

A Novel Floating Point Fast Confluence Adaptive Independent Component Analysis for Signal Processing Applications

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Abstract Independent component analysis (ICA) is a technique that separates the independent source signals from their mixtures by minimizing the statistical dependence between components. This paper presents a floating point implementation of a novel fast confluence adaptive independent component analysis (FCAICA) technique with reduced number of iterations that provides the high convergence speed. Fixed point ICA algorithms cover only smaller range of numbers. To handle large as well as tiny numbers and hence to improve the dynamic range of the signal values, floating point operations are performed in ICA. The high convergence speed is achieved by a novel optimization scheme that adaptively changes the weight vector based on the kurtosis value. To validate the performance of the proposed FCAICA, simulation and synthesis are performed with super-gaussian mixtures and sub Gaussian mixtures and experimental results provided. The proposed FCAICA processor separates the super-Gaussian signals with a maximum operating frequency of 2.91MHz with improved convergence speed.

Keywords Adaptive Independent Component Analysis, Blind Source Separation, Contrast Function Optimization, Field Programmable Gate Array, Floating Point Independent Component Analysis, Very Large Scale Integration

1. Introduction

ICA, a statistical signal processing technique, is one of the most commonly used algorithms in blind source separation. The term “blind” means that both the original independent sources and the way the sources were mixed are all unknown. Estimates of the source signals are found only from the observed signal mixtures. ICA recovers source signals from their mixtures by finding a linear transformation that maximizes the mutual independence or non-gaussianity of

the mixtures regardless of the probability distribution. It plays an important role in a variety of signal processing, image processing techniques and communication networks. Though different ICA algorithms have been reported, the FastICA algorithm has been shown to have advantages in terms of convergence speed [1]. It measures non-Gaussianity using kurtosis to find the independent sources from their mixtures [2]. Algebraic ICA Algorithm performs ICA by solving simultaneous equations derived from the definition of the independence. It works very fast for two sources separation but it becomes extremely complex when the number of sources goes more than two [3]. Infomax Estimation is a desirable choice due to its asymptotic optimality properties when the number of samples is large. The simplest algorithm for maximizing the likelihood uses stochastic gradient methods [4]. Maximum likelihood (ML) estimation is based on the assumption that the unknown parameters to be estimated are constants or no prior information is available. Nonlinear Decorrelation Algorithm has been proposed in order to reduce the computational overhead and to improve stability [5]. Another approach to ICA that is related to PCA is the non-linear method. Since learning rule uses higher order information in the learning when nonlinearities are introduced, this method indeed performs ICA, if the data is whitened. Algorithms for exactly maximizing the nonlinear PCA criteria are introduced in [6]. Simple algorithms are derived from the one-unit contrast functions using the principle of stochastic gradient descent. Hebbian like learning rule is obtained by taking the instantaneous gradient of the contrast function with respect to w [7]. Joint approximate diagonalization of eigenmatrices (JADE) is based on the principle of computing several cumulant Tensors. With low dimensional data, JADE is a competitive alternative to more popular FastICA algorithms. Other approaches include maximization of squared cumulants [8] and fourth-order cumulant based methods [9]. Fourth-order blind identification (FOBI) method deals with the Eigen value decomposition (EVD) of the weighted

correlation matrix [10]. A frequency-domain method of blind source separation (FD-BSS) is able to separate acoustic sources under highly reverberant challenging conditions [11]. In frequency-domain BSS, the separation is generally performed by applying ICA at each frequency envelope. ICA is also done by entropy bound minimization (ICA-EBM) [12].

