

# Active Noise Control Using Ultrasonic Transducers

Wen-Kung Tseng

**Abstract**—This paper presents active noise control using ultrasonic transducers in pure tone diffuse fields. Most of researches in local active noise control used conventional loudspeakers for the secondary sources to control the pure tone diffuse fields. Recently in active noise control ultrasonic transducers have been used for the secondary sources to control the plane wave. However there is no research related to active noise control in diffuse fields using ultrasonic transducers. Therefore ultrasonic transducers are used in this work for the secondary sources to control the pure tone diffuse fields. Also the novel optimization method is used to control the diffuse fields. The results showed that quiet zones created using ultrasonic transducers were larger than those created using conventional loudspeakers. This is due to the fact that the audible sound pressure produced by the ultrasonic transducers decays slowly with the distance. Therefore the secondary field created by an ultrasonic transducer could fit the primary field better and the larger zone of quiet could be obtained using the ultrasonic transducer.

**Index Terms**—Active noise control, ultrasonic transducers, pure tone diffuse fields.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Conventional active noise control (ANC) used loudspeakers as control sources to produce quiet zones. The loudspeakers are virtually omnidirectional within the low frequency range of interest [1, 2, 3]. It means that ANC system promises noise attenuation only in quiet zones. It indicates that the control speaker might become an added noise generator itself even if localized attenuation has been achieved. This inevitable problem is a disturbance when ANC is implemented in practical use [4]. Acoustic pressure outside the quiet zones may be amplified. The ultrasonic transducer can produce a highly directional beam of low frequency sound via the nonlinear interaction of emitted ultrasonic waves with air [5]. Therefore acoustic pressure outside the quiet zones may not be increased significantly. There are several advantages employing ultrasonic transducers as control sources in an ANC system. Firstly, the control sources will not interfere with its adjacent space because of its sharp directivity. Secondly, for a multiple-input-multiple-output control system, a cluster of ultrasonic transducers can eliminate the possibility of sound coupling. It is foreseen that ultrasonic transducers enable ANC system to be more efficient [6, 7]. Despite the promising characteristics of ultrasonic transducers, it entails some side effect as well. Because of the strong directivity of sound, the target point is just limited along the radiation direction. If the target point shifts away from the radiation axis, ultrasonic transducers cannot cover the target point anymore unless the ultrasonic transducers mechanically rotate

the face to trace the target, whereas a normal sound source does not have to [8, 9]. Therefore this study uses ultrasonic transducers for the secondary sources to control the diffuse fields. The optimization method has been used to control the pure tone diffuse fields and the quiet zone produced using ultrasonic transducers has also been analyzed through simulations in this work.

## II. CONTROL OF PURE TONE DIFFUSE FIELDS

In this section the formulations for the design of the quiet zones in diffuse fields using ultrasonic transducers are presented. The primary field used in the work is assumed to be diffuse and comprised of many propagating plane waves with random amplitudes and phases, arriving from uniformly distributed directions. In this study 72 such incident plane waves together with random amplitudes and phases are chosen to generate an approximation of a diffuse sound field in order to be consistent with that of a previous work [1, 2]. The diffuse sound field was therefore generated by adding together the contributions of 12 plane waves in the azimuthal directions (corresponding to azimuthal angles  $\varphi_L = L \times 30^\circ$ ,  $L=1, 2, 3, \dots, 12$ ) for each of six vertical incident directions (corresponding to vertical angles  $\theta_K = K \times 30^\circ$  for  $K=1, 2, 3, \dots, 6$ ). The net pressure at the point  $(x_0, y_0)$  on the x-y plane due to the superposition of these 72 plane waves can be expressed as follows [1, 2]:

$$p_p(x_0, y_0) = \sum_{K=1}^6 \sum_{L=1}^{12} (a_{KL} + jb_{KL}) \sin \theta_K \exp(jk(x_0 \sin \theta_K \cos \varphi_L + y_0 \sin \theta_K \sin \varphi_L)) \quad (1)$$

Where  $a_{KL} + jb_{KL}$  account for the amplitudes and phases of these incident plane waves,  $k$  is the acoustic wave number,  $\theta_K$  is the angle between the direction of the plane wave propagation and the z-axis, and  $\varphi_L$  is the angle between the direction of the plane wave propagation projected on the x-y plane and the x-axis. Both the real and imaginary parts of the complex pressure are chosen from a random population with Gaussian distribution  $N(0, 1)$ . Equation (1) was used to generate diffuse primary sound fields in the simulations presented below. The computation of the average diffuse field zone of quiet at a given frequency is based on an ensemble of 50 samples of diffuse fields calculated over a grid of  $131 \times 131$  points in the x-y plane. The primary field samples are calculated once and then used in the calculation of the various controlled fields.

