

TITLE

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR HEALTH MONITORING USING AMPLITUDE MODULATED CONTINUOUS WAVE MICROWAVE SIGNAL

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS AND PRIORITY

[001] The present application claims priority to Indian complete specification (Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR HEALTH MONITORING USING AMPLITUDE MODULATED CONTINUOUS WAVE MICROWAVE SIGNAL) No. (201821040318), filed in India on October 25th, 2018.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[002] The disclosure herein generally relates to health monitoring, and, more particularly, to a method and a system for health monitoring using Amplitude Modulated Continuous Wave (AMCW) microwave signals.

BACKGROUND

[003] Use of microwave signals for non-contact measurement of heart rate and breathing rate is one of the popular research areas. In some of the existing systems which use microwave signal for health monitoring, continuous wave radar is used. The microwave signal is transmitted towards a user being monitored, and microwave signal which is reflected from the user is further processed. The reflected signal captures vibrational parameters (i.e. due to vibration of heart walls and that of lungs), wherein the vibrational information lies in phase of the signal and sensitivity varies based on wavelength of the microwave signal being used. However, the single channel systems suffer from two disadvantages namely null-point measurement and phase wrapping.

[004] A dual channel measurement can address issues due to null-point measurement. However phase-wrapping problem may still exist if vibrational amplitude of object being probed (for example, chest wall of the user) exceeds a certain threshold as compared to a probing wavelength. In case both the heart rate as well as the breathing rate are being measured, then corresponding vibration is composed of two oscillations of different frequencies (i.e. of the heart rate measurement and that of the breathing rate measurement). In this scenario, breathing rate amplitude may create harmonics that leak into heart rate region, thus causing phase wrapping.

[005] One way to reduce the phase wrapping problem is by increasing the probing

wavelength. However sensitivity reduces as the probing wavelength increases, and as a result tiny heart movements may not be picked up while probing. Reducing the probing wavelength to increase the sensitivity introduces phase wrapping from the breathing rate measurement (due to larger chest wall movements) and produces unwanted frequency components in the heart rate region. This puts a restriction on selection of the probing wavelength, and the restriction on the probing wavelength in turn puts constraint on antenna size.

SUMMARY

[006] Embodiments of the present disclosure present technological improvements as solutions to one or more of the above-mentioned technical problems recognized by the inventors in conventional systems. For example, in one embodiment, a method for health monitoring is provided. In this method, an Amplitude Modulated Continuous Wave (AMCW) microwave signal is transmitted towards a subject being monitored, by a monitoring system, wherein the AMCW signal comprises a Continuous Wave (CW) microwave signal as a carrier signal along with a modulating signal. Further, the AMCW microwave signal is captured when reflected back from the subject, by the monitoring system, wherein the modulating signal of the reflected AMCW microwave signal carries heart rate measurement and breathing rate measurement of the subject. Further, from the captured AMCW microwave signal, the modulating signal is extracted by the monitoring system. Further, a first mixed signal (I) is generated by mixing the extracted modulating signal with a reference modulating signal, by the monitoring system, wherein the reference modulating signal is the modulating signal that is transmitted towards the subject. Further, a second mixed signal (Q) is generated by mixing the extracted modulating signal with the quadrature of the reference modulating signal, by the monitoring system. Further, relative phase shift of the modulating signal in the first mixed signal (I) and in the second mixed signal (Q) is captured to generate a relative phase shift signal, by low pass filtering the I and the Q and by taking Arctan on ratio of output of the low pass filtering of the I and the Q, by the monitoring system. Further from the generated relative phase shift signal, a first component and a second component are extracted by the monitoring system, wherein the first component represents the measured heart rate and the second component represents the measured breathing rate of the subject.

