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Spatially pre-processed speech distortion weighted multi-channel Wiener filtering for noise reduction [1]

Ann Spriet[2], Marc Moonen[3] ,Jan Wouters[4]

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[1]This report is available by anonymous ftp from *ftp.esat.kuleuven.ac.be* in the directory *pub/sista/spriet/reports/03-46.pdf*

[2]K.U.Leuven, Dept. of Electrical Engineering (ESAT), SISTA, Kasteelpark Arenberg 10, 3001 Leuven-Heverlee, Belgium, Tel. 32/16/32 18 99, Fax 32/16/32 19 70, WWW: *http://www.esat.kuleuven.ac.be/sista*. E-mail: *ann.spriet@esat.kuleuven.ac.be*. K.U.Leuven, Lab. Exp. ORL/ ENT-Dept., Kapucijnenvoer 33, 3000 Leuven, Belgium, Tel. 32/16/33 24 15, Fax 32/16/33 23 35, WWW: *http://www.kuleuven.ac.be/exporl/Lab/Default.htm*. Ann Spriet is a Research Assistant supported by the Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (FWO) - Vlaanderen. This research work was carried out at the ESAT laboratory and Lab. Exp. ORL of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, in the the frame of the Belgian State, Prime Minister's Office - Federal Office for Scientific, Technical and Cultural Affairs - Interuniversity Poles of Attraction Programme (2002-2007) - IUAP P5/22 ('Dynamical Systems and Control: Computation, Identification and Modelling'), the Concerted Research Action GOA-MEFISTO-666 (Mathematical Engineering for Information and Communication Systems Technology) of the Flemish Government, Research Project FWO nr.G.0233.01 ('Signal processing and automatic patient fitting for advanced auditory prostheses'), IWT project 020540: 'Innovative Speech Processing Algorithms for Improved Performance of Cochlear Implants' and was partially sponsored by Cochlear. The scientific responsibility is assumed by its authors.

[3]K.U.Leuven, Dept. of Electrical Engineering (ESAT), SISTA, Kasteelpark Arenberg 10, 3001 Heverlee, Belgium, Tel. 32/16/32 17 09, Fax 32/16/32 19 70, WWW: *http://www.esat.kuleuven.ac.be/sista*. E-mail: *marc.moonen@esat.kuleuven.ac.be*. Marc Moonen is a professor at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven.

[4]K.U.Leuven, Lab. Exp. ORL, Dept. Neurowetenschappen, Kapucijnenvoer 33, 3000 Leuven, Belgium, Tel. 32/16/33 23 42, Fax 32/16/33 23 35, WWW: *http://www.kuleuven.ac.be/exporl/Lab/Default.htm* E-mail: *jan.wouters@uz.kuleuven.ac.be*. Jan Wouters is a professor at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven.

Spatially pre-processed speech distortion weighted multi-channel Wiener filtering for noise reduction

A. Spriet [a,b,*], M. Moonen [a] and J. Wouters [b]

[a] *KU Leuven, ESAT/ SCD-SISTA, Kasteelpark Arenberg 10, B-3001 Leuven-Heverlee, BELGIUM*

[b] *KU Leuven, ENT-Dept./ Lab. Exp. ORL, Kapucijnenvoer 33, B-3000 Leuven, BELGIUM*

Abstract

In this paper, we establish a generalized noise reduction scheme, called the Spatially Pre-processed Speech Distortion Weighted Multi-channel Wiener Filter (SP-SDW-MWF), that encompasses the Generalized Sidelobe Canceller (GSC) and a recently developed Multi-channel Wiener Filtering technique (MWF) as extreme cases. In addition, the scheme allows for in-between solutions such as the Speech Distortion Regularized GSC (SDR-GSC). The SDR-GSC adds robustness against signal model errors to the GSC by taking speech distortion explicitly into account in the design criterion of the adaptive stage. Compared to the widely studied GSC with Quadratic Inequality Constraint (QIC-GSC), the SDR-GSC achieves better noise reduction for small model errors, while guaranteeing robustness against large model errors. In addition, the extra filtering of the speech reference signal in the SP-SDW-MWF further improves the performance. In the absence of model errors and for infinite filter lengths, the SP-SDW-MWF corresponds to a cascade of an SDR-GSC with a speech distortion weighted single-channel Wiener filter. In contrast to the SDR-GSC and the QIC-GSC, its performance does not degrade due to microphone mismatch.

Key words: multi-microphone noise reduction, speech enhancement, robust adaptive beamforming, multi-channel Wiener filter, generalized sidelobe canceller
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* Corresponding Author. Tel.: +32-16-321795; Fax: +32-16-321970
Email addresses: ann.spriet@esat.kuleuven.ac.be (A. Spriet), marc.moonen@esat.kuleuven.ac.be (M. Moonen), jan.wouters@uz.kuleuven.ac.be (J. Wouters).

1 Introduction

In speech communication applications, such as teleconferencing, hands-free telephony and hearing aids, the presence of background noise and/or reverberation may significantly reduce the intelligibility of the desired speech signal. This stems from the large distance between the speaker and the microphone(s). Hence, the use of a noise reduction algorithm is necessary. Multi-microphone systems exploit spatial information in addition to temporal and spectral information of the desired signal and noise signal and are thus preferred to single-microphone procedures (such as spectral subtraction).

A widely studied multi-channel adaptive noise reduction algorithm is the *Generalized Sidelobe Canceller* (GSC) [1]-[9]. The GSC consists of a fixed, spatial preprocessor, which includes a fixed beamformer and a blocking matrix, and an Adaptive Noise Canceller (ANC). The ANC should minimize the output noise power while the blocking matrix is designed to avoid so-called speech leakage into the noise references. The standard GSC assumes the desired speaker location, the microphone characteristics and positions to be known, and reflections of the speech signal to be absent. If these assumptions are satisfied, it provides an undistorted enhanced speech signal with minimum residual noise. However, in reality these assumptions are often violated, resulting in so-called speech leakage and hence speech distortion. To limit speech distortion, the ANC is adapted during periods of noise-only [5,8,10,11]. When used in combination with small-sized arrays, e.g., in hearing aid applications, an additional robustness constraint [7,8,12–14] is required to guarantee performance in the presence of small errors in the assumed signal model, such as microphone mismatch [15]. However, this constraint goes at the expense of less noise reduction [15].

In [16]-[19], a *Multi-channel Wiener Filtering* (MWF) technique has been proposed that provides a Minimum Mean Square Error (MMSE) estimate of the speech component in one of the received microphone signals. In contrast to the ANC of the GSC, the MWF is able to take speech distortion into account in its optimization criterion. The MMSE optimization criterion can also be generalized to allow for a trade-off between speech distortion and noise reduction [17]. We will refer to this generalization as Speech Distortion Weighted MWF (SDW-MWF). In [16–18], (recursive) implementations of the (SDW-)MWF have been proposed based on a Generalized Singular Value Decomposition (GSVD) or a QR Decomposition (QRD) of an input data matrix and a noise data matrix. A subband implementation [19] results in improved intelligibility at a significantly lower cost compared to the fullband approach, making it suitable for, e.g., hearing aids. The MWF technique is uniquely based on estimates of the second order statistics of the recorded speech signal and the noise signal. A robust speech detection is thus (again) needed. In contrast to the GSC, the MWF does not make any a priori assumptions about the signal model so that no or a less severe robustness constraint is needed to guarantee

performance when used in combination with small-sized arrays [15]. Especially in complex noise scenarios such as multiple noise sources or diffuse noise, the MWF outperforms the GSC, even when the GSC is supplemented with a robustness constraint [15].

In this paper, we establish a common framework for the GSC and SDW-MWF. We show that both algorithms can be integrated into one generalized scheme. This scheme consists of a fixed, spatial pre-processor and an adaptive stage that is based on an SDW-MWF, hence the name *Spatially Pre-processed Speech Distortion Weighted Multi-channel Wiener Filter (SP-SDW-MWF)*. The SP-SDW-MWF encompasses the GSC and the (SDW-)MWF as extreme cases. Hence, it allows to understand the differences and links between the two algorithms more thoroughly. In addition, an in-between solution is found where -like in the GSC- no filtering is applied on the speech reference. This solution can be interpreted as a Speech Distortion Regularized GSC (SDR-GSC): the ANC design criterion is then supplemented with a regularization term that limits speech distortion due to signal model errors. In the literature, the robustness of the GSC against errors in the assumed signal model is often increased by imposing an Quadratic Inequality Constraint (QIC) on the ANC filters [7,8,11–13], at the expense of noise reduction. We show that the SDR-GSC -in contrast to the QIC-GSC- guarantees robustness at large signal model errors while less affecting the noise reduction performance in the presence of small model errors. In addition, the extra filtering of the speech reference signal in the SP-SDW-MWF further improves the performance that is achieved by the SDR-GSC and the QIC-GSC in the presence of signal model errors.

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 briefly reviews the GSC and the QIC-GSC. Section 3 reviews the SDW-MWF technique. In Section 4, we show how both algorithms can be integrated into one generalized scheme, called the Spatially Pre-processed SDW-MWF, with the GSC, the SDR-GSC and the SDW-MWF as particular cases. Section 5 evaluates the performance of the SP-SDW-MWF and its sensitivity to signal model errors for different parameter settings and compares it with the QIC-GSC. In the experiments, we focus on the case of small-sized arrays as used in hearing aids.