Fixed-point VLSI architecture was proposed for 2-Dimensional Kurtotic FastICA with reduced and optimized arithmetic units [13]. Implementation of the ICA algorithm on a fixed point platform and floating point processor shows that the accuracy and speed of the fixed point platform were found to be acceptable. In addition, the fixed point processor needs less space and consumes less power. But fixed point processor can handle only smaller range of real values [14]. Due to the computation complexities and convergence rates, ICA is very time-consuming for high volume or high dimensional data set like hyperspectral images. In Parallel ICA (pICA), ICA module is partitioned into three temporally independent functional modules, and each of them is synthesized individually. All these modules are developed for reuse and retargeting purpose. It provides an optimal parallelism environment, a potential faster and real-time solution [15]. FPGA implementation of ICA in digital chip is reported with the modular design concept in [16] and with systolic architecture in [17]. A mixed-signal VLSI system that operates on spatial and temporal differences in the acoustic field at very small aperture to separate and localize mixtures of traveling wave sources is presented in [18].

Evolutionary computation techniques which are population search based optimization methods like genetic algorithms and Particle swarm optimization are used in ICA [19][20] [21]. The only disadvantage of evolutionary computation based ICA technique is that it has heavy computational complexity. But with the advent of highly parallel processors and new technologies like VLSI, these methods provide competitive solutions to the problems.

Though current speech-recognition technologies are quite successful for clean speech signals, their performance is poor in real-world noisy environment which prevents it from becoming popular. Speech enhancement techniques to be made to overcome this difficulty are adaptive noise canceling (ANC) and blind signal separation (BSS). ANC reduces noise when there is knowledge of reference noise signals. When no reference signal is known, then the problem is the BSS problem [23]. ICA technique is mostly used in BSS problems. Two different ICA methods named as Shuffled Frog Leap optimization based ICA and Fast Confluence Adaptive ICA are proposed in floating point arithmetic in this paper. Most commonly used Fast ICA algorithm that provides high convergence speed is also developed for comparison purpose. In order to enable the real-time ICA processing in VLSI and to speed up the computation, the ICA algorithms are written by hand coding HDL code. Various analog VLSI implementations of ICA also exist in the literature. Since digital adaptation offers the

flexibility of reconfigurable ICA learning rules, digital implementations are common practice in this field. Though there is software that translates the high-level languages such as C code, MATLAB, and even Simulink into HDL code, hand coding gives the power optimized Implementation with improved performance.

The originality of the proposed FCA ICA is summarized as follows:

- The early determination of converging weight vector and demixing matrix reduces the number of operations and hence the power consumption.
- Convergent speed is improved by changing the weight vectors according to fitness value.
- Floating point arithmetic improves the precision and dynamic range of the signals.

This paper is organized as follows. Section II describes the background of ICA. Section III presents the implementation of the FP arithmetic units. Section IV describes the FastICA algorithm. Section V describes proposed SFLO optimization algorithms for ICA that is based on evolutionary algorithms. Section VI describes proposed FCA ICA and Section VII demonstrates the simulation and implementation results. Finally, conclusions are drawn in Section VIII.

2. Background of ICA

A long-standing problem in statistics and related areas is to find a suitable representation of multivariate data. Representation here means that data is transformed so that its hidden, essential structure is made more visible or accessible. Blind source separation is a problem of finding a linear representation of hidden data from the mixture in which the components are statistically independent. In practical situations, we cannot in general find a representation where the components are really independent, but we can at least find components that are as independent as possible. Independent component analysis is a major task in signal processing to extract the source signals from the observed mixtures. The relationship between source signals S and observed mixtures X is given in matrix notation as in (1).

$$X = A S \quad (1)$$

A is a full rank matrix which is called mixing matrix. Under some assumptions, ICA solves the BSS problem by finding inverse linear transformation such that, it maximizes the statistical independence between the observed mixtures. In doing this, ICA finds unmixing matrix B . Then the estimate of the source signal (S_{est}) is found from (2)

$$S_{est} = B X = S \quad (2)$$

2.1. ICA Preprocessing

In order to simplify the ICA process, it is highly recommended to perform preprocessing of mixtures before applying them to the ICA algorithm. The preprocessing of

mixed signal involves finding the mixing matrix P. The first step in preprocessing is called centering.