[007] In another aspect, a monitoring system is provided. The monitoring system includes a modulator, an envelope detector, a transmitter antenna, a receiver antenna, a first mixer, a second mixer, a low pass filter, and an extraction module. The monitoring system performs health monitoring of a subject, by executing the following method. Initially, an Amplitude Modulated Continuous Wave (AMCW) microwave signal is transmitted towards a

subject being monitored, using a transmitter antenna of a monitoring system, wherein the AMCW signal comprises a Continuous Wave (CW) microwave signal as a carrier signal along with a modulating signal. Further, the AMCW microwave signal is captured when the AMCW microwave signal is reflected from the subject, using a receiver antenna of the monitoring system, wherein the modulating signal of the reflected AMCW microwave signal carries heart rate measurement and breathing rate measurement of the subject. Further, from the captured AMCW microwave signal, the modulating signal is extracted using an envelope detector of the monitoring system. Further, a first mixed signal (I) is generated by mixing the extracted modulating signal with a reference modulating signal, using a first mixer of the monitoring system, wherein the reference modulating signal is the modulating signal that is transmitted towards the subject. Further, a second mixed signal (Q) is generated by mixing the extracted modulating signal with the quadrature of the reference modulating signal, using a second mixer of the monitoring system. Further, relative phase shift of the modulating signal in the first mixed signal (I) and in the second mixed signal (Q) is captured to generate a relative phase shift signal, by low pass filtering the I and the Q and by taking Arctan on ratio of output of the low pass filtering of the I and the Q using a low-pass filter. Further from the generated relative phase shift signal, a first component and a second component are extracted using an extraction module, wherein the first component represents the measured heart rate and the second component represents the measured breathing rate of the subject.

[008] It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory only and are not restrictive of the invention, as claimed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[009] The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of this disclosure, illustrate exemplary embodiments and, together with the description, serve to explain the disclosed principles:

[010] FIG. 1 illustrates an exemplary circuit diagram of a monitoring system used for health monitoring of a subject, according to some embodiments of the present disclosure.

[011] FIG. 2 (including FIG. 2A and FIG. 2B) is a flow diagram depicting steps involved in the process of health monitoring, using the monitoring system 100 of FIG.1, according to some embodiments of the present disclosure.

[012] FIG. 3 is graphical representation depicting detection of Heart rate and Breathing rate when a carrier frequency of 10.5 GHz_z used by the monitoring system, according to some

embodiments of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

[013] Exemplary embodiments are described with reference to the accompanying drawings. In the figures, the left-most digit(s) of a reference number identifies the figure in which the reference number first appears. Wherever convenient, the same reference numbers are used throughout the drawings to refer to the same or like parts. While examples and features of disclosed principles are described herein, modifications, adaptations, and other implementations are possible without departing from the spirit and scope of the disclosed embodiments. It is intended that the following detailed description be considered as exemplary only, with the true scope and spirit being indicated by the following claims.

[014] Referring now to the drawings, and more particularly to FIG. 1 through FIG. 3, where similar reference characters denote corresponding features consistently throughout the figures, there are shown preferred embodiments and these embodiments are described in the context of the following exemplary system and/or method.

[015] FIG. 1 illustrates an exemplary circuit diagram of a monitoring system used for health monitoring of a subject, according to some embodiments of the present disclosure. The monitoring system (100), hereinafter referred to as 'system (100)' includes a modulator (101), an envelope detector (105), a transmitter antenna (103), a receiver antenna (104), a first mixer (106.a), a second mixer (106.b), a low pass filter (107), and an extraction module (108). The modulator (101) comprises of a multiplier (102).

[016] The modulator (101) fetches a carrier signal and a modulating signal. Wavelength of the modulating signal is termed as 'probing wavelength'. The modulator (101) amplitude modulates (AM) the carrier signal i.e. amplitude of the transmitted signal is varied according to the modulating signal. The AMCW microwave signal is transmitted towards a subject (a user) being monitored, using the transmitter antenna (103). The transmitted AMCW microwave signal $T'(t)$ is represented as:

$$T'(t) = A_c \left[1 + \frac{A_m}{A_c} \cos(2\pi f_m t) \right] \cos(2\pi f_c t) \text{--- (1)}$$

where f_c and f_m be carrier frequency and modulating frequency respectively. A_c and A_m are corresponding amplitudes.

[017] The AMCW microwave signal reflects back from the subject, and the reflected signal is captured by the system (100), using the receiver antenna (104). The captured reflected signal $R'(t)$ is represented as:

$$R'(t) = A_c \left[1 + \frac{A_m}{A_c} \cos(2\pi f_m t - \Phi) \right] \cos(2\pi f_c t - \Phi) \text{--- (2)}$$

where ‘ Φ ’ represents phase shift of the reflected signal as compared to the transmitted signal.