2 Generalized Sidelobe Canceller (GSC)

2.1 Concept

Figure 1 describes the concept of the GSC [2], which consists of a fixed, spatial pre-processor, i.e., a fixed beamformer $\mathbf{A}(z)$ and a blocking matrix $\mathbf{B}(z)$, and an

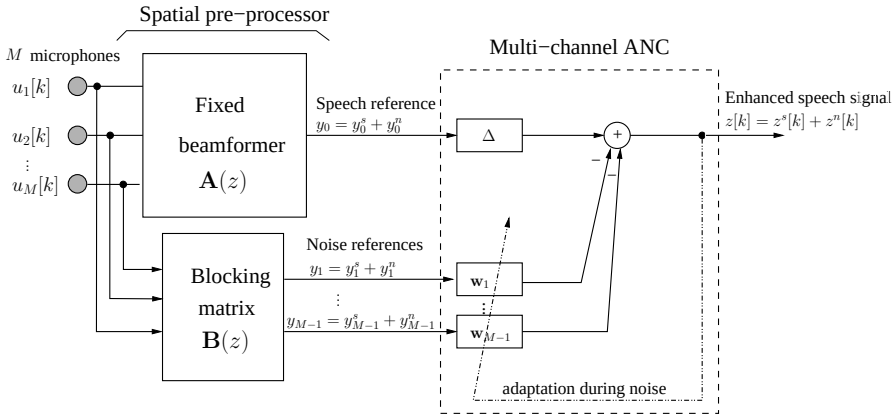


Fig. 1. Concept of the Generalized Sidelobe Canceller.

ANC. Given M microphone signals

$$u_i[k] = u_i^s[k] + u_i^n[k],\ i = 1,\ ...,\ M \tag{1}$$

with $u_i^s[k]$ the desired speech contribution and $u_i^n[k]$ the noise contribution, the fixed beamformer $\mathbf{A}(z)$ creates a so-called speech reference

$$y_0[k] = y_0^s[k] + y_0^n[k], \tag{2}$$

by steering a beam towards the direction of the desired signal, with a speech contribution $y_0^s[k]$ and a noise contribution $y_0^n[k]$. In the sequel an endfire array is assumed and the desired speaker is assumed to be in front at $0°$. The blocking matrix $\mathbf{B}(z)$ creates $M-1$ so-called noise references

$$y_i[k] = y_i^s[k] + y_i^n[k],\ i = 1,\ ...,\ M-1 \tag{3}$$

by steering zeroes towards the front so that the noise contributions $y_i^n[k]$ are dominant compared to the speech leakage contributions $y_i^s[k]$. In the sequel, the superscripts s and n are used to refer to the speech and noise contribution of a signal. During periods of speech + noise, the references $y_i[k]$, $i = 0,\ ...,\ M-1$ contain speech + noise. During periods of noise-only, the references only consist of a noise component, i.e., $y_i[k] = y_i^n[k]$. The second order statistics of the noise signal are assumed to be sufficiently stationary so that they can be estimated during periods of noise-only.

To design the fixed spatial pre-processor, assumptions are made about the microphone characteristics, the speaker position and the microphone positions and furthermore reverberation is assumed to be absent. If these assumptions are satisfied, the noise references do not contain any speech, i.e., $y_i^s[k] = 0$, for $i = 1,\ ...,\ M-1$. However, in practice, the assumptions are often violated (e.g. due to microphone mismatch and reverberation) so that speech leaks into the noise references. To limit

the effect of such speech leakage, the ANC [1] $\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1} \in \mathbb{C}^{(M-1)L\times 1}$

$$\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}^H = \Big[\mathbf{w}_1^H \ \mathbf{w}_2^H \ ... \ \mathbf{w}_{M-1}^H \Big] \tag{4}$$

where

$$\mathbf{w}_i = \Big[w_i[0] \ w_i[1] \ ... \ w_i[L-1] \Big]^T, \tag{5}$$

is adapted during periods of noise-only [5,8,10,11]. Hence, the ANC $\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}$ minimizes the output noise power, i.e.,

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned} \mathbf{w}_{1:M-1} &= \arg\min_{\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}} \mathcal{E}\{\Big|y_0^n[k-\Delta] - \mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}^H[k]\mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^n[k]\Big|^2\}, \qquad (6)\\ &= \mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^n \mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^{n,H}\}^{-1} \mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^n y_0^{n,*}[k-\Delta]\}, \qquad (7) \end{aligned}}$$

where

$$\mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^{n,H}[k] = \Big[\mathbf{y}_1^{n,H}[k] \ \mathbf{y}_2^{n,H}[k] \ ... \ \mathbf{y}_{M-1}^{n,H}[k] \Big] \tag{8}$$

$$\mathbf{y}_i^n[k] = \Big[y_i^n[k] \ y_i^n[k-1] \ ... \ y_i^n[k-L+1] \Big]^T \tag{9}$$

and where Δ is a delay [2] applied to the speech reference to allow for non-causal taps in the filter $\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}$. The subscript $1:M-1$ in $\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}$ and $\mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}$ refers to the subscripts of the first and last channel component of the adaptive filter and input vector, respectively. In practice, the ANC is implemented using LMS or RLS updating.

Under ideal conditions ($y_i^s[k] = 0, \ i = 1, \ , \ , \ . \ M-1$), the GSC minimizes the residual noise while not distorting the desired speech signal, i.e., $z^s[k] = y_0^s[k-\Delta]$. However, when used in combination with small-sized arrays, a small error in the assumed signal model (hence $y_i^s[k] \neq 0, \ i = 1, \ ..., \ M-1$) already suffices to produce a significantly distorted output speech signal $z^s[k]$

$$z^s[k] = y_0^s[k-\Delta] - \mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}^H \mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^s[k], \tag{10}$$

even when only adapting during noise-only periods, so a robustness constraint on $\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}$ is required [15]. In addition, the fixed beamformer $\mathbf{A}(z)$ should be designed so that the distortion in the speech reference $y_0^s[k]$ is minimal for all possible model errors. In the sequel, a delay-and-sum beamformer is used. For small-sized

[1] In a time-domain implementation, the input signals of the adaptive filter $\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}$ and the filter $\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}$ are real. Hence, $\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}^H = \mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}^T$. In the sequel, the formulas are generalized to complex input signals so that they can also be applied to a subband implementation.

[2] The delay Δ is usually set to $\lceil \frac{L}{2} \rceil - 1$, where $\lceil x \rceil$ returns the smallest integer larger than or equal to x.

arrays, this beamformer offers sufficient robustness against signal model errors, as it minimizes the noise sensitivity [3] .

2.2 Quadratic Inequality Constraint (QIC-GSC)

A common approach to increase the robustness of the GSC is to apply a Quadratic Inequality Constraint (QIC) [7,8,11–13] to the ANC filters $\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}$, so that the optimization criterion (6) of the GSC is modified into

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{w}_{1:M-1} &= \arg\min_{\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}} \mathcal{E}\{\left|y_0^n[k-\Delta] - \mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}^H[k]\mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^n[k]\right|^2\} \\ &\text{subject to } \mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}^H\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1} \leq \beta^2. \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

The QIC avoids excessive growth of the filter coefficients $\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}$. Hence, it reduces the undesired speech distortion when speech leaks into the noise references. The QIC can be recursively implemented with the scaled projection algorithm [12] or by using variable loading [13].

3 Speech distortion weighted multi-channel Wiener filtering (SDW-MWF)

3.1 Concept

In [16,18,19], an MWF technique has been proposed that provides an MMSE estimate of the speech component in one of the received microphone signals. In contrast to the GSC, this filtering technique does not make any a priori assumptions about the signal model and is found to be more robust [15,16].

The MWF $\bar{\mathbf{w}}_{1:M} \in \mathbb{C}^{ML\times 1}$ minimizes the Mean Square Error (MSE) between a delayed version of the (unknown) speech component $u_i^s[k-\Delta]$ at the i-th (e.g., first) microphone signal and the sum $\bar{\mathbf{w}}_{1:M}^H\mathbf{u}_{1:M}[k]$ of the M filtered, received microphone signals, i.e.,

$$\bar{\mathbf{w}}_{1:M} = \arg\min_{\bar{\mathbf{w}}_{1:M}} \mathcal{E}\left\{\left|u_i^s[k-\Delta] - \bar{\mathbf{w}}_{1:M}^H\mathbf{u}_{1:M}[k]\right|^2\right\}, \tag{12}$$

$$= \mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{u}_{1:M}[k]\mathbf{u}_{1:M}^H[k]\}^{-1}\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{u}_{1:M}[k]u_i^{s,*}[k-\Delta]\}, \tag{13}$$

[3] The noise sensitivity is defined as the ratio of the spatially white noise gain to the gain of the desired signal [1]. Its reciprocal is often referred to as the white noise gain [12]. The noise sensitivity and the white noise gain are often used to quantify the sensitivity of an algorithm to errors in the assumed signal model [1,12].

with

$$\bar{\mathbf{w}}_{1:M}^H = \left[\bar{\mathbf{w}}_1^H \ \bar{\mathbf{w}}_2^H \ \cdots \ \bar{\mathbf{w}}_M^H \right], \tag{14}$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{w}}_i = \left[\bar{\mathbf{w}}_i[0] \ \bar{\mathbf{w}}_i[1] \ \cdots \ \bar{\mathbf{w}}_i[L-1] \right]^T, \tag{15}$$

$$\mathbf{u}_{1:M}^H[k] = \left[\mathbf{u}_1^H[k] \ \mathbf{u}_2^H[k] \ \cdots \ \mathbf{u}_M^H[k] \right], \tag{16}$$

$$\mathbf{u}_i[k] = \left[u_i[k] \ u_i[k-1] \ \cdots \ u_i[k-L+1] \right]^T. \tag{17}$$

The residual error energy equals

$$\mathcal{E}\{|e[k]|^2\} = \mathcal{E}\{\left| u_i^s[k-\Delta] - \bar{\mathbf{w}}_{1:M}^H \mathbf{u}_{1:M}[k] \right|^2\}, \tag{18}$$

and can be decomposed into

$$\underbrace{\mathcal{E}\{\left| u_i^s[k-\Delta] - \bar{\mathbf{w}}_{1:M}^H \mathbf{u}_{1:M}^s[k] \right|^2\}}_{\varepsilon_s^2} + \underbrace{\mathcal{E}\{\left| \bar{\mathbf{w}}_{1:M}^H \mathbf{u}_{1:M}^n[k] \right|^2\}}_{\varepsilon_n^2} \tag{19}$$

where ε_s^2 equals the speech distortion energy and ε_n^2 the residual noise energy. Hence, the design criterion of the MWF can be easily generalized to allow for a trade-off between speech distortion and noise reduction, by incorporating a weighting factor μ [17] with $\mu \in [0, \infty]$

$$\boxed{\bar{\mathbf{w}}_{1:M} = \arg\min_{\bar{\mathbf{w}}_{1:M}} \mathcal{E}\{\left| u_i^s[k-\Delta] - \bar{\mathbf{w}}_{1:M}^H \mathbf{u}_{1:M}^s[k] \right|^2\} + \mu \mathcal{E}\{\left| \bar{\mathbf{w}}_{1:M}^H \mathbf{u}_{1:M}^n[k] \right|^2\}.} \tag{20}$$

The solution of (20) is given by

$$\boxed{\bar{\mathbf{w}}_{1:M} = \mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{u}_{1:M}^s[k] \mathbf{u}_{1:M}^{s,H}[k] + \mu \mathbf{u}_{1:M}^n[k] \mathbf{u}_{1:M}^{n,H}[k]\}^{-1} \mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{u}_{1:M}^s[k] u_i^{s,*}[k-\Delta]\},} \tag{21}$$

which corresponds to the Wiener formula (13) with an adjustable input noise level. We refer to this generalization as speech distortion weighted MWF (SDW-MWF).

