp"
#include "utils.hpp"
```

A.2 utils.hpp

```cpp
// ================================================================================
#include "svr_WriteToCSV.hpp"
// ================================================================================
template <typename F, typename R>
```

```
constexpr auto fElementWise(F&& func, R& range){
    std::transform(std::begin(range),
                   std::end(range),
                   std::begin(range),
                   std::forward<F>(func));
    // return range;
}
// ============================================================================
#include "svr_repmat.hpp"
// ============================================================================
auto SineElementWise(auto& input, auto constantvalue){
    for(auto& x: input) {x = std::sin(constantvalue * x);}
    // replace this with std::transform
};
// ============================================================================
#include "svr_linspace.hpp"
// ============================================================================
#include "svr_fft.hpp"
// ============================================================================
template <typename T>
auto abs(vector<complex<T>> inputvector){
    vector<T> temp(inputvector.size(), 0);
    std::transform(temp.begin(),
                   temp.end(),
                   temp.begin(),
                   [](T a){return std::abs(a);});
    return temp;
}
// ============================================================================
#include "svr_rand.hpp"
// ============================================================================
#include "svr_operator_star.hpp"
// ============================================================================
#include "svr_operators.hpp"
// ============================================================================
#include "svr_tensor_inits.hpp"
// ============================================================================
#include "svr_sin.hpp"
// ============================================================================
#include "svr_slice.hpp"
// ============================================================================
#include "svr_matrix_operations.hpp"
// ============================================================================
#include <boost/type_index.hpp>
template <typename T>
auto type(T inputarg){
    std::cout <<
    boost::typeindex::type_id_with_cvr<decltype(inputarg)>().pretty_name()<< "\n";
}
```

A.3 hashdefines.hpp

```
// hash-deinfes
```

```
#define PRINTSPACE  std::cout << "\n\n\n\n" << std::endl;
#define PRINTLINE   std::cout << "================================================"
    << std::endl;
```

A.4 usings.hpp

```
// borrowing from namespace std
using std::cout;
using std::complex;
using std::endl;
using std::vector;
using std::string;
using std::unordered_map;
using std::map;
using std::format;
using std::deque;
using std::pair;
using std::min;
using std::max;
using namespace std::complex_literals;
```

A.5 DataStructureDefinitions.hpp

```
struct TreeNode {
    int val;
    TreeNode *left;
    TreeNode *right;
    TreeNode() : val(0), left(nullptr), right(nullptr) {}
    TreeNode(int x) : val(x), left(nullptr), right(nullptr) {}
    TreeNode(int x, TreeNode *left, TreeNode *right) : val(x), left(left),
    right(right) {}
};


struct ListNode {
    int val;
    ListNode *next;
    ListNode() : val(0), next(nullptr) {}
    ListNode(int x) : val(x), next(nullptr) {}
    ListNode(int x, ListNode *next) : val(x), next(next) {}
};
```

A.6 PrintContainers.hpp

```cpp
// vector printing function
template<typename T>
void fPrintVector(vector<T> input){
    for(auto x: input) cout << x << ",";
    cout << endl;
}

template<typename T>
void fpv(vector<T> input){
    for(auto x: input) cout << x << ",";
    cout << endl;
}

template<typename T>
void fPrintMatrix(vector<T> input){
    for(auto x: input){
        for(auto y: x){
            cout << y << ",";
        }
        cout << endl;
    }
}

template<typename T, typename T1>
void fPrintHashmap(unordered_map<T, T1> input){
    for(auto x: input){
        cout << format("[{},{}] | ", x.first, x.second);
    }
    cout <<endl;
}

void fPrintBinaryTree(TreeNode* root){
    // sending it back
    if (root == nullptr) return;

    // printing
    PRINTLINE
    cout << "root->val = " << root->val << endl;

    // calling the children
    fPrintBinaryTree(root->left);
    fPrintBinaryTree(root->right);

    // returning
    return;

