



Constrained synthesis of the Linear Antenna Array using Social Group Optimization

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Abstract

In this paper, novel algorithm known as social group optimization is use for array synthesis problem. The algorithm is implemented to the electromagnetic problem solving and its performance is evaluated. The array design is carried out with the objective of sidelobe level (SLL) suppression with uniform beam width (BW) constraint. The amplitude only technique is used to determine the coefficients of current excitation which produce the desired radiation pattern with the objectives and constraints. The analysis is carried out in terms of radiation pattern for different length of linear arrays. The simulation based experimentation is carried out in Matlab.

Keywords: Linear arrays; antennas; Social Group Optimization; SLL; BW

1. Introduction

Antennas are majorly used in areas where wireless communication is necessary. Antennas can be used to both emit and receive radio waves [1]. Every transmitting antenna is required to possess required amounts of gain in order to successfully transmit signals over a specified range. But a single antenna cannot meet up to the requirements when it comes to long distance communication. The gain of the antenna would not be sufficient to efficiently meet up to the requirements. If the gain is increased, its beam width also gets increased resulting in signals spreading to unwanted directions as well. This can be achieved with multiple antennas known as an array [2,3]. An array of antennas would be able to solve the range and gain issues which may not be possible with a single antenna. The beam width can also be accurately adjusted in case of an antenna array.

Several conventional techniques are used to design array antenna for desired radiation patterns. However, these techniques are local search methods and often involves in complex mathematical calculations. Moreover, these techniques cannot handle multi-modal problems and cannot give global solutions. Hence, in the recent past several nature inspired meta heuristic algorithms are proposed for efficient design of antenna arrays successfully [4-7].

In this paper, such an evolutionary computing technique which is inspired by social behaviour of the human known as social group optimization (SGO) [9] is used for the synthesis of linear arrays. The design objective involves in reducing the SLL keeping the BW as that of uniform linear array. Some related techniques are presented in [8]-[13].

Further, the paper is organized as follows. The brief problem statement is mentioned in Section 2.

2. Linear Antenna Array

Linear antenna array consists of number of antenna elements arranged in a straight line. The geometry of a simple linear array is as shown in Fig 1. In the figure, the array of elements are arranged along the straight line along x-axis.

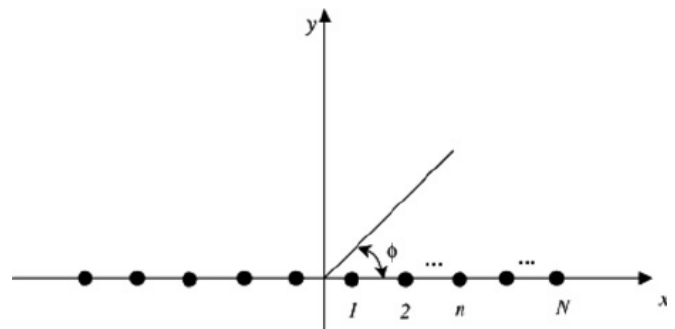


Fig. 1 Linear antenna array geometry

The radiation pattern of an N element equi-spaced non-uniform amplitude linear array is given as

$$F(\theta) = E(\theta) \sum_{n=1}^N a_n e^{j(n-1)(kdcos\theta + \beta)}$$

Where,

a_n = amplitude only weight of each element

d is the equidistance between the elements

β is the progressive phase shift

θ is the angle from broadside

$E(\theta)$ is the element pattern

$E(\theta) = 1$ for isotropic sources

3. Problem formulation and algorithm

The problem statement can be defined as to find the appropriate current distribution of the array which produces the desired radiation pattern with the objectives (SLL) involving constraints (BW). The objective function plays a very important role in the array design which determines the convergence and the objectives. Accordingly, the objective function is formulated using the SLL and BW as shown in (1).

$$\begin{aligned} f_1 &= |\text{SLL}_{\text{Des}} - \max(|\text{AF}|_{(\text{FN}-90)})| \\ f_2 &= |\text{BW}_{\text{Des}} - \text{BW}_{\text{obt}}| \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