The factor $\mu \in [0, \infty]$ trades off speech distortion versus noise reduction, hence, the name SDW-MWF: the smaller μ, the smaller the resulting speech distortion. If $\mu = 1$, the MMSE criterion (12) is obtained. If $\mu > 1$, the residual noise level will be reduced at the expense of increased speech distortion. By setting μ to ∞, all emphasis is put on noise reduction and speech distortion is completely ignored, resulting in $\bar{\mathbf{w}}_{1:M} = 0$. Setting μ to 0, on the other hand, results in $\bar{\mathbf{w}}_{1:M} = \mathbf{e}_{(i-1)L+\Delta+1}$,

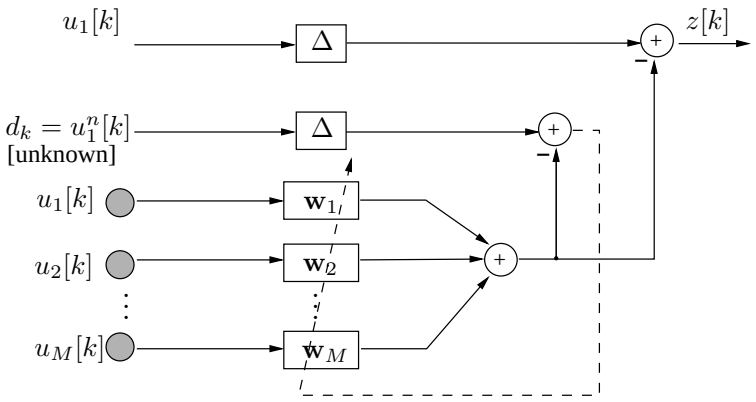


Fig. 2. Equivalent SDW-MWF approach.

where $\mathbf{e}_l$ is the l-th canonical $ML \times 1$-dimensional vector

$$\mathbf{e}_l = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \cdots 0 & \underbrace{1}_{\text{position } l} & 0 \cdots 0 \end{bmatrix}^T. \tag{22}$$

and hence, no noise reduction.

3.2 Equivalent optimization criterion for the SDW-MWF

The SDW-MWF (21) provides an estimate of the (delayed) speech component in the i-th microphone signal. An equivalent SDW-MWF approach, whose structure shows some resemblance with an ANC, consists in estimating a delayed version of the (unknown) noise component $u_i^n[k-\Delta]$. The estimate $z[k]$ of the speech component $u_i^s[k-\Delta]$ is then obtained by subtracting the estimate $\mathbf{w}_{1:M}^H\mathbf{u}[k]$ of $u_i^n[k-\Delta]$ from the delayed i-th microphone signal $u_i[k-\Delta]$, i.e.,

$$z[k] = u_i[k-\Delta] - \mathbf{w}_{1:M}^H\mathbf{u}_{1:M}[k] = (\mathbf{e}_{(l-1)L+\Delta+1} - \mathbf{w}_{1:M})^H\mathbf{u}[k], \tag{23}$$

where $\mathbf{w}_{1:M}^H = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{w}_1^H & \mathbf{w}_2^H & \cdots & \mathbf{w}_M^H \end{bmatrix}$. This is illustrated in **Figure 2** for the MWF $\mathbf{w}_{1:M}$ with $u_i^n[k-\Delta] = u_1^n[k-\Delta]$.

The optimization criterion now becomes

$$\mathbf{w}_{1:M} = \arg\min_{\mathbf{w}_{1:M}} \mathcal{E}\left\{\left|u_i^n[k-\Delta] - \mathbf{w}_{1:M}^H\mathbf{u}_{1:M}[k]\right|^2\right\}, \tag{24}$$

for the MWF $\mathbf{w}_{1:M}[k]$ or -more generally-

$$\boxed{\mathbf{w}_{1:M} = \arg\min_{\mathbf{w}_{1:M}} \mathcal{E}\{\left|\mathbf{w}_{1:M}^H\mathbf{u}_{1:M}^s[k]\right|^2\} + \mu\mathcal{E}\{\left|u_i^n[k-\Delta] - \mathbf{w}_{1:M}^H\mathbf{u}_{1:M}^n[k]\right|^2\},} \tag{25}$$

for the SDW-MWF, resulting in

$$\boxed{\mathbf{w}_{1:M} = \mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{u}^n_{1:M}[k]\mathbf{u}^{n,H}_{1:M}[k] + \frac{1}{\mu}\mathbf{u}^s_{1:M}[k]\mathbf{u}^{s,H}_{1:M}[k]\}^{-1}\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{u}^n_{1:M}[k]u_i^{n,*}[k-\Delta]\}.} \quad (26)$$

Using (21) and (26), it can be easily shown that

$$\boxed{\mathbf{w}_{1:M} + \bar{\mathbf{w}}_{1:M} = \mathbf{e}_{(i-1)L+\Delta+1},} \quad (27)$$

This demonstrates that the two approaches indeed lead to exactly the same speech signal estimate $z[k]$. Again, μ trades off between noise reduction and speech distortion. For $\mu = \infty$, $\mathbf{w}_{1:M}$ equals $\mathbf{e}_{(l-1)L+\Delta+1}$, while for $\mu = 0$, $\mathbf{w}_{1:M} = \mathbf{0}$. A procedure for computing $\mathbf{w}_{1:M}$ or $\bar{\mathbf{w}}_{1:M}$ will be given in Section 3.3.

3.3 Implementation of SDW-MWF

In practice, the correlation matrix $\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{u}^s_{1:M}[k]\mathbf{u}^{s,H}_{1:M}[k]\}$ is unknown. During periods of speech, the inputs $u_i[k]$ consist of speech + noise, i.e., $u_i[k] = u_i^s[k] + u_i^n[k]$, $i = 1, ..., M$. During periods of noise, only the noise component $u_i^n[k]$ is observed. The second order statistics of the noise are assumed to be sufficiently stationary so that they can be estimated during periods of noise-only. Assuming that the speech and noise signal are uncorrelated, $\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{u}^s_{1:M}[k]\mathbf{u}^{s,H}_{1:M}[k]\}$ can be estimated as

$$\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{u}^s_{1:M}[k]\mathbf{u}^{s,H}_{1:M}[k]\} = \mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{u}_{1:M}[k]\mathbf{u}^H_{1:M}[k]\} - \mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{u}^n_{1:M}[k]\mathbf{u}^{n,H}_{1:M}[k]\}, \quad (28)$$

where $\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{u}_{1:M}[k]\mathbf{u}^H_{1:M}[k]\}$ is estimated during speech + noise and $\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{u}^n_{1:M}[k]\mathbf{u}^{n,H}_{1:M}[k]\}$ during periods of noise-only. Like for the GSC, a robust speech detection is thus needed. Using (28), (21) and (26) can be re-written as:

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned}\bar{\mathbf{w}}_{1:M} = &\left(\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{u}_{1:M}[k]\mathbf{u}^H_{1:M}[k]\} + (\mu-1)\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{u}^n_{1:M}[k]\mathbf{u}^{n,H}_{1:M}[k]\}\right)^{-1} \\ &\cdot \left(\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{u}_{1:M}[k]u_i^*[k-\Delta]\} - \mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{u}^n_{1:M}[k]u_i^{n,*}[k-\Delta]\}\right)\end{aligned}} \quad (29)$$

and

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned}\mathbf{w}_{1:M} = &\left(\frac{1}{\mu}\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{u}_{1:M}[k]\mathbf{u}^H_{1:M}[k]\} + (1-\frac{1}{\mu})\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{u}^n_{1:M}[k]\mathbf{u}^{n,H}_{1:M}[k]\}\right)^{-1} \\ &\cdot \mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{u}^n_{1:M}[k]u_i^{n,*}[k-\Delta]\}.\end{aligned}} \quad (30)$$

The SDW-MWF $\bar{\mathbf{w}}_{1:M}$ and $\mathbf{w}_{1:M}$ can be computed at each time instant k by means of a GSVD [16] or a (cheaper) QRD [18] of a speech + noise and noise data matrix. In [19], a subband implementation has been developed to increase the resulting

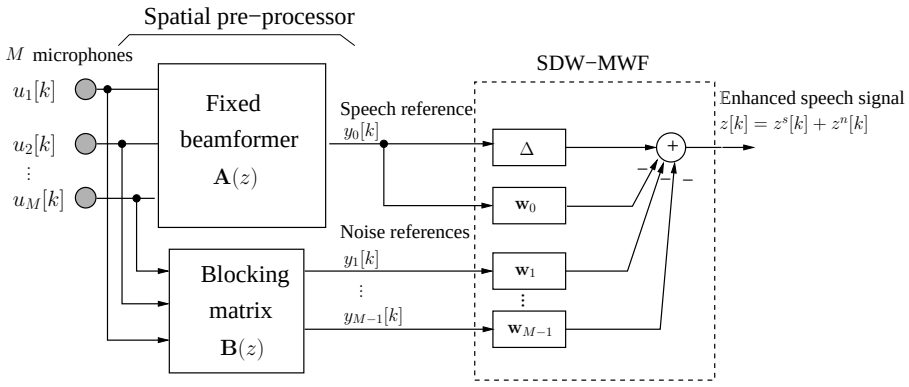


Fig. 3. Spatially pre-processed SDW-MWF.

speech intelligibility and reduce complexity, making it suitable for hearing aid applications.