[018] Φ depends on initial distance (i.e. distance between the transmitted antenna 103 and the subject) as well as on vital sign vibration $x(t)$, and the relation is expressed as:

$$\Phi = \frac{4\pi d}{\lambda} = \frac{4\pi d_0}{\lambda} + \frac{4\pi x(t)}{\lambda} = \Phi_{d0} + \Phi_{x(t)} \text{ --- (3)}$$

where,

$$x(t) = m_r \sin(\omega_r t) + m_h \sin(\omega_h t) \text{ --- (4)}$$

where m_r and m_h are amplitude of breathing rate and heart rate of the subject, respectively. Similarly, ω_r and ω_h are frequency of breathing rate and heart rate of the subject, respectively.

[019] In order to eliminate the harmonics, the system 100 makes final output of the system (100) proportional to the vital signal vibration $x(t)$. For this purpose, the captured reflected signal $R'(t)$ is quadrature demodulated to generate a baseband in-phase output (I) and a quadrature phase (Q) output.

‘Q’ is generated by:

[020] Mixing the extracted modulating signal with a reference modulating signal. Here the reference signal is the modulating signal that had been transmitted towards the subject using the transmitter antenna (103). Q is represented as:

$$Q(t) = \frac{A_m^2}{2} \sin(\Phi_{d0} + \Phi_{x(t)}) \text{ --- (5)}$$

I is generated by:

[021] Introducing a 90 degree phase shift in the reference modulating signal, and further by mixing the 90 degree phase shifted reference modulating signal with the extracted modulating signal. I is represented as:

$$I(t) = \frac{A_m^2}{2} \cos(\Phi_{d0} + \Phi_{x(t)}) \text{ --- (6)}$$

[022] Now:

$$\frac{Q(t)}{I(t)} = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{\sin(\Phi_{d0} + \Phi_{x(t)})}{\cos(\Phi_{d0} + \Phi_{x(t)})} \right) = (\Phi_{d0} + \Phi_{x(t)}) \text{ --- (7)}$$

Where Φ_{d0} is a constant and can be removed.

[023] Further the system 100 low pass filters the signals I and Q and then takes Arctangent (also referred to as ‘Arctan’ throughout the specification and claims) on ratio of output of the low pass filtering of the I and the Q using the low-pass filter 107, to capture relative phase shift of the signals, and to generate a relative phase shift signal.

[024] Further the system 100 extracts a first component and a second component from

the relative phase shift signal, wherein the first component represents the heart rate measurement and the second component represents the breathing rate measurement of the subject being monitored. In the process of extracting the first and the second components, the extraction module 108 obtains Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) of the relative phase-shifted signal. After obtaining the FFT, the extraction module 108 checks for dominant peaks in the obtained FFT. If any dominant peak is identified in 0.05 Hz to 1 Hz range in the obtained FFT, it is identified as a measured Breathing Rate. Similarly if any dominant peak is identified in 0.8 Hz to 2.5 Hz range in the obtained FFT, it is identified as the measured Heart Rate, by the system 100.

[025] FIG. 2 (including FIG. 2A and FIG. 2B) is a flow diagram depicting steps involved in the process of health monitoring, using the monitoring system 100 of FIG.1, according to some embodiments of the present disclosure. In the process of health monitoring using the monitoring system 100, initially an AMCW microwave signal is transmitted (202) towards the subject, and the AMCW microwave signal that is reflected from the subject is captured (204). From the captured signal, a modulating signal is extracted (206). The modulating signal is mixed (208) with a reference modulating signal to generate a first mixed signal (I). Further, the modulating signal is mixed (210) with quadrature of the reference modulating signal to generate a second mixed signal. Then the system 100 captures (212) relative phase shift of modulating signal in I and Q to generate a relative phase shift signal, and from the relative phase shift signal, a first component and a second component are extracted, wherein the first component represents the heart rate measurement and the second component represents the breathing rate measurement of the subject being monitored.

Experimental results:

[026] In the experiment conducted, ground truths used are: Heart Rate (HR) = 1.3 Hz (78 beats/second), amplitude of HR (m_h) is 0.4 mm, Breathing Rate (BR) is 0.3 Hz (18 beats/min) and amplitude of BR (m_r) is 4 mm. AMCW radar with modulating signal $f_m = 2.72$ GHz and $f_c = 10.5$ GHz with I/Q based arctangent demodulation technique. In this experimental setup, distance between the subject and the radar is kept near to null point. This is depicted in FIG. 3, and it shows that the two components i.e. the breathing rate and the heart rate have been detected correctly.