The ultrasonic transducer is used as the secondary source in this study, since the directional audible sound field produced by the ultrasonic transducer does not decay rapidly as the distance is increased. Therefore larger quiet zones could be obtained using the ultrasonic transducer. The sound pressure at a field point  $(x, y)$  of the secondary waves produced by the ultrasonic transducer was derive by Westervelt [8] and can be expressed as follows.

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$$p_s(x, y) = AS \sum_{n=0}^l \frac{e^{-\alpha_p r_q} e^{-2\alpha_s x} \left( \sin \left\{ \omega_s \left( t - \frac{r_q}{c_0} \right) - k_s x_y \right\} - m \cos \left\{ 2\omega_s \left( t - \frac{r_q}{c_0} \right) - k_s x_y \right\} \right)}{r_q} \quad (2)$$

Where  $A = \frac{P_0^2 \beta m \omega_s^2}{4\pi \rho_0 c_0^4}$ ,  $S = \delta y \delta z$ ,  $l$  denotes the effective source length,  $P_0$  is the sound pressure amplitude,  $\beta$  is the nonlinear factor,  $m$  is the modulation index,  $r_q = \sqrt{r^2 + x^2 - 2rx \cos \theta}$ ,  $\alpha_s$  is the absorption coefficient of the audible sound,  $\alpha_p$  is the absorption coefficient of the carrier wave,  $\rho_0$  is the air density,  $c_0$  is the sound speed.

Therefore the total acoustic pressure at a field point  $(x, y)$  due to both the diffuse primary field and the single secondary source can be expressed as

$$P_T(x, y) = p_p(x, y) + p_s(x, y) \quad (3)$$

In this study an optimization method is used to control the pure tone diffuse field. The cost function can be expressed as.

$$J_2 = \sum_{i,j} |P_T(x_i, y_j)|^2 \quad (4)$$

For the amplification limit, a constraint could be added to the optimization process as follows.

$$20 \log \|P_T(x_i, y_j)\| < \sigma, \quad \text{at some points outside the quiet zone.} \quad (5)$$

Where  $\sigma$  is the dB value of the amplification limit. Therefore the formulation of the optimization problem can be written as follows.

**Minimize**  $\sigma$

**Subject to**

$$\sum_{i,j} |P_T(x_i, y_j)|^2 < \sigma$$

$$20 \log \|P_T(x_i, y_j)\| < \sigma \quad \text{at some points outside the quiet zone.} \quad (6)$$

The optimal values of  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  can be calculated using the function *fmincon* in MATLAB. Substituting the optimal values of  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  into (3), the controlled field,  $P_T(x, y)$ , can be calculated for each diffuse field sample at each position  $(x, y)$  in the quiet zone.

### III. RESULTS

In this section the simulation results for average zones of quiet created by one, and two secondary sources using ultrasonic transducers seeking to minimize the squared pressure in the minimization area in a pure tone diffuse primary field are presented. The quiet zones are also compared to those obtained by using the conventional loudspeakers. In the first simulation, the secondary fields created using a single

ultrasonic transducer and a conventional loudspeaker are compared as shown in Fig. 1. As can be seen from the figure the secondary field produced by an ultrasonic transducer decays slowly when the distance increases. However the secondary field produced by a conventional loudspeaker decays fast when the distance increases.

In the second simulation, the zone of quiet created using a single secondary source with an ultrasonic transducer is computed and compared to that created by using a single conventional loudspeaker. A pure tone diffuse primary field for  $k=2$  is generated in this case, where  $k$  is the acoustic wave number. This will correspond to an excitation frequency of 108 Hz. Fig. 2 shows the 10dB reduction contour line in the calculated average zone of quiet created using an ultrasonic transducer (solid line) inside a desired quiet zone area represented by the rectangular frame for 108 Hz. Also shown is the 10 dB reduction contour line created using a conventional loudspeaker (dash-dot line). The secondary source is marked as a star. It can be seen that the zone of quiet created using an ultrasonic transducer is larger than that created using a conventional loudspeaker over this carefully selected area. This is due to the fact that the secondary field produced by a single ultrasonic transducer decays slowly, resulting in some difference on the secondary field shape. Therefore the secondary field created by an ultrasonic transducer could fit the primary field better and the larger zone of quiet could be obtained using the ultrasonic transducer.

Fig. 3 shows the 10dB reduction contour line in the calculated average zone of quiet created using an ultrasonic transducer (solid line) inside a desired quiet zone area represented by the rectangular frame for 216 Hz. Also shown is the 10 dB reduction contour line created using a conventional loudspeaker (dash-dot line). From the figure it can be seen that the 10 dB reduction contour became smaller.

