



# **A Modified Algorithm with Variable Step Size for Blind Equalization of QAM Signals**

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**ABSTRACT:** Adaptive channel equalization accomplished without a training sequence is known as blind equalization. A Modified Algorithm with a variable Step Size (MA\_VSS) Control Technique can be employed MA which uses a combination of DDA and GA in addition to VSS. MA\_VSS has been proposed as a solution to the problem of slow convergence of blind equalization algorithms and resolves the conflict between the convergence rate and low steady state error of the fixed step-size conventional blind equalization algorithms, such as Constant Modulus Algorithm. The proposed technique has been compared with the popular blind equalizers, the decision directed algorithm (DDA), Godard algorithm (GA), Sato algorithm (SA), Benveniste and Goursat algorithm (BGA), and the stop-and-go algorithm (SNGA). Computer simulations have been performed to verify the performance of the proposed method dominates both of the linear equalizer and that with decision feedback and single prediction error algorithm for symmetric constellation QAM.

**KEYWORDS:** Cross correlation, MA\_VSS, Constant Modulus Algorithm, blind equalization.

## **I.INTRODUCTION**

Inter symbol interference is one of the greatest impediments of high data rate digital communication systems. In order to overcome the effects of the impairment, several channel estimation and equalization methods have been developed in the last few decades. One of the best ways to cancel the effects is to use an equalizer which minimizes the ISI while combining the multi path energy [1]- [3]. In practice, Linear Equalizers (LE) and Decision Feedback Equalizers (DFE) are the most common structures used [4], [5]. But, in suppressing the ISI, the LE inevitably enhances the channel noise. This basic limitation of a LE's ability to cope with severe ISI has motivated a considerable amount of research into suboptimal nonlinear equalizers with low computational complexity such as the DFE.

In order to achieve high speed reliable communications, channel identification and equalization are necessary to overcome the effects of ISI. Conventionally, channel equalizers are of two types: as blind and non-blind. The non-blind channel equalizers waste bandwidth by their dependence on a training sequence. On the other hand, blind channel equalization is one of the most important process during which an unknown input data sequence is recovered from the output signal of an unknown channel.

The blind channel equalizers do not require any training sequence. Instead, the statistical properties of the transmitted signals are exploited to carry out the equalization at the receiver without access to the transmitted symbols. Hence, they are capable of saving valuable bandwidth that is wasted by sending training sequence. The popular constant modulus algorithm (CMA) proposed by Sato [6] in 1975 and the famous least mean squares (LMS) algorithm proposed by Widrow [7] in 1966 are widely employed in communications such as blind and non-blind channel equalization and identification for their low computational complexity and simple structure. However, due to using fixed



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step size, the CMA and LMS algorithms suffer from a conflict between convergence rate and steady-state error. A larger step size can speed up the convergence rate, but at the same time it increases the steady-state error. A smaller step size can decrease the steady-state error, but the convergence rate will be poor. Thus, with the help of proposed technique the performance of the conventional CMA and LMS algorithms have become comparable to other blind adaptive MA\_VSS and Conventional Blind Equalization.

Simulation results have shown that the proposed MA\_VSS algorithm perform better than the conventional blind equalizers. The rest of the paper is organized as follows: The following section summarizes the Conventional Blind Equalization. Section 3 explains the proposed algorithm for blind equalization. Computer Simulation results obtained in Section 4, and finally, the paper is concluded in Section 5.

## II. CONVENTIONAL BLIND EQUALIZATION

The sampled input to the equalizer  $x(n)$  as shown in Fig.1, it may be expressed as: -

$$x(n) = \sum_{k=-L_1}^{L_2} h_k(n)a(n-k) + \eta(n) \quad (1)$$

Where  $a(n)$  is the data symbol that was transmitted assumed to be independent and identically distributed (IID) quadrature amplitude modulated (QAM) source and  $\eta(n)$  is zero mean white Gaussian noise independent of  $a(n)$ . The channel  $h(n)$  is modelled as a complex finite impulse response filter with an order  $L_1+L_2+1$ .