4 Spatially pre-processed SDW-MWF (SP-SDW-MWF)

4.1 Concept

The SDW-MWF depicted in Figure 2 has a structure similar to the multi-channel ANC block of Figure 1. Replacing the ANC in the GSC by the SDW-MWF results in the generalized scheme that is depicted in **Figure 3**. In the sequel, we will refer to this generalized scheme as the *Spatially Pre-processed, Speech Distortion Weighted Multi-channel Wiener Filter (SP-SDW-MWF)*. The input signals to the SDW-MWF are now spatially pre-processed microphone signals $y_i[k]$, $0 \leq i \leq M-1$ and the speech contribution $y_0^s[k]$ at the output of the fixed beamformer is estimated. To preserve the robustness advantage of the (SDW-)MWF, the fixed beamformer $\mathbf{A}(z)$ should be robust against possible signal model errors. In the sequel a delay-and-sum beamformer is used. As mentioned before, this beamformer is sufficiently robust when used for small-sized arrays. Given statistical knowledge about the signal model errors that occur in practice, a further optimized robust fixed beamformer can be designed, e.g., using [20].

Using (26), the expression for $\mathbf{w}_{0:M-1}$ becomes

$$\mathbf{w}_{0:M-1} = \left(\frac{1}{\mu}\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{y}^s_{0:M-1}[k]\mathbf{y}^{s,H}_{0:M-1}[k]\} + \mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{y}^n_{0:M-1}[k]\mathbf{y}^{n,H}_{0:M-1}[k]\}\right)^{-1} \cdot \mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{y}^n_{0:M-1}[k]y_0^{n,*}[k-\Delta]\}, \tag{31}$$

where

$$\mathbf{w}_{0:M-1}^{H} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{w}_0^H \ \mathbf{w}_1^H \ ... \ \mathbf{w}_{M-1}^H \end{bmatrix} \tag{32}$$

$$\mathbf{y}_{0:M-1}^{H}[k] = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{y}_0^H[k] \ \mathbf{y}_1^H[k] \ ... \ \mathbf{y}_{M-1}^H[k] \end{bmatrix} \tag{33}$$

$$\mathbf{y}_{0:M-1}^{n,H}[k] = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{y}_0^{n,H}[k] \ \mathbf{y}_1^{n,H}[k] \ ... \ \mathbf{y}_{M-1}^{n,H}[k] \end{bmatrix} \tag{34}$$

$$\mathbf{y}_{0:M-1}^{s,H}[k] = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{y}_0^{s,H}[k] \ \mathbf{y}_1^{s,H}[k] \ ... \ \mathbf{y}_{M-1}^{s,H}[k] \end{bmatrix} \tag{35}$$

and where μ trades off distortion of the speech reference $y_0^s[k]$ versus noise reduction. For $\mu = 0$, $\mathbf{w}_{0:M-1} = \mathbf{0}$ and so $z[k]$ is equal to the output of the fixed beamformer $\mathbf{A}(z)$ delayed by Δ samples. In noise scenarios with very low Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR), e.g., -10 dB, a fixed beamformer output may be preferred: for low SNR, the error rate of the speech detection mechanism may be too high, resulting in unacceptable speech distortion by the adaptive filter [21]. Adaptivity can then easily be reduced or excluded in the SP-SDW-MWF by decreasing μ to 0. Alternatively, adaptivity can be limited by applying an QIC to $\mathbf{w}_{0:M-1}$.

Note that when the fixed beamformer $\mathbf{A}(z)$ and the blocking matrix $\mathbf{B}(z)$ are set to

$$\mathbf{A}(z) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \ 0 \ ... \ 0 \end{bmatrix}^H \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times 1} \tag{36}$$

$$\mathbf{B}(z) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^H \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times M-1}, \tag{37}$$

we obtain the original SDW-MWF that operates on the received microphone signals $u_i[k]$, $i = 1, ..., M$.

Below, the different parameter settings of the SP-SDW-MWF are discussed. Depending on the setting of the parameter μ and presence or absence of the filter $\mathbf{w}_0$, the GSC, the (SDW-)MWF as well as in-between solutions may be obtained. We distinguish between two cases, i.e., the case where no filter $\mathbf{w}_0$ is applied to the speech reference (filter length $L_0 = 0$) and the case where an additional filter $\mathbf{w}_0$ is used ($L_0 \neq 0$).

The adaptive stage of the SP-SDW-MWF can be implemented using the recursive QRD-based implementation of the SDW-MWF [18]. Like for the SDW-MWF, complexity can be reduced by a subband implementation [19]. For $L_0 \neq 0$, also the GSVD based algorithm [17] can be applied. Also, cheaper stochastic gradient based algorithms have been developed [22].

4.2 SP-SDW-MWF without $\mathbf{w}_0$ (SDR-GSC)

First, consider *the case without* $\mathbf{w}_0$, i.e., $L_0 = 0$. The solution for $\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}$ in (31) then reduces to

$$\arg\min_{\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}} \frac{1}{\mu} \underbrace{\mathcal{E}\{\left|\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}^H \mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^s[k]\right|^2\}}_{\varepsilon_s^2} + \underbrace{\mathcal{E}\{\left|y_0^n[k-\Delta] - \mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}^H \mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^n[k]\right|^2\}}_{\varepsilon_n^2}, \tag{38}$$

leading to

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1} = &\left(\frac{1}{\mu}\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^s \mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^{s,H}[k]\} + \mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^n \mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^{n,H}[k]\}\right)^{-1} \\ &\cdot \mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^n[k] y_0^{n,*}[k-\Delta]\},\end{aligned} \tag{39}$$

where ε_s^2 is the speech distortion energy and ε_n^2 the residual noise energy.

Remark: For $L_0 = 0$, it is readily seen that (27) does not hold, i.e., $\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1} + \bar{\mathbf{w}}_{1:M-1} \neq \mathbf{e}_{\Delta+1}$ where

$$\bar{\mathbf{w}}_{1:M-1} = \left(\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^s \mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^{s,H}\} + \mu\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^n \mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^{n,H}\}\right)^{-1} \mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^{s,H} y_0^{s,*}[k-\Delta]\}. \tag{40}$$

This is because the speech component $\mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^s[k]$ in the input to the adaptive filter $\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}$ does not contain the speech signal $y_0^s[k-\Delta]$ that is being estimated.

Compared to the optimization criterion (6) of the GSC, a regularization term

$$\frac{1}{\mu}\mathcal{E}\{\left|\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}^H \mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^s[k]\right|^2\} \tag{41}$$

has been added. This regularization term limits the amount of speech distortion that is caused by the filter $\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}$ when speech leaks into the noise references, i.e., $y_i^s[k] \neq 0$, $i = 1, ..., M-1$ (cf. (10) in Section 2). In the sequel, we therefore refer to the SP-SDW-MWF with $L_0 = 0$ as the *Speech Distortion Regularized GSC (SDR-GSC)*. The smaller μ, the smaller the resulting amount of speech distortion will be. For $\mu = 0$, all emphasis is put on speech distortion and so $\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1} = \mathbf{0}$ and $z[k]$ is equal to the output of the fixed beamformer $\mathbf{A}(z)$ delayed by Δ samples. For $\mu = \infty$, all emphasis is put on noise reduction and speech distortion is not taken into account. This corresponds to the GSC. Hence, the SDR-GSC encompasses the GSC as a special case.

The regularization term (41) with $\frac{1}{\mu} \neq 0$ adds robustness to the GSC, while not affecting the noise reduction performance in the absence of speech leakage:

- In the *absence of speech leakage, i.e.,* $y_i^s[k] = 0,\ i = 1,\ ...,\ M-1$, the regularization term equals 0 for all μ and for all $\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}$ and hence the residual noise energy ε_n^2 is effectively minimized. In other words, in the absence of speech leakage, the GSC solution is obtained.
- In the *presence of speech leakage,* i.e., $y_i^s[k] \neq 0,\ i = 1,\ ...,\ M-1$, speech distortion is explicitly taken into account in the optimization criterion (38) for the adaptive filter $\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}$, limiting speech distortion while reducing noise. The larger the amount of speech leakage, the more attention is paid to speech distortion.

  To limit speech distortion alternatively, a QIC is often imposed on the filter $\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}$ (see Section 2.2). In contrast to the SDR-GSC, the QIC acts irrespective of the amount of speech leakage $\mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^s[k]$ that is present. The constraint value β^2 in (11) has to be chosen based on the largest model errors that may occur. As a consequence, noise reduction performance is compromised even when no or very small model errors are present. Hence, the QIC is more conservative than the SDR-GSC. The experimental results in Section 5 confirm this.

4.3 SP-SDW-MWF with filter $\mathbf{w}_0$

Since the SDW-MWF (31) takes speech distortion explicitly into account in its optimization criterion, an additional filtering $\mathbf{w}_0$ on the speech reference $y_0[k]$ may be added (see Figure 3). The SDW-MWF (31) then solves the following more general optimization criterion

$$\mathbf{w}_{0:M-1} = \arg\min_{\mathbf{w}_{0:M-1}} \underbrace{\mathcal{E}\left\{\left| y_0^n[k-\Delta] - \begin{bmatrix}\mathbf{w}_0^H & \mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}^H\end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix}\mathbf{y}_0^n[k] \\ \mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^n[k]\end{bmatrix} \right|^2\right\}}_{\varepsilon_n^2} + \frac{1}{\mu} \underbrace{\mathcal{E}\left\{\left| \begin{bmatrix}\mathbf{w}_0^H & \mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}^H\end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix}\mathbf{y}_0^s[k] \\ \mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^s[k]\end{bmatrix} \right|^2\right\}}_{\varepsilon_s^2}, \tag{42}$$

where $\mathbf{w}_{0:M-1}^H = [\mathbf{w}_0^H\ \mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}^H]$ is given by (31).