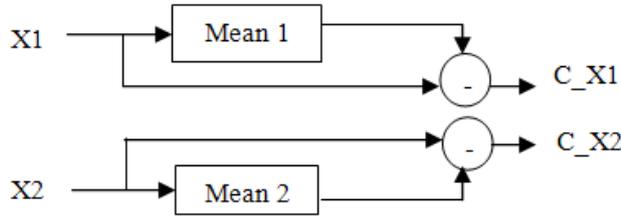


Figure 1. Implementation of Centering

Let N statistically independent sources be mixed through NxN nonsingular mixing matrix A so that we obtain the observed signal mixtures given by $x_1(t), x_2(t), \dots, x_n(t)$ which are the amplitudes of the recorded signals at time point t. For N=2, representation of original source signals is given by $s_1(t), s_2(t)$ and mixtures are $x_1(t)$ and $x_2(t)$. Centering consists of subtracting the mean from each observed mixtures $X_1(t)$ and $X_2(t)$ to produce zero mean outputs C_{X1} and C_{X2} as shown in Fig.1.

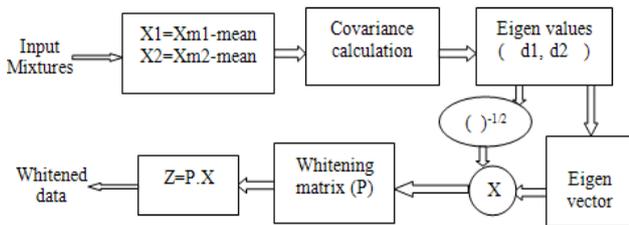


Figure 2. Implementation Of Whitening

The second step is called Whitening and consists in linear transformation of the centered mixtures, to obtain new vectors which are white. Fig.2 shows the whitening process. The components of a whitened vector are uncorrelated and their variances equals to unity. This means that the covariance matrix of whitened data is equal to the identity matrix. One way to perform whitening is to use Eigen value Decomposition (EVD). The whitening matrix can be found by using (6)

$$P = ED^{-1/2} E^T \tag{6}$$

Where E is the orthogonal matrix of eigenvector found from the covariance matrix $E \{XX^T\}$. D is the diagonal matrix of the eigenvalues associated with each eigenvector.

The efficiency of ICA is based on the selection of cost functions, also called objective functions or contrast functions. The Cost function in some way or other is a measure of independence [2]. Some measures of independence are Kurtosis, negentropy and mutual information. Though there are different contrast functions, the most popular contrast function used in ICA is kurtosis.

3. Floating Point Arithmetic

Based on the storage area available, there are two variants

of floating point representation of a real number i.e. IEEE single-precision representation and IEEE double-precision representation. IEEE single precision format, that uses 32 bits, has been used for this proposed ICA algorithm. Format of 32 bit Floating Point Representation is shown in Fig 3.

S	E	M
31	30 23	22 0

Figure 3. 32 bit Floating Point Format Representation

The sign field S in Fig. 1 is used to specify the sign of the real number. Exponent field E is a 8 bit quantity represented by using a bias of 127. Bits 22 down to 0 in field M are used to store the binary representation of the floating point number. Since leading one in the mantissa is implicit, it does not appear in the representation. Addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and square root operations are carried out following the appropriate algorithms of single precision IEEE 754 standard [31].

4. Fast ICA

4.1. The Fast ICA Algorithm

Due to simplicity and fast convergence, Fast ICA is considered as one of the most popular solutions for linear ICA/BSS problem. The VLSI implementation of this algorithm involves the preprocessing discussed in chapter II and iteration scheme.

4.1.1 Iteration for One Unit

The fast ICA algorithm for one unit estimates one row of the demixing matrix as a vector that is an extremum of contrast functions. Fast ICA is an iterative algorithm, derived from kurtosis based contrast function. Assuming Z as the whitened data vector and $w^T(k+1)$ as one of the rows of the separating matrix, estimation of $w^T(k+1)$ is done iteratively until convergence is achieved. The Fast ICA algorithm involves the following steps.