[027] As part of the experiment, when the carrier frequency was increased from 10.5 GHz to 24.05 GHz, the monitoring system 100 could detect the breathing rate and the heart rate.

[028] The written description describes the subject matter herein to enable any person skilled in the art to make and use the embodiments. The scope of the subject matter embodiments is defined by the claims and may include other modifications that occur to those skilled in the art. Such other modifications are intended to be within the scope of the claims if

they have similar elements that do not differ from the literal language of the claims or if they include equivalent elements with insubstantial differences from the literal language of the claims.

[029] The embodiments of present disclosure herein addresses unresolved problem of phase wrapping and null point detection elimination while using microwave signals for heart rate and breathing rate measurement. The embodiment, thus provides a mechanism to adjust antenna size by allowing carrier wave frequency to be varied as per requirements. It is to be understood that the scope of the protection is extended to such a program and in addition to a computer-readable means having a message therein; such computer-readable storage means contain program-code means for implementation of one or more steps of the method, when the program runs on a server or mobile device or any suitable programmable device. The hardware device can be any kind of device which can be programmed including e.g. any kind of computer like a server or a personal computer, or the like, or any combination thereof. The device may also include means which could be e.g. hardware means like e.g. an application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC), a field-programmable gate array (FPGA), or a combination of hardware and software means, e.g. an ASIC and an FPGA, or at least one microprocessor and at least one memory with software modules located therein. Thus, the means can include both hardware means and software means. The method embodiments described herein could be implemented in hardware and software. The device may also include software means. Alternatively, the embodiments may be implemented on different hardware devices, e.g. using a plurality of CPUs.

[030] The embodiments herein can comprise hardware and software elements. The embodiments that are implemented in software include but are not limited to, firmware, resident software, microcode, etc. The functions performed by various modules described herein may be implemented in other modules or combinations of other modules. For the purposes of this description, a computer-usable or computer readable medium can be any apparatus that can comprise, store, communicate, propagate, or transport the program for use by or in connection with the instruction execution system, apparatus, or device.

[031] The illustrated steps are set out to explain the exemplary embodiments shown, and it should be anticipated that ongoing technological development will change the manner in which particular functions are performed. These examples are presented herein for purposes of illustration, and not limitation. Further, the boundaries of the functional building blocks have been arbitrarily defined herein for the convenience of the description. Alternative boundaries can be defined so long as the specified functions and relationships thereof are appropriately performed. Alternatives (including equivalents, extensions, variations, deviations, etc., of those described herein) will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings contained herein. Such alternatives fall within the scope and spirit of the disclosed embodiments.

Also, the words “comprising,” “having,” “containing,” and “including,” and other similar forms are intended to be equivalent in meaning and be open ended in that an item or items following any one of these words is not meant to be an exhaustive listing of such item or items, or meant to be limited to only the listed item or items. It must also be noted that as used herein and in the appended claims, the singular forms “a,” “an,” and “the” include plural references unless the context clearly dictates otherwise.

[032] Furthermore, one or more computer-readable storage media may be utilized in implementing embodiments consistent with the present disclosure. A computer-readable storage medium refers to any type of physical memory on which information or data readable by a processor may be stored. Thus, a computer-readable storage medium may store instructions for execution by one or more processors, including instructions for causing the processor(s) to perform steps or stages consistent with the embodiments described herein. The term “computer-readable medium” should be understood to include tangible items and exclude carrier waves and transient signals, i.e., be non-transitory. Examples include random access memory (RAM), read-only memory (ROM), volatile memory, nonvolatile memory, hard drives, CD ROMs, DVDs, flash drives, disks, and any other known physical storage media.

[033] It is intended that the disclosure and examples be considered as exemplary only, with a true scope and spirit of disclosed embodiments being indicated by the following claims.