Again, μ trades off speech distortion and noise reduction. For $\mu = \infty$, speech distortion ε_s^2 is completely ignored so that the solution becomes

$$\mathbf{w}_{0:M-1} = \begin{bmatrix}\mathbf{w}_0 \\ \mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}\end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix}\mathbf{e}_{\Delta+1} \\ \mathbf{0}\end{bmatrix}, \tag{43}$$

which results in a trivial zero output signal $z[k]$. For $\mu = 1$, we obtain an MWF.

In addition, we can make the following statements. For the proofs of Lemma **1** and Lemma **2**, we refer to Appendix A.

Lemma 1

- *In the* absence of speech leakage*, i.e., $y_i^s[k] = 0$ for $i = 1, ..., M-1$, and for infinitely long filters $\mathbf{w}_i$, $i = 0, ..., M-1$, the SP-SDW-MWF with $\mathbf{w}_0$ corresponds to a* cascade of an SDR-GSC *(i.e., the filter $\mathbf{W}_{d,1}(f)$ in Figure 4)* and an SDW Single-channel WF (SDW-SWF) post-processor *(i.e., the filter $1-W_{0,1}(f)$ in Figure 4) [23,24].*
- *In the* presence of speech leakage, *the SP-SDW-MWF with $\mathbf{w}_0$ tries to preserve its performance: compared to an SDR-GSC with SDW-SWF post-processor, the SP-SDW-MWF then contains extra filtering operations (i.e., the filters $W_{0,2}(f)$ and $\mathbf{W}_{d,2}(f)$ in Figure 4) that compensate for the performance degradation of the SDR-GSC with SDW-SWF due to speech leakage.*

Figure 4 graphically illustrates Lemma 1 in the frequency-domain for $\Delta = 0$. For infinite filter lengths, the SP-SDW-MWF $\mathbf{W}(f)$ can be decomposed in a multi-channel filter $\mathbf{W}_d(f) = \mathbf{W}_{d,1}(f) + \mathbf{W}_{d,2}(f)$ and a single-channel filter $1 - W_0(f) = 1 - W_{0,1}(f) - W_{0,2}(f)$, with $\mathbf{W}_{d,1}(f)$ an SDR-GSC and $W_{0,1}(f)$ an SDW-SWF. In the *absence of speech leakage*, the filters $W_{0,2}(f)$ and $\mathbf{W}_{d,2}(f)$ in Figure 4 equal zero and the SP-SDW-MWF corresponds to an SDR-GSC (or GSC) $\mathbf{W}_{d,1}(f)$ cascaded with an SDW-SWF post-processor $1 - W_{0,1}(f)$ (cf. Appendix A). The SDW-SWF increases noise suppression at the expense of speech distortion, especially for large μ and at frequencies where the Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR) of the intermediate output $V(f)$ (cf. Figure *4*), with

$$V(f) = Y_0(f) - \mathbf{W}_d(f)\mathbf{Y}_{1:M-1}(f), \tag{44}$$

is low. In the *presence of speech leakage*, the SP-SDW-MWF with $\mathbf{w}_0$ contains extra filtering operations, i.e., $W_{0,2}(f)$ and $\mathbf{W}_{d,2}(f)$) that compensate for the performance degradation of the SDR-GSC with SDW-SWF due to speech leakage.

Lemma 2 *For infinite filter lengths, the performance of the SP-SDW-MWF with $\mathbf{w}_0$ is not affected by microphone mismatch as long as the desired speech component at the output of the fixed beamformer $\mathbf{A}(z)$ remains unaltered.*

It should be noted that, without $\mathbf{w}_0$, performance degrades in the presence of speech leakage. Indeed, the SDR-GSC filter $\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}$ should both suppress noise and keep the speech distortion $\varepsilon_s^2 = \mathcal{E}\{\left|\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}^H \mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^s\right|^2\}$ limited at those frequencies where speech leakage occurs (see (38)): for $\mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^s[k] = \mathbf{0}$, ε_s^2 equals zero and hence $\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}$ can spend all efforts to noise suppression, whereas for $\mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^s[k] \neq \mathbf{0}$ only

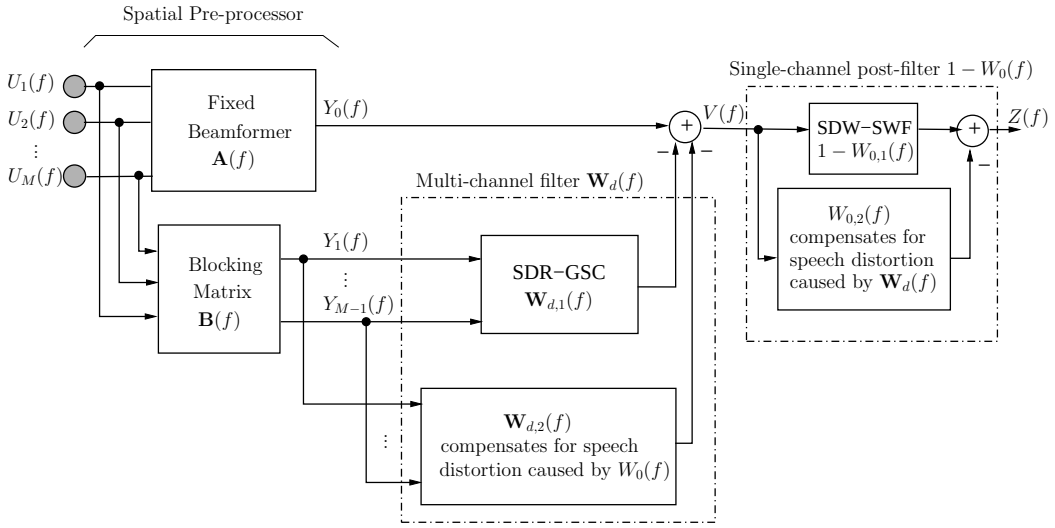


Fig. 4. Decomposition of SP-SDW-MWF with $W_0(f)$ in a multi-channel filter $\mathbf{W}_d$ and single-channel post-filter $1 - W_0(f)$.

the component $\mathbf{w}_n = \mathbf{w}_{1:M-1} - \mathbf{w}_s$ with $\mathbf{w}_n^H \mathbf{w}_s = 0$ for all [4] $\mathbf{w}_s \in \text{Range}\{\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^s \mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^{s,H}\}\}$, can freely (i.e., without causing speech distortion) suppress noise. The component $\mathbf{w}_s$ should be kept small to avoid speech distortion. Hence, at those frequencies where speech leakage occurs, the filter $\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}$ has less degrees of freedom to suppress noise than in the absence of speech leakage. In the absence of spatial aliasing, reverberation and internal noise (such as sensor noise) and assuming a single desired speech source, the filter $\mathbf{w}_n$ can still suppress $M-2$ localized noise sources coming other directions than the direction of the desired speech source. Hence, performance degradation will especially occur when the total number of sound sources (i.e., speech and noise sources) exceeds the number of noise references ($= M-1$) and/or in the presence of significant reverberation. An additional filter $\mathbf{w}_0$ on the speech reference then compensates for this performance degradation (cf. Section 5).

5 Illustration through experiments

This section illustrates the theoretical results of Section 4 through experimental results with a Behind-the-Ear (BTE) hearing aid. Section 5.1 and Section 5.2, respectively, describe the set-up and the performance measures that are used. In Section 5.3, the impact of the different parameter settings of the SP-SDW-MWF on the performance and the sensitivity to signal model errors is evaluated. Comparison is made with the QIC-GSC.

[4] $\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^s \mathbf{y}_{1:M-1}^{s,H}\}$ is rank deficient and hence, $\mathbf{w}_n \neq \mathbf{0}$, if the speech leakage does not cover the full frequency spectrum and/or when the number of noise references exceeds one and the direct-to-reverberant ratio of the speech is high.

5.1 Set-up

A BTE hearing aid with three omnidirectional microphones (Knowles FG-3452) has been mounted on a dummy head in an office room. The interspacing d between the first and the second microphone is about $d = 1$ cm and the interspacing between the second and third microphone about 1.5 cm. The reverberation time $T_{60\,\mathrm{dB}}$ is about 700 ms for a speech weighted noise signal. The desired speech signal and the noise signals are uncorrelated. Both the speech and the noise signal have a level of 70 dB SPL at the center of the head. The desired speech source and noise sources are positioned at a distance of 1 meter from the head: the speech source in front of the head, the noise sources at an angle θ with respect to the speech source. To get an idea of the average performance based on directivity only, stationary speech and noise signals with the same, average long-term power spectral density are used. The signals can be found on [25]. The total duration of the input signal is 10 seconds of which 5 seconds contains noise only and 5 seconds contain both the speech and noise signal. For evaluation purposes, the speech and noise signal have been recorded separately.

The microphone signals are pre-whitened prior to processing to improve intelligibility [26], and the output is accordingly de-whitened. In the experiments, the microphones have been calibrated by means of recordings of an anechoic speech weighted noise signal positioned at 0° measured while the microphone array was mounted on the head. A delay-and-sum beamformer is used as a fixed beamformer, since -in case of small microphone interspacing- it is robust to model errors. The blocking matrix $\mathbf{B}$ pairwise subtracts the time aligned calibrated microphone signals.

To investigate the effect of the different parameter settings (i.e., μ, $\mathbf{w}_0$) on the performance, the filter coefficients are computed using (31) where $\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{y}^s_{0:M-1}\mathbf{y}^{s,H}_{0:M-1}\}$ is estimated by means of the clean speech contributions of the microphone signals. In practice, $\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{y}^s_{0:M-1}\mathbf{y}^{s,H}_{0:M-1}\}$ is approximated using (28). The effect of approximation (28) on the performance was found to be small (i.e., differences of at most 0.5 dB in intelligibility weighted SNR improvement) for the given data set. The QIC-GSC is implemented using variable loading RLS [13]. The filter length L per channel equals 96.