- Choose an initial random vector of unit norm (w_{old}).
 - Find norm of vectors and divide by corresponding norms.
 - Update the frog by the formula using whitened data vector Z to find w_{new}
- $$w_{new} = E \{ Z(w(k)Z^T)^3 \} - 3w(k)$$
- If $w_{new} - w_{old} < \epsilon$ is not satisfied then go back to step 2. where ϵ is a convergence parameter ($\sim 10^{-4}$) and w_{old} is the value of before it's replacement by the newly calculated value w_{new} .

4.1.2. Fixed-Point Iteration for Finding Several ICs

More than one independent components are estimated

using a deflationary approach one by one or estimated simultaneously by symmetric approach. In order to prevent that the algorithm estimates the same component more than one time, the orthogonalization is made using (3) and (4). This verification is done by subtracting the projections of all previously estimated vectors from the current estimate after every iteration step and before normalization.

$$w_p(w_p - (w_p^T w_j)w_j) \quad (3)$$

In the symmetric approach the iteration step is computed for all w_p and the matrix W is orthogonalized as

$$w \leftarrow (ww^T) - 1/2w \quad (4)$$

The results are obtained in Fast ICA following the deflationary approach.

5. SFLO ICA

In this ICA method, contrast function optimization is performed based on SFLO for improving the optimality and convergence performance. Mutation operator introduced in SFLO Algorithm avoids the solution from getting trapped in local minima. It converges better in lesser time when compared to other optimization algorithms. In this algorithm, initial weight vectors for estimating the demixing matrix are assumed as frogs and updated by step 3 of the algorithm. Then fitness value is calculated and sorting is done according to fitness value. Based on the fitness values, total population is partitioned into q groups (memeplexes) of p frogs, that search independently. In this process, the first frog goes to the first memeplex, the second frog goes to the second memeplex, frog p goes to the p th memeplex, and frog $p+1$ goes back to the first memeplex and so on. In each memeplex, the frogs with the best and the worst fitnesses are identified as X_b and X_w , respectively. Also, the frog with the most qualified fitness level among all the memeplexes is identified as X_g . Then improvement is done to improve only the frog with the worst fitness according to step (8). If this process produces a better solution, it replaces the worst frog. Otherwise, a new population is randomly generated to replace that population. This process continues for a specific number of iterations (I_{max1}). Then all memeplexes are combined and sorted. Then mutation operation is included using (11) to avoid local minima. If the current iteration number reaches (I_{max2}), the search procedure is stopped; otherwise it goes to Step 5. The last X_g is the solution of the problem.

5.1. Floating Point Iteration

Estimation of $w^T(k+1)$ is done iteratively with following steps until a convergence is achieved.

- Choose initial population of 'n' frogs (weights) at random.
- Find norm of pair of frogs and divide by corresponding norms.

- Update the frogs by the formula

$$w(k+1) \leftarrow E\{Z(w(k)Z^T)^3\} - 3w(k)$$

- Calculate the fitness value from

$$f = w(k+1) - w(k)$$

- Sort the initial population based on the fitness values with decreasing manner.
- Partition the sorted population into p memeplexes of q frogs.
- Select the best frog (X_b), worst frog (X_w) in each memeplex and globally best frog (X_g).
- Update the position of X_w using $X_{w(new)} = X_{w(old)} + C$, where $C = \text{rand}(\cdot)(X_b - X_w)$.
- If it produces better solution, older frog is replaced by updated frog and this process continues for a specific number of iterations (I_{max1}). Otherwise a new frog is randomly generated to replace X_w and algorithm goes to step 2.
- All memeplexes are combined and sorted again.
- Apply mutation

$$X_{mut}^i = X_{rand}^i + \text{rand}(\cdot)(X_b^i - X_{rand}^i) + \text{rand}(\cdot)(X_g^i - X_{rand}^i)$$

- If the current iteration number reaches I_{max2} , the search procedure is stopped or it goes to Step 5.
- The last X_g is the solution of the problem.