$$y_o(n) = \sum_{k=-M_1}^{M_2} w_k(n)x(n-k) \quad (2)$$

The equalizer taps are updated, using the adaptation algorithm for the linear equalizer (LE) as the following form:

$$w(n+1) = w(n) + \mu_f e(n) X^*(n) \quad (3)$$

Where

$$w(n) = [w_{-M_1}(n), \dots, w_{M_2}(n)]^T$$

is the coefficient vector of the  $(M_1+M_2+1)^{th}$  order of LE,  $X^*(n)$  is the corresponding input vector,  $e(n)$  is the error signal [11] and  $\mu_f$  is the step size parameter given by [11]:

$$\mu_f = .001 / E[|a(n)|^4] \quad (4)$$

The adaptation of the equalizer taps is carried out by minimizing the mean square value (MSE) of the difference between the equalizer output and the slicer output. When compared to conventional equalizers which employ the least mean square algorithm LMS to update their taps, blind



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equalization algorithms converge very slowly.

The decision directed algorithm (DDA), Godard algorithm (GA), Sato algorithm (SA), Benveniste and Goursat algorithm (BGA), are examples of Blind equalization techniques. The error signal for each algorithm is defined as in [12]-[17]:-

$$e_{DDA}(n) = y_o(n) - \hat{a}(n) \quad (5)$$

$$e_{SA}(n) = [ y_{or}(n) - \mu f \operatorname{sgn}(y_{or}(n)) ] + j [ y_{oi}(n) - \mu f \operatorname{sgn}(y_{oi}(n)) ] \quad (6)$$

$$e_{GA}(n) = [ |y_o(n)|^2 - R ] y_o(n) \quad (7)$$

$$e_{BGA}(n) = K_1 (e_{DDA}(n)) + K_2 |e_{DDA}(n)| (e_{SA}(n)) \quad (8)$$

$$e_{SNGA}(n) = \begin{cases} e_{DDA}(n) & A=1, B=1 \\ \operatorname{Real}(e_{DDA}(n)) & A=1, B=0 \\ \operatorname{Img}(e_{DDA}(n)) & A=0, B=1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

where  $\hat{a}(n)$  is the slicer output,  $y_{or}(n)$  and  $y_{oi}(n)$  are the real and imaginary parts of  $y_o(n)$  respectively,  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  are constants,  $R$  is the modulus defined in [12] and  $A, B$  are parameters defined as :

$$A = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \operatorname{sign}\{\operatorname{Real}(e_{DDA}(n))\} = \operatorname{sign}\{\operatorname{Real}(e_{SA}(n))\} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$B = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \operatorname{sign}\{\operatorname{Img}(e_{DDA}(n))\} = \operatorname{sign}\{\operatorname{Img}(e_{SA}(n))\} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

### III. THE PROPOSED ALGORITHM MA\_VSS

The Conventional Blind Equalizers exhibit very slow convergence rates when compared to algorithms employed in conventional data equalization schemes. So, we introduce the proposed algorithm for blind equalization (MA\_VSS) is two algorithms in one algorithm, the first algorithm called a modified algorithm MA [18] uses a combination of DDA and GA depending on the absolute value of the error signal for each algorithm, and the second is a variable step size algorithm VSS [19] which based on cross correlation of channel output and error signal as shown as in figure 2.

In figure 2, blind equalization algorithm MA\_VSS box has two modules MA and VSS, MA module



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has two techniques one decision device technique to decide any mode (DAA/GA) will be use, the second is error calculation technique to calculate the error value for the decided mode,  $e_{MA}(n)$ , and the other module is variable step size (VSS) to determine the suitable step size will be use.

The MA operates in two modes, DD mode and GA mode [18], The equalizer taps are updated, using the error signal for MA according to equation (11) as defined below:

$$e_{MA}(n) = \begin{cases} e_{DDA}(n) & \text{if } |e_{DDA}(n)| \geq |e_{GA}(n)| \\ & \text{DD mode} \\ e_{GA}(n) & \text{if } |e_{DDA}(n)| < |e_{GA}(n)| \\ & \text{GA mode} \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

where  $|\cdot|$  is the absolute value

The  $w(n)$  box is the adaptation algorithm for the proposed equalizer as defined below:

