

## The Preliminary Study on Spatial Correlation of Ocean Sound Field

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### Abstract

The sound field temporal correlation and spatial correlation, which are the foundation of the investigation of underwater signal space-time high-order characteristics, have important value in the underwater acoustic application. The spatial correlation is studied based on the shallow water acoustic propagation experiment data acquired in the northern South China Sea in 2017, and the deep water acoustic propagation experiment data acquired in the western Pacific in 2013. As for the explosive sound signals in shallow water, time domain waveform cross-correlation coefficients between signals from different propagation distance are calculated. In contrast, the linear frequency modulated signals in deep water need additional matched filtering. The signal processing results shows that, the overall spatial correlation is poor and the correlation radius is relatively small in shallow water, the convergence zone has an obviously better spatial correlation than the shadow zone for the deep water situation. The processing result is verified by simulation and analysis.

**Key words:** Spatial Correlation, Ocean Sound Field, Shallow Water and Deep Water

### I. INTRODUCTION

With the method of computing ocean sound field becoming more and more accurate, the spatial characteristics of sound field, which are very important in the underwater acoustic application, are increasingly concerned. Spatial correlation is consisted of the horizontal transverse correlation, the horizontal longitudinal correlation and the vertical correlation. The horizontal longitudinal correlation depends on the multipath or multimode propagation and the random fluctuation of medium. The vertical correlation depends on the multipath or multimode propagation. In the paper, experimental and numerical research shows some characteristics of the horizontal longitudinal correlation.

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### II. THEORY

#### A. Correlation Coefficient

Correlation coefficient between two signals can be expressed the maximum absolute value of delay correlation between two signals, and the delay correlation can be expressed as follow:

$$COR(P_1, P_2, \tau) = \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} P_1(t)P_2^*(t-\tau)dt}{\sqrt{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |P_1(t)|^2 dt \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |P_2(t)|^2 dt}}. \quad (1)$$

In equation 1,  $\tau$  represents time delay,  $P$  represents sound pressure,  $COR(P_1, P_2, \tau)$  represents delay correlation between sound pressure  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ ,  $t$  represents time.

#### B. Method of Data Processing

In order to get the correlation coefficient between two signals, the procedures includes two steps as follow.

##### ① Determination of time delay

In the first step, the time delay between two signals can be determined by take the maximum value of time domain correlation.

##### ② Wave form correlation coefficient

In the second step, the two signals are shifted to the maximum agreement according the time delay. Then the wave form correlation coefficient is calculated as the correlation coefficient between the two signals.

### III. EXPERIMENT

#### A. Shallow Water Experiment

A shallow water acoustical experiment was performed in the northern South China Sea in 2017. Explosive charges [100-g charges of trinitrotoluene (TNT)] were used as the sources. The source depth was 50 m below the sea surface. The bathymetry was almost flat between the source and receiver, the mean water depth was 120 m. The received signals was recorded by a 19-element, 85m-length vertical line array.

Figure 1 and figure 2 show the normalized waveform of the signals recorded by the first and second hydrophones, and the source range recorded by the Global Position System (GPS) was 10.1 km. Figure 3 and figure 4 show the normalized waveform of the signals recorded by the first and second hydrophones, and the source range recorded by the Global Position System (GPS) was 100.2 km. According to the waveforms, all signals in different range had high signal to noise ratio.

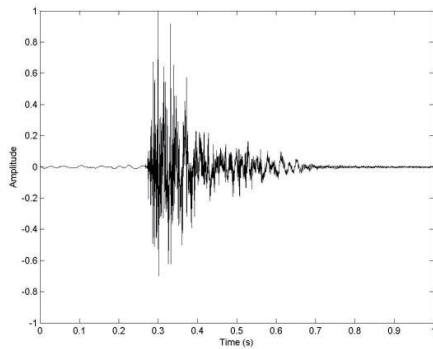


Fig. 1 Normalized waveform of the signal emitted at 10.1 km range recorded by the first hydrophone.

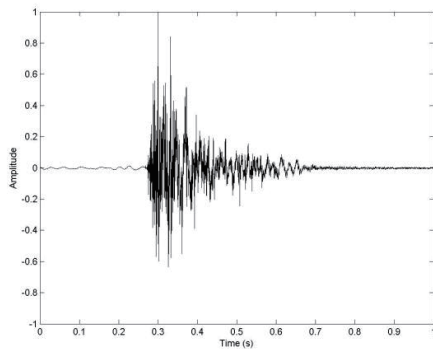


Fig. 2 Normalized waveform of the signal emitted at 10.1 km range recorded by the second hydrophone.

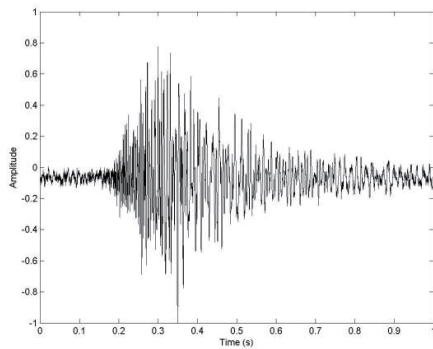


Fig. 3 Normalized waveform of the signal emitted at 100.1 km range by the first hydrophone.