Here X_{rand}^i is a randomly generated vector, N_{mem} is the number of memeplexes, $i=1,2,\dots,N_{mem}$, $\text{rand}(\cdot)$ is random number between (0 and 1) and ϵ is a convergence parameter ($\sim 10^{-4}$). With the above steps, Deflationary orthogonalization is made to find second independent component.

6. Novel Floating Point Fast Confluence Adaptive ICA

Though the above algorithm which is based on SFLO improves the optimality performance, it suffers from computational complexity due to large number of iterative calculations in floating point iteration scheme. For reducing the number of manipulations and for improving the performance of ICA algorithm in terms of convergence speed, adaptive optimization of contrast function is proposed in floating point arithmetic. Here, initial weight vectors for estimating the demixing matrix B in (2), are assumed as frogs and are described as memetic vectors. This algorithm computes new weights (frogs) from the initial weights in adaptive manner based on fitness value.

6.1. Floating Point Iteration for One Unit

Having done the preprocessing to whiten the mixed signal, this algorithm is used to find the independent component. The proposed Fast Confluence Adaptive ICA algorithm for one unit estimates one row of the demixing matrix. Update

of weights continues in iterative manner with following steps until a convergence is achieved.

- Choose initial frogs (w_i) of 'N' numbers at random.
- Find norm of frogs and divide by corresponding norms.
- Update all the N frogs by using the formula

$$w(k+1) \leftarrow E\{Z(w(k)Z^T)^3\} - 3w(k)$$
- Calculate the fitness value $f = w(k+1) - w(k)$ and sort the frogs according to the fitness values.
- Divide the N frogs into M groups ($N=2*M$) with 2 frogs in each group. The division is done in such a way that 1st frog goes to 1st group, 2nd frog goes to 2nd group and continuous up to M frogs. Then (M+1)th frog goes to 1st group and so on.
- In each group, determine the best and worst individuals. Update the worst frogs using step 3.
- If $\{w(k+1) - w(k)\} < \epsilon$ is not satisfied, then go back to step 2 by adaptively taking a new 'wi' lesser than that of worst frog where ϵ is a convergence parameter ($\sim 10^{-4}$).
- When $\{w(k+1) - w(k)\} < \epsilon$ is satisfied, move to next group of frogs and repeat from step 6 until Iteration limit is reached.

Then the two vectors with good fitness value can be used as row vectors of demixing matrix. With the above steps, Deflationary orthogonalization is then made to find second independent component.

7. Results and Discussion

For verification of the validity and performance of the Fast ICA and the two proposed ICA algorithms, two different sub Gaussian and super-gaussian signal mixtures are taken and applied to the algorithms. The original signals are mixed with artificial mixing matrix A. The mixing matrix is a full rank matrix of 2 rows and 2 columns. The experiment was carried out first, for small-sized problem with 256 samples. Because the defined algorithm must be capable of efficiently solving the real-world sized instances, another experiment is carried out for large-sized problem with 3000 samples each.

7.1. Simulation Results of ICA Algorithms

Table 1. Convergence Speed of ICA algorithms

Parameters/ Algorithms	Fast ICA	SFLO-ICA	FCA-ICA
Convergence Time T (ps)	300	500	200

The algorithms are written in VHDL and the simulation results are obtained from Modelsim 10.0c Tool. Table 1 compares the performance of Fast ICA, SFLO ICA and FCA-ICA in terms of convergence speed T. Here T represents the time taken for each of the algorithms to reach

convergence. The FCA-ICA based extraction of components from their mixtures possesses faster convergence compared to other two.