A single ultrasonic transducer can only produce a simple decaying field. If two ultrasonic transducers are used, more complicated secondary fields can be produced. Therefore larger zones of quiet could be expected to be obtained. In the next simulations two ultrasonic transducers are introduced to minimize the acoustic pressure in the minimization area. The zones of quiet are then compared to those designed by using two conventional loudspeakers. Fig. 4 shows the 10dB reduction contour line (solid line) in the calculated average zones of quiet for two ultrasonic transducers with the desired quiet zone represented by the bold rectangular frame for 108 Hz. Also shown is the 10dB reduction contour line (dash-dot line) for two conventional loudspeakers with the minimization area represented by the bold rectangular frame. The two secondary sources located at  $(0.05, 0)$  and  $(-0.05, 0)$  are marked by stars. Previous work showed that minimizing the acoustic pressure over an area by using 2-norm minimization with conventional loudspeakers produced a larger zone enclosed by the 10dB reduction contour compared to that created when cancelling the acoustic pressure and particle velocity at one point (Garcia-Bonito et al., 1997; Tseng et al., 2000). However Figure 4 shows that using two ultrasonic transducers produce a larger zone enclosed by the 10dB reduction contour compared to that created when using two conventional loudspeakers.

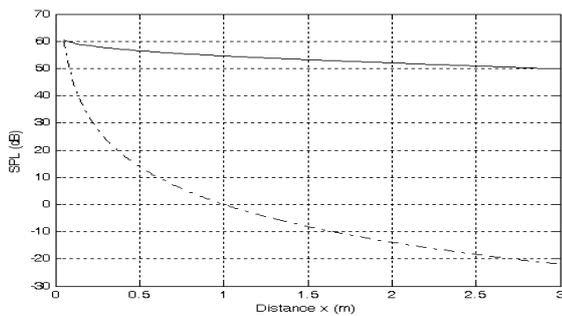


Fig. 1. The secondary field: (-) an ultrasonic transducer, (-.) a conventional loudspeaker.

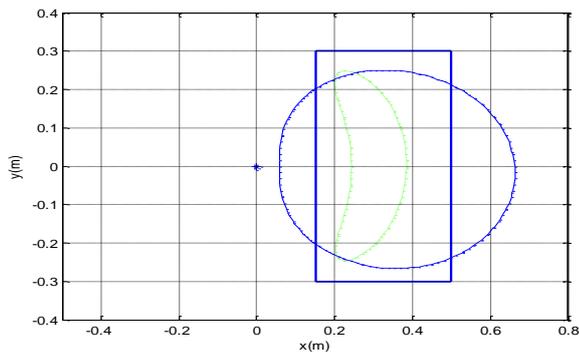


Fig. 2. The 10 dB reduction contour of the average zone of quiet created by a secondary source located at position (0,0), minimizing the acoustic pressure at an area represented by a bold rectangular frame using a conventional loudspeaker (dash-dot line) and an ultrasonic transducer (solid line) for 108 Hz.

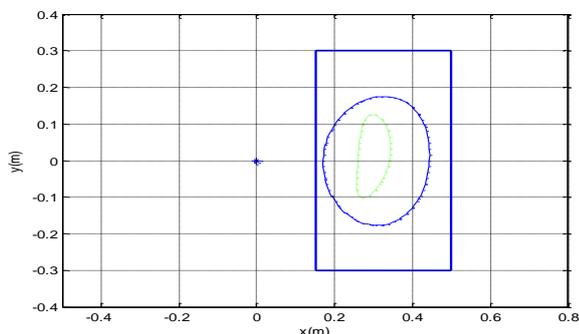


Fig. 3. The 10 dB reduction contour of the average zone of quiet created by a secondary source located at position (0,0), minimizing the acoustic pressure at an area represented by a bold rectangular frame using a conventional loudspeaker (dash-dot line) and an ultrasonic transducer (solid line) for 216 Hz.

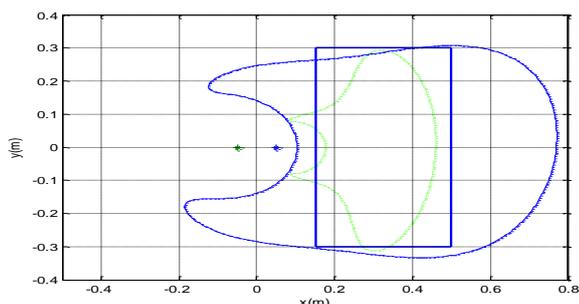


Fig. 4. The 10 dB reduction contour of the average zone of quiet created by two secondary sources located at positions (0.05,0) and (-0.05,0), minimizing the acoustic pressure at an

area represented by a bold rectangular frame using two conventional loudspeakers (dash-dot line) and two ultrasonic transducers (solid line) for 108 Hz.

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper the 10dB average zones of quiet created by introducing one and two secondary ultrasonic transducers to reduce the acoustic pressure at a specified region in a tonal diffuse primary field have been explored through computer simulations. The quiet zones created by using ultrasonic transducers have also been compared with those created by using conventional loudspeakers. It was shown that larger zones of quiet can be achieved with one or two ultrasonic transducers, since the audible sound pressure produced by the ultrasonic transducers decays slowly with the distance. Therefore the secondary field created by ultrasonic transducers could fit the primary field better and the larger zone of quiet could be obtained using the ultrasonic transducer.

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