5.2 Performance measures

To assess the performance of the different approaches, the broadband intelligibility weighted SNR improvement [27] is used, defined as

$$\Delta\mathrm{SNR}_{\mathrm{intellig}} = \sum_i I_i(\mathrm{SNR}_{i,\mathrm{out}} - \mathrm{SNR}_{i,\mathrm{in}}), \tag{45}$$

where the band importance function I_i expresses the importance of the i-th one-third octave band with center frequency f_i^c for intelligibility, $\text{SNR}_{i,\text{out}}$ is the output SNR (in dB) and $\text{SNR}_{i,\text{in}}$ is the input SNR (in dB) in the i-th one third octave band. The center frequencies f_i^c and the values I_i are defined in [28]. The intelligibility weighted signal-to-noise ratio reflects how much intelligibility is improved by the noise reduction algorithms, but does not take into account speech distortion.

To measure the amount of speech distortion, we define the following intelligibility weighted spectral distortion measure

$$\text{SD}_{\text{intellig}} = \sum_i I_i \text{SD}_\text{i} \tag{46}$$

with SD_i the average spectral distortion (dB) in i-th one-third band, measured as

$$\text{SD}_i = \int_{2^{-1/6} f_i^c}^{2^{1/6} f_i^c} |10 \log_{10} G^s(f)| \, df \Big/ \left[\left(2^{1/6} - 2^{-1/6} \right) f_i^c \right], \tag{47}$$

with $G^s(f)$ the power transfer function of speech from the input to the output of the noise reduction algorithm.

To exclude the effect of the spatial pre-processor, the performance measures are calculated with respect to the output of the fixed beamformer.

5.3 Experimental results

The impact of the different parameter settings for μ and $\mathbf{w}_0$ on the performance of the SP-SDW-MWF is illustrated for a five noise source scenario. The 5 noise sources are positioned at angles $75°$, $120°$, $180°$, $240°$, $285°$ with respect to the desired source at $0°$. To assess the sensitivity of the algorithm against errors in the assumed signal model, the influence of microphone mismatch, e.g., gain mismatch $\Upsilon_2 = \upsilon_2$ of the second microphone, on the performance is depicted. Among the different possible signal model errors, microphone mismatch was found to be especially harmful to the performance of the GSC in a hearing aid application [15]. In hearing aids, microphones are rarely matched in gain and phase. In [29], gain and phase differences between microphone characteristics of up to 6 dB and $10°$, respectively, have been reported.

5.3.1 SP-SDW-MWF without $\mathbf{w}_0$ (SDR-GSC)

Figure 5 plots the improvement $\Delta\text{SNR}_{\text{intellig}}$ and the speech distortion $\text{SD}_{\text{intellig}}$ as a function of $1/\mu$ obtained by the SDR-GSC (i.e., the SP-SDW-MWF without filter $\mathbf{w}_0$) for different gain mismatches $\Upsilon_2 = \upsilon_2$ at the second microphone.

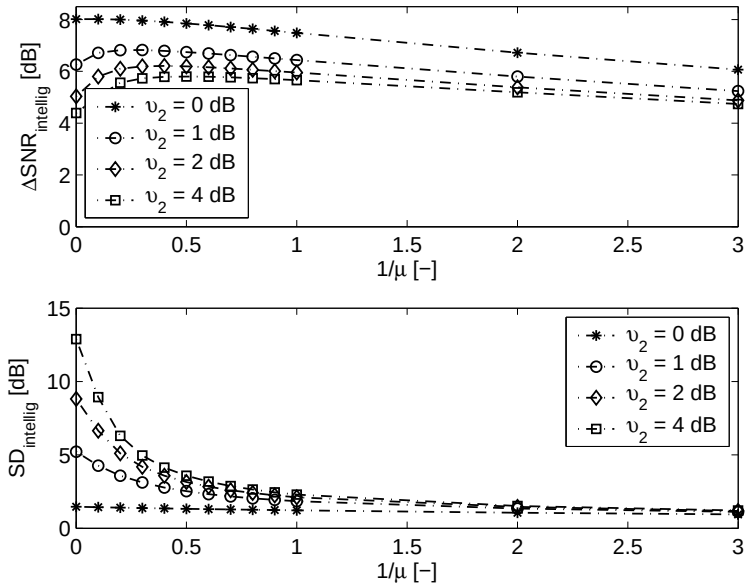


Fig. 5. Influence of $1/\mu$ on the performance of the SDR-GSC for different gain mismatches $\Upsilon_2 = \upsilon_2$ at the second microphone.

In the absence of microphone mismatch, the amount of speech leakage into the noise references is limited. Hence, the amount of speech distortion is low for all μ. Since there is still a small amount of speech leakage due to reverberation, the amount of noise reduction and speech distortion slightly decreases for increasing $1/\mu$, especially for $1/\mu > 1$.

In the presence of microphone mismatch, the amount of speech leakage into the noise references grows. For $1/\mu = 0$ (GSC), the speech gets significantly distorted. Due to the cancellation of the desired signal, also the improvement $\Delta\text{SNR}_{\text{intellig}}$ degrades. Setting $1/\mu > 0$, improves the performance of the GSC in the presence of model errors without compromising performance in the absence of signal model errors. For the given set-up, a value $1/\mu$ around 0.5 seems appropriate for guaranteeing good performance for a gain mismatch up to 4 dB.

5.3.2 SP-SDW-MWF with filter $\mathbf{w}_0$

Figure 6 plots the performance measures $\Delta\text{SNR}_{\text{intellig}}$ and $\text{SD}_{\text{intellig}}$ of the *SP-SDW-MWF with filter* $\mathbf{w}_0$. In general, the amount of speech distortion and noise reduction grows for decreasing $1/\mu$. For $\mu = \infty$, all emphasis is put on noise reduction. This results in a total cancellation of the speech and the noise signal (cf. Section 4.3) and hence degraded performance (for $1/\mu = 0$, $\Delta\text{SNR}_{\text{intellig}} = 5.4$ dB, $\text{SD}_{\text{intellig}} = 39$ dB).

In the absence of microphone mismatch, the SDR-GSC (i.e., $L_0 = 0$) and the SP-SDW-MWF with $\mathbf{w}_0$ (i.e., $L_0 \neq 0$) result - except for $1/\mu = 0$ - in the same

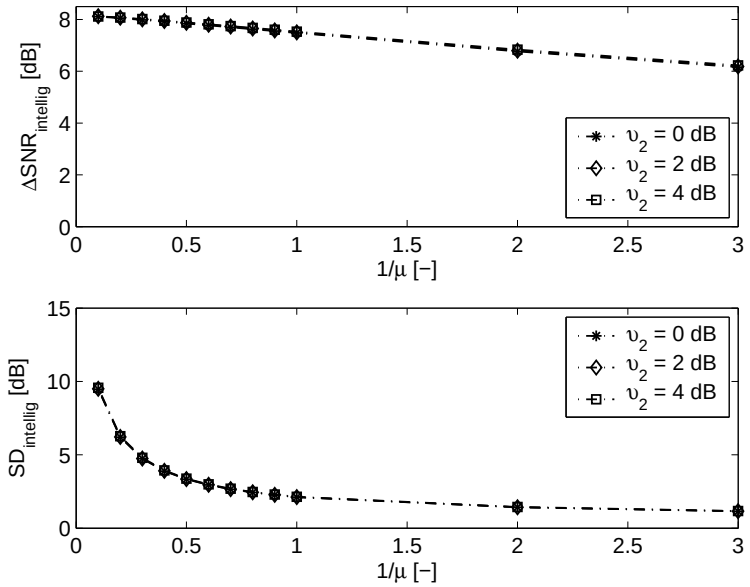


Fig. 6. Influence of $1/\mu$ on the performance of the SP-SDW-MWF with $\mathbf{w}_0$ for different gain mismatches $\Upsilon_2 = \upsilon_2$ at the second microphone.

$\Delta\text{SNR}_{\text{intellig}}$ [5], while the distortion for the SP-SDW-MWF with $\mathbf{w}_0$ is higher due to the additional single-channel SDW-SWF.

In the presence of microphone mismatch, the performance of the SP-SDW-MWF with $\mathbf{w}_0$ does -in contrast to the SDR-GSC- not degrade due to the microphone mismatch.

5.3.3 Comparison with QIC-GSC

Figure 7 depicts the improvement $\Delta\text{SNR}_{\text{intellig}}$ and the speech distortion $\text{SD}_{\text{intellig}}$, respectively, of the QIC-GSC as a function of β^2. Like the SDR-GSC, the QIC increases the robustness of the GSC: in the presence of microphone mismatch, $\text{SD}_{\text{intellig}}$ decreases for decreasing β^2. The QIC is independent of the amount of speech leakage. As a consequence, distortion grows fast with increasing gain deviation. The constraint value β should be chosen so that the maximum allowable speech distortion level is not exceeded for the largest possible model errors (e.g., 5 dB $\text{SD}_{\text{intellig}}$ for a gain mismatch up to 4 dB). This goes at the expense of reduced noise reduction for small model errors (e.g., 5.4 dB for $\beta^2 = 0.4$). The SDR-GSC on the other hand, keeps the speech distortion limited for all model errors (see Figure 5). Emphasis on speech distortion is increased if the amount of speech leakage grows. As a result, a better noise reduction performance is obtained for small model errors (e.g., between 5.7 dB and 8 dB for $1/\mu$ between 0.3 and

[5] For $L_0 \neq 0$, the fullband SNR improvement was larger thanks to the SDW-SWF post-processor (see Section 4). For other noise sources, e.g., a narrow band noise source, also a better improvement in $\text{SNR}_{\text{intellig}}$ can be achieved by $L_0 \neq 0$ thanks to the SDW-SWF.