}

void fPrintLinkedList(ListNode* root){
    if (root == nullptr) return;
    cout << root->val << " -> ";
    fPrintLinkedList(root->next);
    return;
}

template<typename T>
```

```
void fPrintContainer(T input){
    for(auto x: input) cout << x << ", ";
    cout << endl;
    return;
}
// ================================================================================
template <typename T>
auto size(std::vector<std::vector<T>> inputMatrix){
    cout << format("[{}, {}]\n", inputMatrix.size(), inputMatrix[0].size());
}

template <typename T>
auto size(const std::string inputstring, std::vector<std::vector<T>> inputMatrix){
    cout << format("{} = [{}, {}]\n", inputstring, inputMatrix.size(),
    inputMatrix[0].size());
}
```

A.7 TimerClass.hpp

```
struct Timer
{
    std::chrono::time_point<std::chrono::high_resolution_clock> startpoint;
    std::chrono::time_point<std::chrono::high_resolution_clock> endpoint;
    std::chrono::duration<long long, std::nano>                 duration;
    std::string                                                 filename;
    std::string                                                 functionname;

    // constructor
    Timer()         {start();}
    Timer(std::string logfile_arg): filename(std::move(logfile_arg)) {start();}
    Timer(std::string logfile_arg,
          std::string func_arg): filename(std::move(logfile_arg)),
                                 functionname(std::move(func_arg))  {start();}

    void start()    {startpoint = std::chrono::high_resolution_clock::now();}
    void stop()     {endpoint   = std::chrono::high_resolution_clock::now();
    fetchtime();}

    void fetchtime(){
        duration = std::chrono::duration_cast<std::chrono::nanoseconds>(endpoint -
    startpoint);
        cout << format("{}  nanoseconds \n", duration.count());
    }
    void fetchtime(string stringarg){
        duration = std::chrono::duration_cast<std::chrono::nanoseconds>(endpoint -
    startpoint);
        cout << format("{} took {}  nanoseconds \n", stringarg, duration.count());
    }
    void measure(){
        auto temp = std::chrono::high_resolution_clock::now();
        auto nsduration  =
    std::chrono::duration_cast<std::chrono::nanoseconds>(temp - startpoint);
```

```
30          auto msduration  =
    std::chrono::duration_cast<std::chrono::microseconds>(temp - startpoint);
31          auto sduration   = std::chrono::duration_cast<std::chrono::seconds>(temp -
    startpoint);
32          cout << format("{} nanoseconds | {} microseconds | {} seconds \n",
33              nsduration.count(), msduration.count(), sduration.count());
34      }
35      ~Timer(){
36          auto temp = std::chrono::high_resolution_clock::now();
37          auto nsduration  =
    std::chrono::duration_cast<std::chrono::nanoseconds>(temp - startpoint);
38          auto msduration  =
    std::chrono::duration_cast<std::chrono::microseconds>(temp - startpoint);
39          auto milliduration =
    std::chrono::duration_cast<std::chrono::milliseconds>(temp - startpoint);
40          auto sduration   = std::chrono::duration_cast<std::chrono::seconds>(temp -
    startpoint);
41          PRINTLINE
42          cout << format("{} nanoseconds | {} microseconds | {} milliseconds | {}
    seconds \n",
43              nsduration.count(), msduration.count(), milliduration.count(),
    sduration.count());
44
45          // writing to the file
46          if (!filename.empty()){
47              std::ofstream fileobj(filename, std::ios::app);
48              if (fileobj){
49                  if (functionname.empty()){
50                      fileobj << "main" << "," << nsduration.count() << "," <<
    msduration.count() << "," << sduration.count() << "\n";
51                  }
52                  else{
53                      fileobj << functionname << "," << nsduration.count() << "," <<
    msduration.count() << "," << sduration.count() << "\n";
54                  }
55              }
56          }
57      }
58  };
```

Appendix B

Octave Function Definitions

B.1 fReadCSV.m

```
function finalmatrix = fReadCSV(filename_string)
    entire_text             = fileread(filename_string);
    total_num_characters    = numel(entire_text);
    p1                      = 1;
    p2                      = 1;
    currentry               = "";
    currline                = [];
    finalmatrix             = [];

    while(p2 <= total_num_characters)

        curr_char = entire_text(p2);

        if(curr_char == ',' || curr_char == "\n")
            curr_entry  = entire_text(p1:p2-1);
            currline    = [currline, str2num(curr_entry)];

            if (curr_char == "\n")
                finalmatrix = [finalmatrix; currline];
                currline    = [];
            end

            p1 = p2 + 1;
        end
        p2 += 1;
    end
end
```