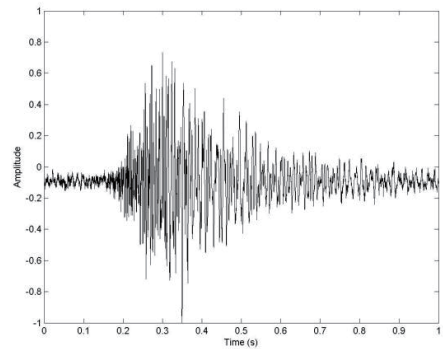


Fig. 4 Normalized waveform of the signal emitted at 100.2 km range by the second hydrophone.

Figure 5 and figure 6 show the correlation coefficient between the signals from different ranges recorded by the first and second hydrophone. According to the results, the correlation coefficient between received explosive sound signals are relatively poor in shallow water, and the correlation radius is relatively small.

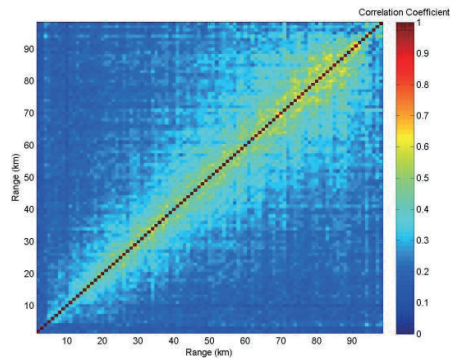


Fig. 5 Correlation coefficient between the signals from different ranges recorded by the first hydrophone.

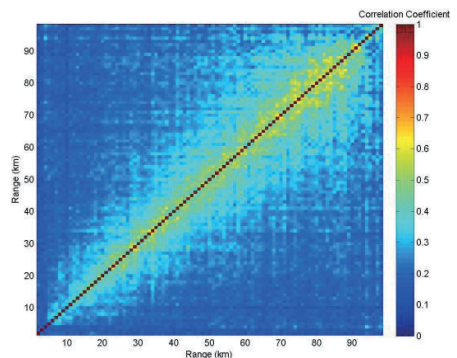


Fig. 6 Correlation coefficient between the signals from different ranges recorded by the second hydrophone.

Figure 7 shows the correlation coefficient of the signals recorded by the first and second hydrophone. According to figure 7, the correlation coefficient between two hydrophones is very good.

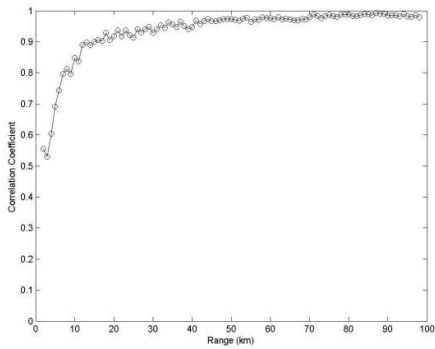


Fig. 7 Correlation coefficient of the signals recorded by the first and second hydrophone.

### *B. Deep Water Experiment*

A deep water acoustical experiment was performed in the western Pacific in 2013. Towed transducer was used as the sources. Linear frequency modulation (LFM) signal, which's frequency changed from 260 Hz to 360 Hz linearly, was emitted once per 160 seconds as the source signal. The source depth was 100 m below the sea surface. The bathymetry was almost flat between the source and receiver, the mean water depth was 5100 m. The received signals was recorded by a 20-element vertical line array.

Figure 8, figure 9, figure 10 and figure 11 show the normalized waveform of the signals, and the source range recorded by the Global Position System (GPS) was 2.1 km, 10.3 km, 62.2 km and 70.1 km. According to the waveforms, all signals in different range had high signal to noise ratio.

Figure 12 shows the correlation coefficient between signals from different ranges. According to the results, the convergence zone has an obviously better spatial correlation than the shadow zone for the deep water situation. Besides, there is a strong correlation between the first convergence zone and the second convergence zone.

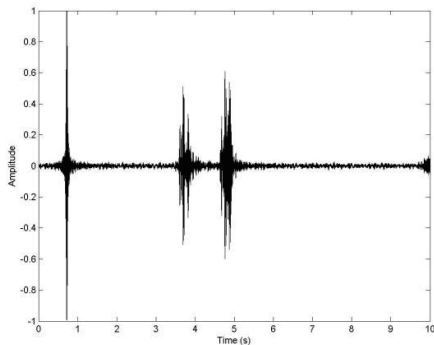


Fig. 8 Normalized waveform of the signal emitted at 2.1 km range.

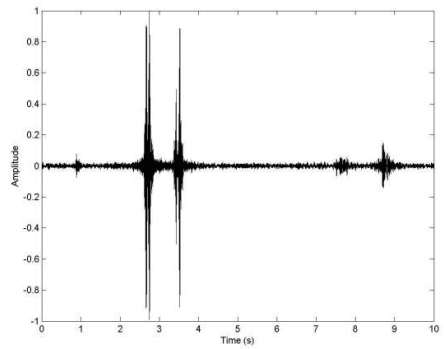


Fig. 9 Normalized waveform of the signal emitted at 10.3 km range.