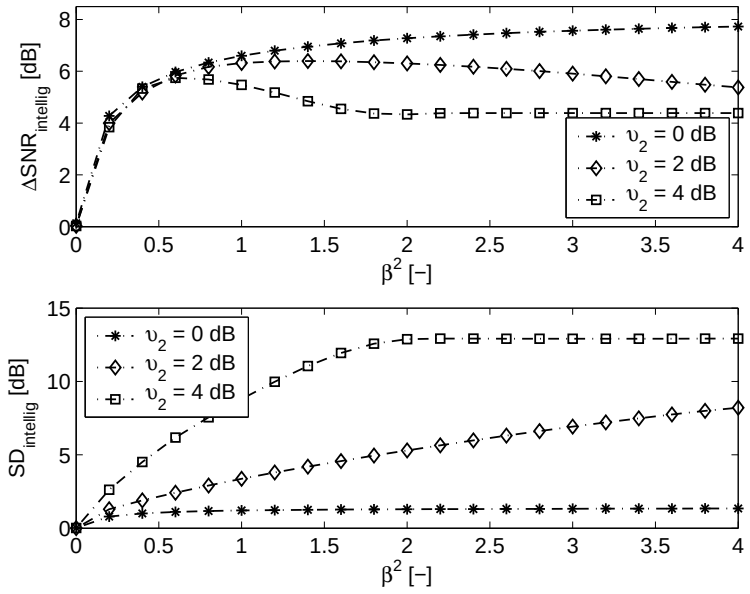


Fig. 7. $\Delta\text{SNR}_{\text{intellig}}$ and $\text{SD}_{\text{intellig}}$ for QIC-GSC as a function of β^2 for different gain mismatches $\Upsilon_2 = \upsilon_2$ at the second microphone.

0.4), while guaranteeing sufficient robustness for large model errors. In addition, Figure 6 demonstrates that an additional filter $\mathbf{w}_0$ in the SP-SDW-MWF further improves the performance in the presence of microphone mismatch (e.g., 8 dB for $1/\mu$ between 0.3 and 0.4).

6 Conclusion

In [17], an MWF technique has been proposed for speech enhancement that provides an MMSE estimate of the speech signal portion in one of the microphone signals. In contrast to the GSC, it does not rely on any a priori assumptions about the signal model so that it is found to be less sensitive to errors in the assumed signal model.

In this paper, we have shown that the GSC and the MWF can be integrated into one signal processing scheme, referred to as *Spatially Pre-processed, Speech Distortion Weighted Multi-channel Wiener Filter (SP-SDW-MWF)*. This signal processing scheme consists of a fixed, spatial pre-processor and an adaptive stage that is based on an SDW-MWF. This new scheme encompasses the GSC and the SDW-MWF as extreme cases. In addition, it allows for in-between solutions such as a Speech Distortion Regularized GSC (SDR-GSC). Depending on the setting of a trade-off *parameter* μ and *the presence or absence of the filter* $\mathbf{w}_0$ *on the speech reference*, the GSC, the SDR-GSC or an (SDW-)MWF is obtained.

In Section 4, the different parameter settings of the SP-SDW-MWF have been in-

terpreted.

- Without $\mathbf{w}_0$, the SP-SDW-MWF corresponds to an SDR-GSC: the ANC design criterion is supplemented with a regularization term that limits the speech distortion due to signal model errors. The larger $\frac{1}{\mu}$, the smaller the amount of distortion. For $\frac{1}{\mu} = 0$, distortion is ignored completely, which corresponds to the GSC-solution. The SDR-GSC is then an alternative technique to the QIC-GSC to decrease the sensitivity of the GSC to signal model errors. In contrast to the QIC-GSC, the SDR-GSC shifts emphasis towards speech distortion when the amount of speech leakage grows. In the absence of signal model errors, the performance of the GSC is preserved. As a result, a better noise reduction performance is obtained for small model errors, while guaranteeing robustness against large model errors.
- Since the SP-SDW-MWF takes speech distortion explicitly into account, a filter $\mathbf{w}_0$ on the speech reference can be added. It is shown that -in the absence of speech leakage and for infinitely long filter lengths- the SP-SDW-MWF corresponds to a cascade of an SDR-GSC with an SDW-SWF post-processor. In the presence of speech leakage, the SP-SDW-MWF with $\mathbf{w}_0$ tries to preserve its performance: compared to an SDR-GSC with SDW-SWF post-processor, the SP-SDW-MWF then contains extra filtering operations that compensate for the performance degradation of the SDR-GSC with SDW-SWF due to speech leakage. In contrast to the SDR-GSC (and thus also the GSC), performance does not degrade due to microphone mismatch.

In Section 5, experimental results with recordings from a BTE hearing aid illustrated the theoretical results of Section 4. The SP-SDW-MWF indeed increases the robustness of the GSC against signal model errors. Comparison with the QIC-GSC demonstrated that the SP-SDW-MWF achieves a better noise reduction performance for a given maximum allowable speech distortion level.

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A Appendix

Lemma 1

- *In the* absence of speech leakage, *i.e.,* $y_i^s[k] = 0$ *for* $i = 1, ..., M-1$, *and for infinitely long filters* $\mathbf{w}_i$, $i = 0, ..., M-1$, *the SP-SDW-MWF with* $\mathbf{w}_0$ *corresponds to a* cascade of an SDR-GSC and an SDW Single-channel WF (SDW-SWF) post-processor *[23,24]*.
- *In the* presence of speech leakage, *the SP-SDW-MWF with* $\mathbf{w}_0$ *tries to preserve its performance: compared to an SDR-GSC with SDW-SWF post-processor, the SP-SDW-MWF then contains extra filtering operations (i.e.,* $W_{0,2}(f)$ *and* $\mathbf{W}_{d,2}(f)$ *in Figure 4) that compensate for the performance degradation of the SDR-GSC with SDW-SWF due to speech leakage (see Figure 4).*

PROOF. In the case of infinite filter lengths, the SP-SDW-MWF and its optimization criterion can be represented in the frequency domain [6]. For simplicity, but without loss of generality, we assume $\Delta = 0$.

Let $\mathbf{W}_{0:M-1}(f)$ be defined as

$$\mathbf{W}_{0:M-1}(f) = \left[W_0^*(f) \ \mathbf{W}_{1:M-1}^H(f) \right]^H. \tag{A.1}$$

Then, the frequency-domain SP-SDW-MWF $\mathbf{W}_{0:M-1}(f)$ equals:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{W}_{0:M-1}(f) = \arg\min_{\mathbf{W}_{0:M-1}} \mathcal{E}\left\{ \left| \left[(1 - W_0^*) \ -\mathbf{W}_{1:M-1}^H \right] \begin{bmatrix} Y_0^n(f) \\ \mathbf{Y}_{1:M-1}^n(f) \end{bmatrix} \right|^2 \right\} \\ + \frac{1}{\mu} \mathcal{E}\left\{ \left| \left[W_0^* \ \mathbf{W}_{1:M-1}^H \right] \begin{bmatrix} Y_0^s(f) \\ \mathbf{Y}_{1:M-1}^s(f) \end{bmatrix} \right|^2 \right\}\end{aligned} \tag{A.2}$$

Decompose $\mathbf{W}_{1:M-1}(f)$ as

$$\mathbf{W}_{1:M-1}(f) = (1 - W_0(f))\, \mathbf{W}_d(f) \tag{A.3}$$

with $W_0(f)$ the single-channel filter applied to the speech reference and $\mathbf{W}_d(f)$ a multi-channel filter and define an intermediate output $V(f)$ (cf. Figure 4) as

$$V(f) = Y_0(f) - \mathbf{W}_d^H(f) \mathbf{Y}_{1:M-1}(f). \tag{A.4}$$

[6] The frequency parameter f is often omitted in the sequel for the sake of conciseness.

Then, the cost function $J(W_0, \mathbf{W}_d)$ that is minimized by $\mathbf{W}_{0:M-1}(f)$ in (A.2) can be re-written as

$$J = \mathcal{E}\left\{|(1 - W_0^*)\, V^n(f)|^2\right\} + \frac{1}{\mu}\mathcal{E}\left\{\left|W_0^* V^s(f) + \mathbf{W}_d^H(f)\mathbf{Y}_{1:M-1}^s(f)\right|^2\right\}. \quad \text{(A.5)}$$

From $\frac{\partial}{\partial W_0} J(W_0, \mathbf{W}_d) = 0$, we find

$$\begin{aligned} W_0(f) = &\underbrace{\left(\mathcal{E}\{V^n V^{n,*}\} + \frac{1}{\mu}\mathcal{E}\{V^s V^{s,*}\}\right)^{-1} \mathcal{E}\{V^n V^{n,*}\}}_{W_{0,1}(f)} \\ &+ \underbrace{(\mu\mathcal{E}\{V^n V^{n,*}\} + \mathcal{E}\{V^s V^{s,*}\})^{-1}\left(-\mathcal{E}\{V^s \mathbf{Y}_{1:M-1}^{s,H}\mathbf{W}_d\}\right)}_{W_{0,2}(f)} \end{aligned} \quad \text{(A.6)}$$

This *single-channel filter* $W_0(f)$ thus consists of two terms.

- The first term $W_{0,1}(f)$ estimates the noise component $V^n(f)$ in the intermediate output $V(f)$. The filter $1 - W_{0,1}$ then corresponds to an SDW-SWF that estimates the speech component $V^s(f)$ in the intermediate output $V(f)$.
- The second term $W_{0,2}(f)$ estimates the speech leakage filtered by $-\mathbf{W}_d(f)$, i.e., $-\mathbf{W}_d^H\mathbf{Y}_{1:M-1}^s$. The speech component in the intermediate output $V(f)$ equals $V^s(f) = Y_0^s - \mathbf{W}_d^H\mathbf{Y}_{1:M-1}^s$. The filter $W_{0,2}(f)$ thus tries to compensate for the distortion $-\mathbf{W}_d^H\mathbf{Y}_{1:M-1}^s$ by adding an estimate of $\mathbf{W}_d^H\mathbf{Y}_{1:M-1}^s$ to the output of the SDW-SWF.In the absence of speech leakage (i.e., $\mathbf{Y}_{1:M-1}^s = \mathbf{0}$), the filter vanishes, i.e., $W_{0,2}(f) = 0$.