$$w(n+1) = w(n) + \mu f(n) e_{MA}(n) X^*(n) \quad (12)$$

Variable Step Size (VSS) for constant modulus algorithms VSS-CMA have been used extensively in blind adaptive filtering to improve the performance of the fixed step size conventional CMA. The VSS-LMS algorithms are explained in detail in [9], [10]. VSS-CMA [8] uses the autocorrelation  $c(n)$  and  $c(n-1)$ , parameter. In this way, the algorithm can effectively maintain a reasonable immunity to uncorrelated additive noise. To update the variable step size, Xiong's approach [8] considers the square of the error signal autocorrelation estimate obtained through a low-pass filter given by:-

$$c(n) = \alpha c(n-1) + (1-\alpha) e^2(n) e^2(n-1) \quad (13)$$

$$c(n) = \alpha c(n-1) + (1-\alpha) e_{MA}(n) e_{MA}(n-1) \quad (14)$$

Where

$c(n)$  is the estimate value of autocorrelation of error signal and  $\alpha$  is positive control parameter. The setting of the step size parameter is

**For VSS-CMA:**  $\mu(n) = \beta c2(n) \quad (15)$

**For MA\_VSS:**  $\mu f(n) = \beta c2(n) \quad (16)$

where  $\beta$  is a scale factor used for controlling the bounds of the step size  $\mu f(n)$ . The block diagram of the MA\_VSS algorithm based on cross correlation between channel output  $x(n)$  and error signal

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$e_{MA}(n)$  is given in The proposed method, considers the cross correlation function between the channel output and error signal, improving the convergence speed and performance. Moreover, the proposed method provides both noise and ISI immunity since the channel output signal includes both ISI and noise information.

## IV. COMPUTER SIMULATION RESULTS

In this section, simulation results are illustrated to verify the performance of the proposed MA\_VSS. The simulation studies have composed of the studies is performed using the blind channel equalization. The simulation studies of the blind channel equalizers are performed via 1000 Monte Carlo type iterations using the QAM modulation. The step size parameters were limited to 0.1 and  $5E-5$  for conventional LMS algorithm. Positive control parameters,  $\beta$  was equal to 0.995,  $\alpha$  was equal to 0.822 for the proposed VSS-CMA. The proposed algorithm MA was applied to a 16-QAM system. The parameters used in the simulation are:-

Channel no.1:

$$h_1(l) = (0.1632+j0.2056), (-0.9491+j0.1524), (1), (0.2393-j0.0077),$$

Channel no.2:

$$h_2(l) = (-0.9491+j0.1524), (0.1632+j0.2056), (1), (-j0.0077+0.2393), \text{ for } l = -2, -1, 0, 1, \text{ and } M_1=M_2=N=15.$$

Fig.1 depicts a simplified model for the equalizer.

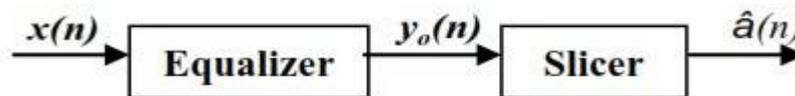


Fig.1. Simplified equalizer

Figure 2, shows a blind equalization algorithm MA\_VSS

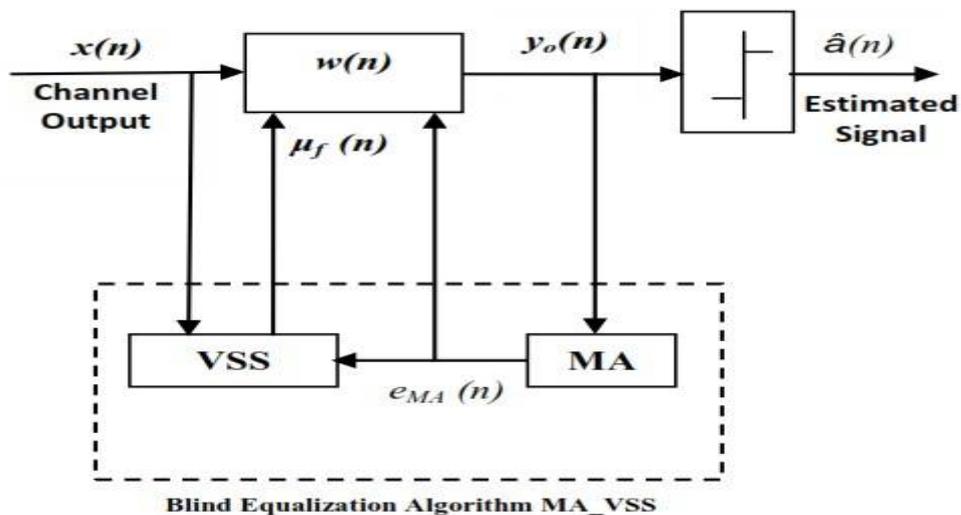


Fig.2. the proposed algorithm MA\_VSS

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Convergence curves obtained by simulation are depicted in figures 3 - 7. We can conclude that the proposed MA\_VSS converges faster than other equalizers under consideration. Furthermore, it has the minimum obtainable MSE. Further improvements are achieved as shown in figures when used the proposed algorithm.