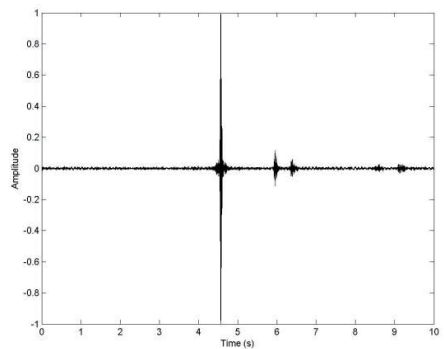


Fig. 10 Normalized waveform of the signal emitted at 62.2 km range.

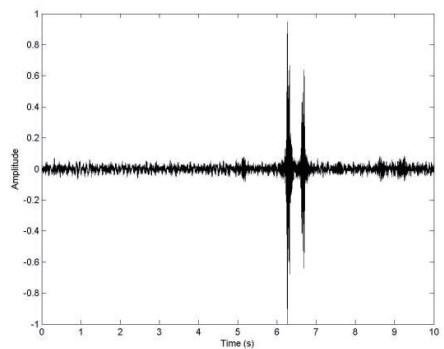


Fig. 11 Normalized waveform of the signal emitted at 70.1 km range.

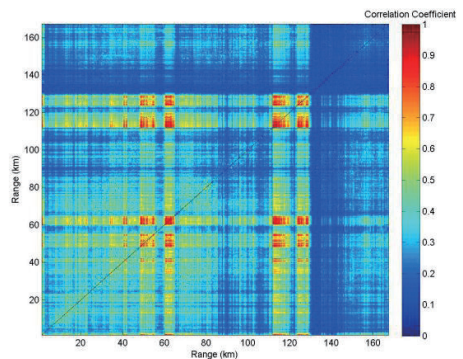


Fig. 12 Correlation coefficient between the signals from different

ranges.

#### IV. SIMULATION

Figure 13 shows the measured sound speed profile. There is a strong negative thermocline between the depths of 20 m and 120 m, and the channel axis locates at the depth of 1000 m. Figure 14 shows the simulated two-dimensional acoustic transmission loss based on the ray simulation model, and there is a typical deep water sound field distribution with the structure of convergence zones and shadow zones. Figure 15 shows the simulated acoustic transmission loss curve at the depth of 971.4 m, the first convergence zone locates at the range between 50 km and 70 km, and the second convergence zone locates at the range between 110 km and 130 km. The locations of convergence zones in figure 15 agree with the locations of high correlation in figure 12. According to the simulation, without the contact with the sea bottom, the signals in convergence zone retain high correlation. However, the signals' correlation diminishes rapidly in shadow zone because of the contacts with the sea bottom.

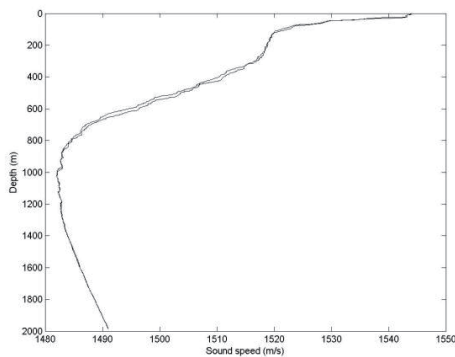


Fig. 13 Measured sound speed profile.

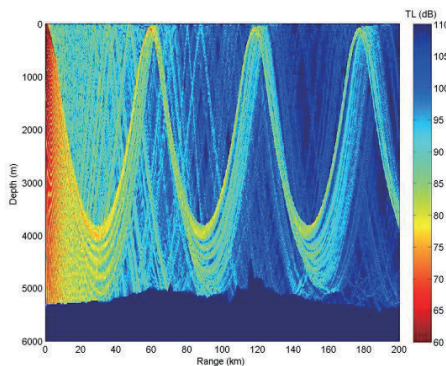


Fig. 14 Simulated two-dimensional acoustic transmission loss.

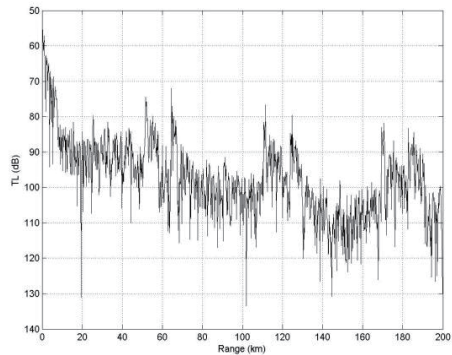


Fig. 15 Simulated acoustic transmission loss curve.

#### V. CONCLUSION

In this paper, experimental research shows that the correlation coefficient of sound field in shallow water and deep water. In the shallow water, the correlation coefficient between received explosive sound signals are relatively poor, and the correlation radius is relatively small. In the deep water, the convergence zone has an obviously better spatial correlation than the shadow zone, and there is a strong correlation among different convergence zones. Based on the comparison between the experiment and the simulation, the spatial correlation diminishes rapidly because of the contacts with the sea bottom, either at shallow water and deep water.

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