From $\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{W}_d} J(W_0, \mathbf{W}_d) = 0$, we obtain the following solution for $\mathbf{W}_d(f)$:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{W}_d(f) = &\underbrace{\left(\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{Y}_{1:M-1}^n \mathbf{Y}_{1:M-1}^{n,H}\} + \frac{1}{\mu}\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{Y}_{1:M-1}^s \mathbf{Y}_{1:M-1}^{s,H}\}\right)^{-1} \mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{Y}_{1:M-1}^n Y_0^{n,*}\}}_{\mathbf{W}_{d,1}(f)} \\ &\underbrace{-\left(\mu\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{Y}_{1:M-1}^n \mathbf{Y}_{1:M-1}^{n,H}\} + \mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{Y}_{1:M-1}^s \mathbf{Y}_{1:M-1}^{s,H}\}\right)^{-1} \mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{Y}_{1:M-1}^s Y_0^{s,*} \frac{W_0}{1 - W_0}\}}_{\mathbf{W}_{d,2}(f)}. \end{aligned} \quad \text{(A.7)}$$

This *multi-channel filter* $\mathbf{W}_d(f)$ consists of two terms.

- The first term $\mathbf{W}_{d,1}(f)$ corresponds to the SDR-GSC and estimates the noise component $Y_0^n(f)$ at the output of the fixed beamformer $\mathbf{A}(f)$.
- The second term $\mathbf{W}_{d,2}(f)$ tries to compensate for the distortion $-W_0^*(f)Y_0^s(f)$ caused by $W_0(f)$ by adding an estimate of $\frac{W_0^*(f)}{1 - W_0^*(f)}Y_0^s(f)$ to the output of the SDR-GSC. Note that this corresponds to adding an estimate of $W_0^*(f)Y_0^s(f)$ to

the output $Z(f)$ of the SP-SDW-MWF. In the absence of speech leakage (i.e., $\mathbf{Y}^s_{1:M-1} = \mathbf{0}$), the filter vanishes, i.e.,$\mathbf{W}_{d,2}(f) = \mathbf{0}$.

Figure 4 graphically illustrates the solution for $\mathbf{W}_d(f)$ and $W_0(f)$ for $\Delta = 0$. In the *absence of speech leakage*, the filters $W_{0,2}(f)$ and $\mathbf{W}_{d,2}(f)$ equal zero, hence, the SP-SDW-MWF corresponds to an SDR-GSC (or GSC) cascaded with an SDW-SWF post-processor. This statement can also be proven in the time-domain, assuming sufficiently long filters $\mathbf{w}_{0:M-1}$ (see [30]). In the *presence of speech leakage*, the SP-SDW-MWF with $\mathbf{w}_0$ tries to preserve its performance: the SP-SDW-MWF then contains extra filtering operations (i.e., $W_{0,2}(f)$ and $\mathbf{W}_{d,2}(f)$) that compensate for the performance degradation of the SDR-GSC with SDW-SWF due to speech leakage. □

Lemma 2 *For infinite filter lengths, the performance of the SP-SDW-MWF with* $\mathbf{w}_0$ *is not affected by microphone mismatch as long as the desired speech component* $y_0^s[k]$ *at the output of the fixed beamformer* $\mathbf{A}(z)$ *remains unaltered.*

PROOF. In the case of infinite filter lengths, the SDW-MWF filter $\mathbf{w}_{0:M-1}$ in (31) can be represented in the frequency domain as [7]

$$\mathbf{W}(f) = \left(\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{Y}^n\mathbf{Y}^{n,H}\} + \frac{1}{\mu}\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{Y}^s\mathbf{Y}^{s,H}\}\right)^{-1}\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{Y}^n Y_0^{n,*}\mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i}2\pi f\Delta}\}. \tag{A.8}$$

Suppose that the received microphone signals $\tilde{U}_i(f)$, with $i = 1, ..., M$ are perturbed by $\Upsilon_i(f) = \upsilon_i\mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i}\phi_i(f)}$ with υ_i a gain deviation and $\phi_i(f)$ a phase deviation, with respect to the signals $U_i(f)$ received in the absence of mismatch, i.e.,

$$\tilde{\mathbf{U}}_{1:M}(f) = \mathrm{diag}\{\Upsilon_1(f), ..., \Upsilon_M(f)\}\mathbf{U}_{1:M}(f), \tag{A.9}$$

with

$$\tilde{\mathbf{U}}_{1:M}(f) = [\tilde{U}_1(f) \cdots \tilde{U}_M(f)]^T \tag{A.10}$$

and with $\mathrm{diag}\{\Upsilon_1(f), ..., \Upsilon_M(f)\}$ of full rank, i.e., $\Upsilon_i(f) \neq 0$. Then, - assuming that the matrix $[\,\mathbf{A}(f)\ \mathbf{B}(f)\,]$ is of full rank- the input vector $\tilde{\mathbf{Y}}(f)$ to the adaptive filter $\mathbf{W}(f)$ can be described as

$$\tilde{\mathbf{Y}}(f) = \mathbf{T}(f)\mathbf{Y}(f) \tag{A.11}$$

where $\mathbf{Y}(f)$ is the input vector in the absence of mismatch and $\mathbf{T}(f) \in \mathbb{C}^{M\times M}$ is a full rank matrix that depends on $\mathbf{A}(f)$, $\mathbf{B}(f)$ and $\Upsilon_i(f)$. Plugging (A.11) into (A.8), we obtain a modified filter

$$\tilde{\mathbf{W}}(f) = \mathbf{T}^{-H}\left(\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{Y}^n\mathbf{Y}^{n,H}\} + \frac{1}{\mu}\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{Y}^s\mathbf{Y}^{s,H}\}\right)^{-1}\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{Y}^n\mathbf{Y}^{n,H}\}\mathbf{T}^H(:,1)\mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i}2\pi f\Delta}. \tag{A.12}$$

[7] The subscripts $0 : M-1$ in $\mathbf{W}_{0:M-1}(f)$ and $\mathbf{Y}_{0:M-1}(f)$ are omitted for conciseness.

Hence, the SP-SDW-MWF compensates for the mismatch through the factor $\mathbf{T}^{-H}$. If the desired speech component at the output of the fixed beamformer $\mathbf{A}(z)$ remains unaltered, i.e., if

$$\mathbf{Y}^{s,H}(f)\mathbf{T}^{H}(:,1) = Y_0^{s,*}(f), \tag{A.13}$$

the output $Z(f)$ of the SP-SDW-MWF is not affected by the mismatch. Indeed, using (A.12), (A.13) and the frequency-domain equivalent of (27), i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned}\left(\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{Y}^{n}\mathbf{Y}^{n,H}\} + \frac{1}{\mu}\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{Y}^{s}\mathbf{Y}^{s,H}\}\right)^{-1}\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{Y}^{n}\mathbf{Y}^{n,H}\} \\ = \mathbf{I}_M - \left(\mu\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{Y}^{n}\mathbf{Y}^{n,H}\} + \mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{Y}^{s}\mathbf{Y}^{s,H}\}\right)^{-1}\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{Y}^{s}\mathbf{Y}^{s,H}\},\end{aligned} \tag{A.14}$$

with $\mathbf{I}_M$ the $M \times M$-dimensional identity matrix, we find

$$\begin{aligned}Z(f) &= \left(\mathrm{e}^{-\mathrm{i}2\pi f\Delta}\mathbf{T}(1,:)\mathbf{Y}(f) - \tilde{\mathbf{W}}^{H}(f)\tilde{\mathbf{Y}}(f)\right) \\ &= \mathrm{e}^{-\mathrm{i}2\pi f\Delta}\mathbf{T}(1,:)\frac{1}{\mu}\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{Y}^{s}\mathbf{Y}^{s,H}\}\left(\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{Y}^{n}\mathbf{Y}^{n,H}\} + \frac{1}{\mu}\mathcal{E}\{\mathbf{Y}^{s}\mathbf{Y}^{s,H}\}\right)^{-H}\mathbf{Y}(f) \\ &= \mathrm{e}^{-\mathrm{i}2\pi f\Delta}Y_0(f) - \mathbf{W}^{H}(f)\mathbf{Y}(f),\end{aligned} \tag{A.15}$$

which is equal to the output obtained when there is no microphone mismatch. □

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List of Symbols

M	number of microphones
L	length of the adaptive FIR-filter $\mathbf{w}_i$
L_0	length of the adaptive FIR filter $\mathbf{w}_0$
$\mathbf{w}_i$	adaptive FIR filter applied to the i-th input channel
$\mathbf{w}_{1:M}$	stacked filter vector containing the filters $\mathbf{w}_i$ for $i = 1, ..., M$
$u_i[k]$	signal received at the i-th microphone
$u_i^s[k]$	speech component in the i-th microphone signal $u_i[k]$
$u_i^n[k]$	noise component in the i-th microphone signal $u_i[k]$
$y_0[k]$	speech reference, i.e., output of the fixed beamformer $\mathbf{A}(z)$
$y_i[k]$, $i = 1, ..., M-1$	noise references, i.e., outputs of the blocking matrix $\mathbf{B}(z)$
Δ	delay (in samples)
d	microphone interspacing
θ	angle between noise and speech source
Υ_i	mismatch at the i-th microphone
υ_i	gain mismatch at the i-th microphone
ϕ_i	phase mismatch at the i-th microphone
$\mathbf{I}_M$	$M \times M$-dimensional identity matrix
$\mathbf{A}(z)$, $\mathbf{A}(f)$	fixed beamformer in the GSC
$\mathbf{B}(z)$, $\mathbf{B}(f)$	blocking matrix in the GSC
μ	trade-off parameter in SDW-MWF between noise reduction and speech distortion
β^2	quadratic inequality constraint on adaptive filters $\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}$, i.e., $\mathbf{w}_{1:M-1}^H \mathbf{w}_{1:M-1} \leq \beta^2$