The final cost function is given as

$$\text{Cost} = c_1 f_1 + c_2 f_2 \quad (2)$$

Where,

Max = maximum value

AF = Array factor

FN = fitness function

SLL_{Des} = Desired SLL magnitude

BW_{Des} = Desired BW

BW_{obt} = obtained BW

c_1 and c_2 are weighing coefficients

The SGO refers to the social behavior of the humans. A typical human has characteristics which may not be coherent with other human beings. These differences pop up according to the situation. The situation can be a complex pro and the system. These features define the behavior. These behavioral features are responsible for the problem solving in general course of life. Similarly, in a society which has a group of such human beings, may utilize the individual skills for the some typical problem solving. However, it also contributes to the Group solving. Hence there is a tradeoff between the individual and group characteristics. The individual feature utilization for problem solving can be considered as the local search while the group solution is a global solution.

The local solution search is governed by the following equation.

$$\text{Inew}_{i,j} = c * \text{Iold}_{i,j} + r * (\text{gbest}(j) - \text{Iold}_{i,j}) \quad (2)$$

Similarly the exchange of knowledge between the individuals in the society or group is governed by the following equation

$$\text{Inew}_{i,j} = \text{Iold}_{i,j} + r1 * (\text{I}_{r,j} - \text{I}_{i,j}) + r2 * (\text{gbest}_j - \text{I}_{i,j}) \quad (3)$$

Otherwise

$$\text{Inew}_{i,j} = \text{Iold}_{i,j} + r1 * (\text{I}_{r,j} - \text{I}_{i,j}) + r2 * (\text{gbest}_j - \text{I}_{i,j}) \quad (4)$$

4. Results and Discussions

Results pertaining to the above discussion are presented in this Section as follows. The linear array is synthesized for $N=10$ to $N=30$ with an interval of 10. Totally four different linear arrays are synthesized. In all the cases the non-uniform distribution of current excitation are determined using the SGO algorithm. The convergence plots are also obtained for the analysis of conver-

gence characteristics along with the radiation pattern plots as shown in Fig.2 through Fig.5.

In all the cases of varying length of the array, the corresponding SLL reported to be -13dB with different BW. All the synthesized linear arrays are compared with the uniform linear arrays in terms of their SLL keeping the corresponding BW constant. The corresponding radiation patterns for $N=10, 20$ and 30 are presented in Fig.2 through 5.

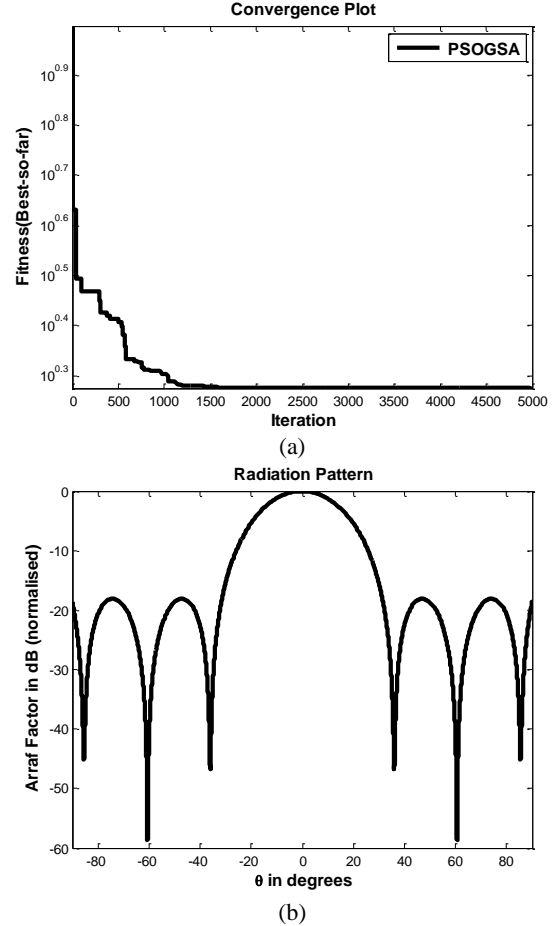
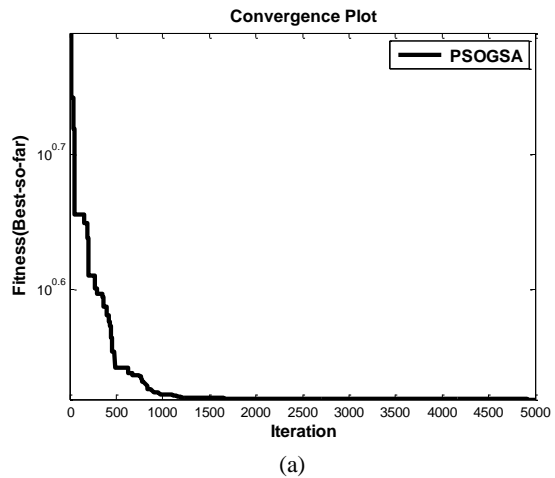