7.2. Results of Supergaussian Mixture

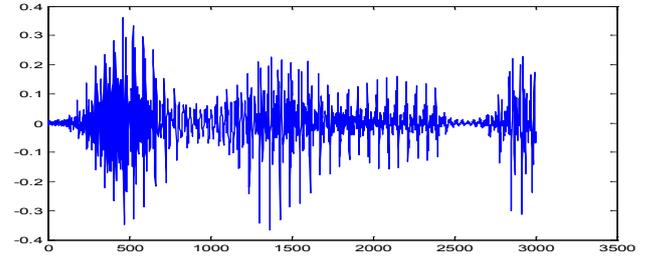


Figure 4. Speech signal 1

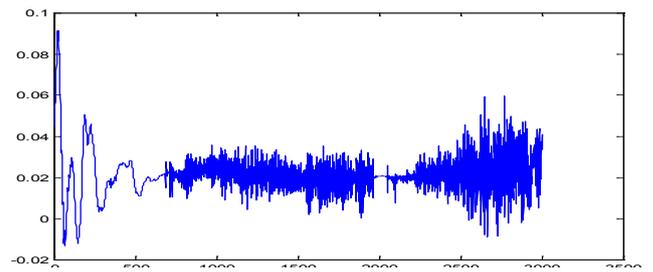


Figure 5. Speech signal 2

The original speech signals obtained are shown in Fig 4 and Fig.5 respectively. Supergaussian signals have kurtosis value greater than zero. Examples of supergaussian signals are Speech signal, Train sound, Car noise etc. The super-gaussian mixture signals are shown in Fig 6 and 7 respectively. Fig.8 and Fig 9 shows the independent components obtained through proposed systems.

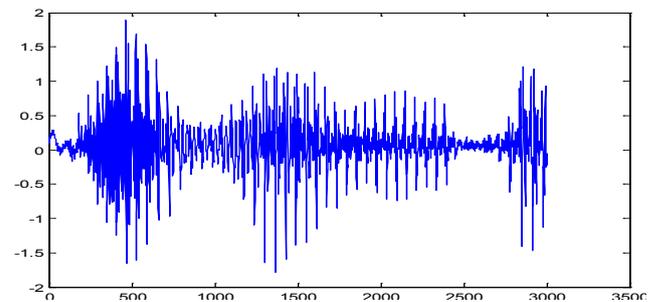


Figure 6. Mixture of speech signal 1

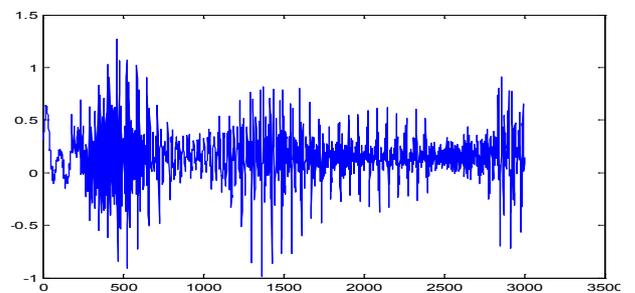


Figure 7. Mixture of speech signal 2

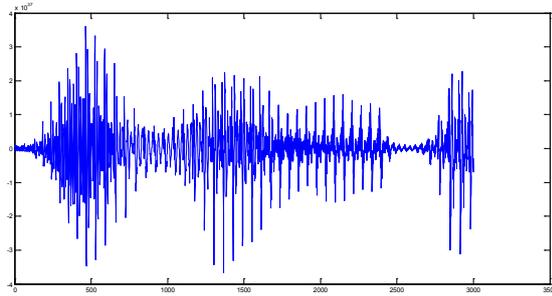


Figure 8. Recovered speech signal 1

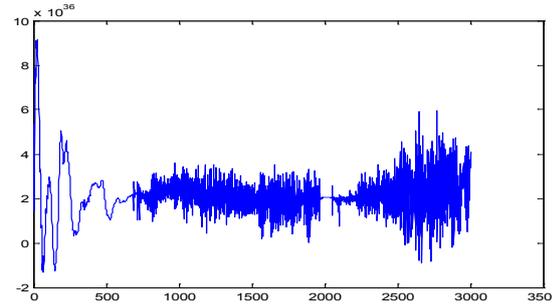


Figure 9. Recovered speech signal 2

7.3. Results of Subgaussian Mixture

Subgaussian signals have kurtosis value lesser than zero. When kurtosis is zero, the signal is Gaussian for which ICA cannot be applied. Sine waves, sawtooth waves are examples of subgaussian signals. Two signals as in (5) and (6) each are taken and instantaneously mixed by the artificial mixing matrix A shown in (14)