Fig. 3 shows that convergence characteristics for the MA and the conventional equalizer for fixed step size,

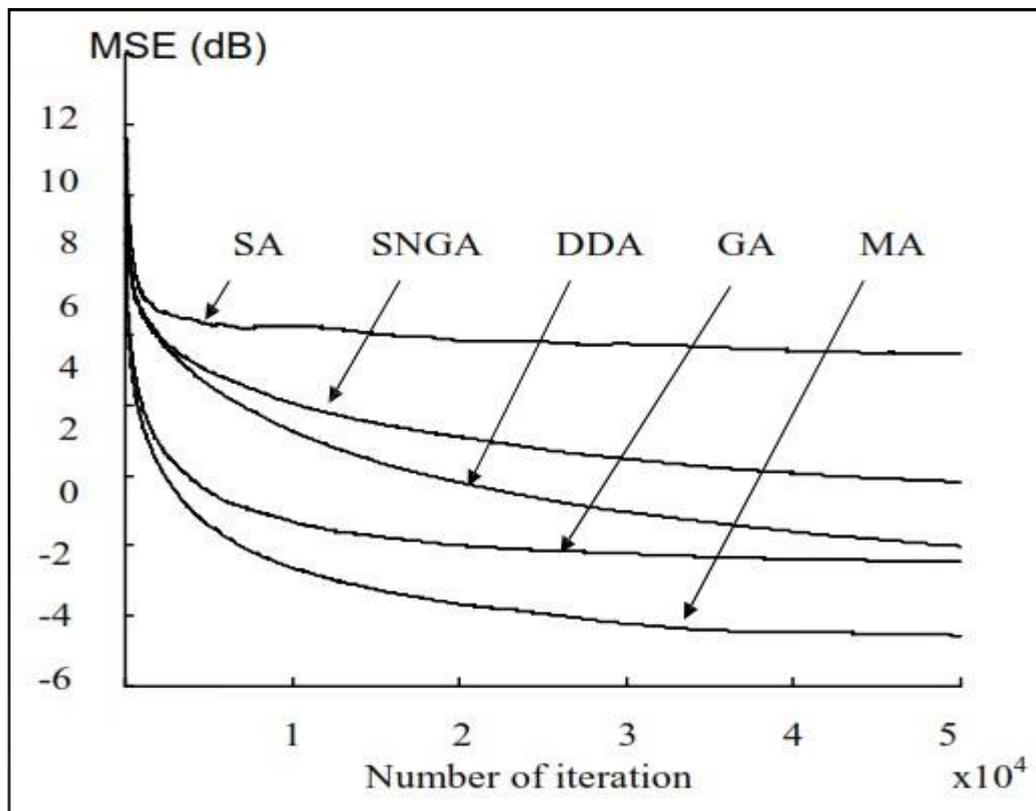


Fig.3. convergence characteristics for the MA and the conventional equalizer

Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 show that Comparison between GA and MA for two different channels