CLAIMS

1. A method for health monitoring, comprising:

transmitting an Amplitude Modulated Continuous Wave (AMCW) microwave signal towards a subject being monitored, by a monitoring system, wherein the AMCW signal comprises a Continuous Wave (CW) microwave signal as a carrier signal along with a modulating signal;

capturing the AMCW microwave signal when the AMCW microwave signal is reflected from the subject, by the monitoring system, wherein the modulating signal of the reflected AMCW microwave signal carries a measured heart rate and a measured breathing rate of the subject, wherein the captured reflected signal includes phase shift of the reflected signal compared to the transmitted AMCW microwave signal, wherein the phase shift depends on a distance between a transmitted antenna and the subject, and also depends on a vital sign vibration computed from an amplitude of heart rate, an amplitude of breathing rate, frequency of the heart rate, and frequency of the breathing rate;

extracting the modulating signal from the captured AMCW signal, by the monitoring system;

mixing the extracted modulating signal with a 90 degree phase shifted reference modulating signal to generate a first mixed signal, by the monitoring system, wherein the reference modulating signal is the modulating signal that is transmitted towards the subject;

mixing the extracted modulating signal with the quadrature of the reference modulating signal, by the monitoring system, to generate a second mixed signal;

capturing relative phase shift of the modulating signal in the first mixed signal and in the second mixed signal to generate a relative phase shift signal, by low pass filtering the first mixed signal and the second mixed signal and by taking Arctan on

ratio of output of the low pass filtering of the first mixed signal and the second mixed signal, by the monitoring system; and

extracting a first component and a second component from the generated relative phase shifted signal, by the monitoring system, wherein the first component represents the measured heart rate and the second component represents the measured breathing rate of the subject.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein frequency of the carrier signal is used as base for designing an antenna size being used for transmitting the AMCW microwave signal towards the subject.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein extracting the first component and the second component comprises:

obtaining Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) of the relative phase-shifted signal;

identifying a dominant peak in 0.05 Hz to 1 Hz range in the obtained FFT as the measured Breathing Rate; and

identifying a dominant peak in 0.8 Hz to 2.5 Hz range in the obtained FFT as the measured Heart Rate.

4. A monitoring system, comprising:

a modulator;

an envelope detector;

a transmitter antenna;

a receiver antenna;

a first mixer;

a second mixer;

a low pass filter; and

an extraction module;

wherein the monitoring system performs health monitoring of a subject, by:

transmitting an Amplitude Modulated Continuous Wave (AMCW) microwave signal towards a subject being monitored, using the transmitter antenna, wherein the AMCW signal comprises a Continuous Wave (CW) microwave signal as a carrier signal along with a modulating signal;

capturing the AMCW microwave signal when the AMCW microwave signal is reflected from the subject, using the receiver antenna, wherein the modulating signal of the reflected AMCW microwave signal carries a measured heart rate and a measured breathing rate of the subject, wherein the captured reflected signal includes phase shift of the reflected signal compared to the transmitted AMCW microwave signal, wherein the phase shift depends on a distance between a transmitted antenna and the subject, and also depends on a vital sign vibration computed from an amplitude of heart rate, an amplitude of breathing rate, frequency of the heart rate, and frequency of the breathing rate;

extracting the modulating signal from the captured AMCW signal, using the envelope detector of the monitoring system;

mixing the extracted modulating signal with a 90 degree phase shifted reference modulating signal to generate a first mixed signal, using a first mixer of the monitoring system, wherein the reference modulating signal is the modulating signal that is transmitted towards the subject;

mixing the extracted modulating signal with the quadrature of the reference modulating signal, using a second mixer of the monitoring system, to generate a second mixed signal;

capturing relative phase shift of the modulating signal in the first mixed signal and in the second mixed signal to generate a relative phase shift signal, by low pass filtering the first mixed signal and the second mixed

signal and by taking Arctan on ratio of output of the low pass filtering of the first mixed signal and the second mixed signal using the low-pass filter; and

extracting a first component and a second component from the generated relative phase shifted signal, using the extraction module, wherein the first component represents the measured heart rate and the second component represents the measured breathing rate of the subject.

5. The monitoring system as claimed in claim 4, wherein frequency of the carrier signal is used as base for designing an antenna size being used for transmitting the AMCW microwave signal towards the subject.
6. The monitoring system as claimed in claim 4, wherein the extraction module extracts the first component and the second component by:

obtaining Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) of the relative phase-shifted signal;

identifying a dominant peak in 0.05 Hz to 1 Hz range in the obtained FFT as the measured Breathing Rate; and

identifying a dominant peak in 0.8 Hz to 2.5 Hz range in the obtained FFT as the measured Heart Rate.