$$S_1 = \sin(2\pi \cdot 50 \cdot t) \tag{5}$$

$$S_2 = \text{square}(2\pi \cdot 50 \cdot t) \tag{6}$$

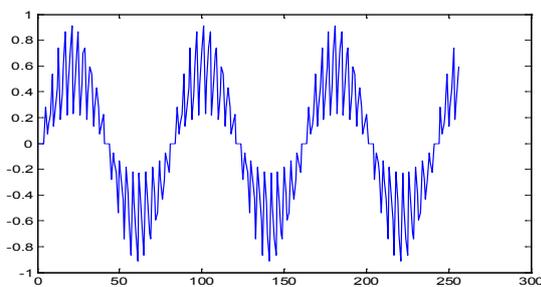


Figure 10. Sine Wave Mixed With Matrix A

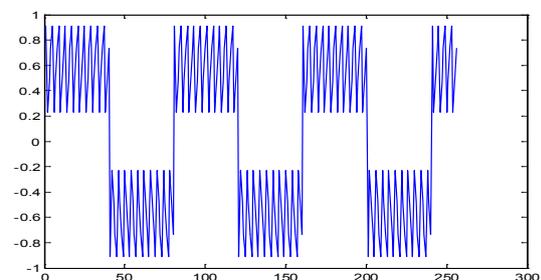


Figure 11. Square Wave Mixed With Matrix A

The subgaussian mixture signals are shown in Fig 10 and 11 respectively. Fig.12 and Fig 13 shows the independent components obtained through proposed systems

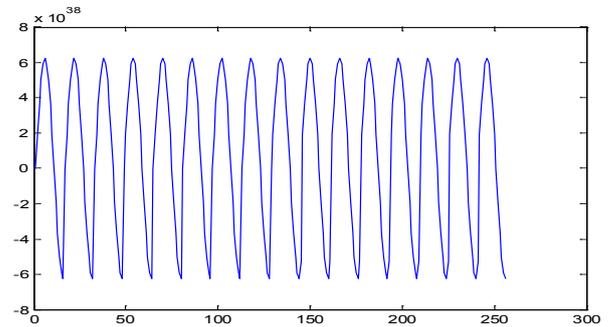


Figure 12. Recovered sine wave

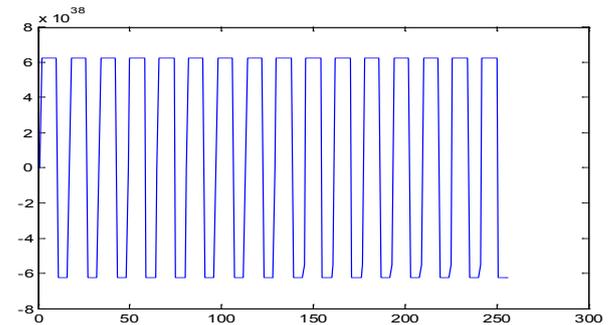


Figure 13. Recovered square wave

8. Conclusion

In this paper, new time-domain approaches to estimate the independent components of from observed super Gaussian and sub-gaussian mixtures have been presented. Use of modularity and hierarchy simplifies the design, reduces the area and speeds up the convergence process of ICA. The usage of optimization algorithm enables finding optimal solutions. Floating point manipulations enable increased input signal range. The peculiarity of the resulting system is the capability of providing faster convergence with reduced power. Further research includes the application of the proposed method for other signals, such as Electroencephalograph (EEG), Spread spectrum signals and images under poor Signal to noise ratio (SNR) circumstances. Further improvement is possible by employing this technique with more than two sources. The FCA ICA, Fast ICA and SFLO ICA (Shuffle Frog Leap Optimization based ICA) algorithms converge to the optimal solution at 300ps, 200ps and 500ps respectively.

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