

**MULTICHANNEL INVERSION
IN REFLECTION SEISMOLOGY**

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ABSTRACT

Adequate sampling of the reflected wavefield is required to produce high resolution images of the earth's interior from reflection-seismic data. Often, especially in three-dimensional surveys, spatial sampling is inadequate, and the result is spatial aliasing and loss of resolution. While spatial aliasing is a missing data problem, the available data are multichannel, and summing (stacking) is used to merge information from different channels. The goal of this thesis is to use the multichannel data in the most effective way to overcome spatial aliasing.

A linear operator whose formulation is based on the wave equation relates the potentially aliased seismic data to the model: the ideal, well-sampled, zero-offset section. Inversion of that operator is multichannel inversion.

Treating missing data as zero data and performing partial migration before stacking are equivalent to the application of the transpose of the operator we need to invert. This processing is adequate only in the absence of spatial aliasing.

I used a conjugate-gradient-inversion program and found that convergence was achieved in less than ten iterations. The first iteration was equivalent to conventional processing. Following iterations showed substantial improvement relative to the first.

Separation of the multichannel inversion to many small inversions, one for each spatial frequency, is possible when the sampling is uniform and assuming that lateral velocity variations are mild. Full separation in both space and time is possible using the log and the Fourier transforms. (The log transform is the resampling of the data in the logarithm of the time).

As applied to synthetic and field data, multichannel inversion, combined with spatial spectral balancing, was effective in overcoming spatial aliasing.

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Table of contents

Abstract	<i>iii</i>
Acknowledgments	<i>iv</i>
Table of contents	<i>v</i>
List of figures	<i>vii</i>
List of tables	<i>viii</i>
Chapter 1: Missing data or too much data ?	
1.1 Sampling and aliasing in reflection seismology	1
1.2 Multichannel data in reflection seismology	3
1.3 Thesis overview	11
Chapter 2: Formulation	
2.1 Aliasing revisited	13
2.2 Multichannel inversion in one dimension	15
2.3 The choice of model and data	18
2.4 Velocity variations	21
2.5 The channel operator — \mathbf{D}^+	21
2.6 Multichannel inversion in reflection seismology	22
2.7 Singular value decomposition	24
2.8 Time invariant formulation	25
2.9 Missing and muted data	27
2.10 Interlaced sampling	28
2.11 Moving sources/receivers (marine)	28
2.12 Deconvolving receiver groups	28
2.13 Integral formulation	29
2.14 Multichannel inversion in three dimensions	29
2.15 Summary	30
Chapter 3: Application	
3.1 Multichannel transposition	31
3.2 Missing data = zero data ?	35
3.3 Generalized inversion	36
3.4 Synthetic data example	37
3.5 The design of three dimensional surveys	37
3.6 3-D simulated by 2-D	41
3.7 In and out of DMO space	42
3.8 Selective damping in conjugate gradient inversion	43
3.9 Field data example	43
3.10 Summary	44

Appendix A: Inverse DMO	
A.1 Prestack full migration	51
A.2 Prestack partial migration	52
A.3 Inverse DMO	53
A.4 Impulse responses	54
A.5 Inverse DMO in three dimensions	54
A.6 Summary	57
Conclusions	59
References	60

List of figures

1.1.1	Aliasing in one dimension	2
1.1.2	Spatial aliasing	2
1.1.3	A stacked section	4
1.1.4	Migration of the stack in Figure 1.1.3	5
1.1.5	Subsampled stack with trace interval of 50 m	6
1.1.6	Migration of the stack in Figure 1.1.5	7
1.1.7	Severe spatial aliasing with trace interval of 100 m	8
1.1.8	Migration of the stack in Figure 1.1.7	9
1.2.1	Near offset section	10
1.3.1	Overcoming aliasing for a one-dimensional signal	12
1.3.2	Overcoming aliasing in reflection seismology	12
2.1.1	Spectral interpretation of sampling and aliasing	14
2.2.1	Multichannel data	15
2.2.2	Di-channel data of a function and its derivative	16
2.3.1	The choice of model and data	20
2.6.1	$\mathbf{G}(k)$ for various k 's	23
2.7.1	Singular values of $\mathbf{G}(k)$ for various k 's	24
3.1.1	The matrix $\sum \mathbf{D}_j \mathbf{D}_j^+$	32
3.1.2	$\mathbf{G}^* \mathbf{G}$ for various k 's	34
3.4.1	Synthetic example	38
3.4.2	Synthetic example (hidden line plots)	39
3.5.1	Two boat recording geometry	41
3.9.1	Stacking chart of the original and aliased data	45
3.9.2	The aliased data	45
3.9.3	The models of the first six iterations (unbalanced)	46
3.9.4	Spatial spectra of the first six iterations (unbalanced)	47
3.9.5	Spatial spectra of the first six iterations (balanced)	48
3.9.6	The models of the first six iterations (balanced)	49
3.9.7	Summary of the field data example	50
A.2.1	Decomposition of pre-stack full migration	53
A.4.1	DMO and inverse-DMO impulse responses	55
A.4.2	DMO and inverse DMO in sequence	56

List of tables

A.6.1	Dmo and its inverse	57
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