Fig.2: Linear array with $N=10$ (a) Convergence plot and (b) radiation pattern plot



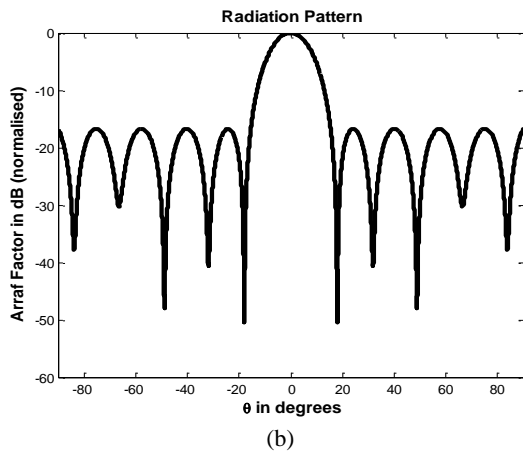


Fig.3: Linear array with N=20 (a)Convergence plot and (b) radiation pattern plot

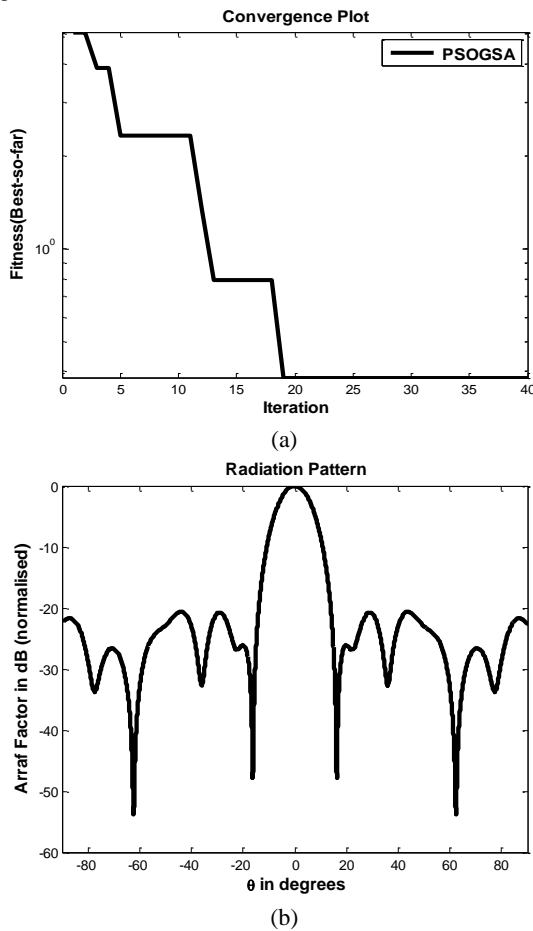


Fig.4: Linear array with N=30 (a) Convergence plot and (b) radiation pattern plot

The corresponding SLL and the respective BW are listed in the Table 1. It is possible to compare the performance of the synthesized arrays in terms of their SLL from the table. The SLL appears to be improved when compared with the uniform linear array.

Table.1: Obtained SLL and BW of the synthesized linear array

Number of elements (N)	SLL (dB) SGO	Improvement (dB)	FNBW (degrees)
			Uniform
10	-18.1123	5.1	72
20	-16.2453	3.24	36
30	-20.6334	7.63	25
40	-20.3256	7.32	24

5. Conclusion

Hence, the performance of Linear antenna array with non uniform excitation is optimized using SGO Algorithm by reducing the side lobe level present in the radiation pattern. This optimization can also be applied to planar and circular arrays. Further improvement in performance can be obtained if the antenna array is subjected to multi-objective synthesis.

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