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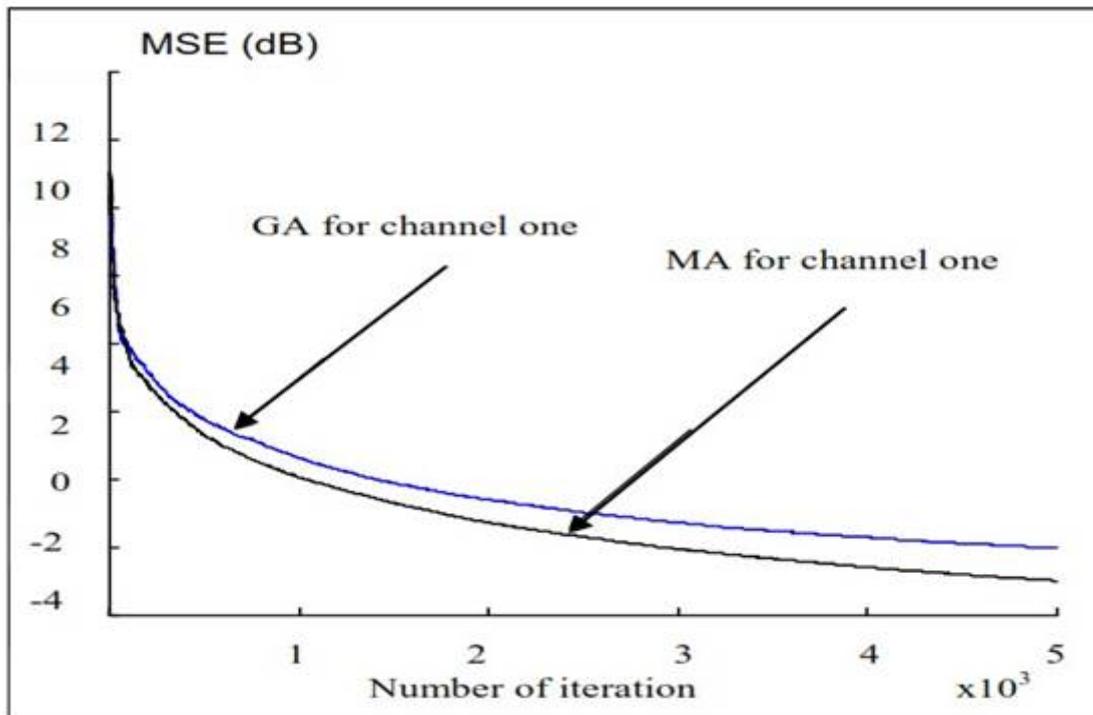


Fig.4. Comparison between GA and MA For channel one

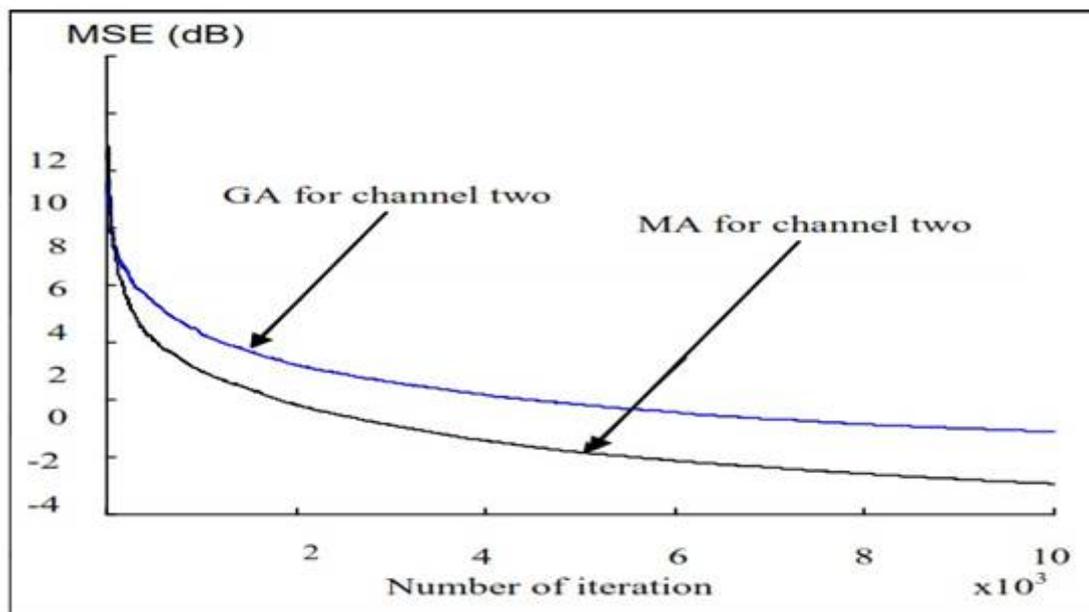


Fig.5. Comparison between GA and MA For channel two

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Fig. 6 shows that Effect of Increasing Step Size (FSS) on MA algorithm

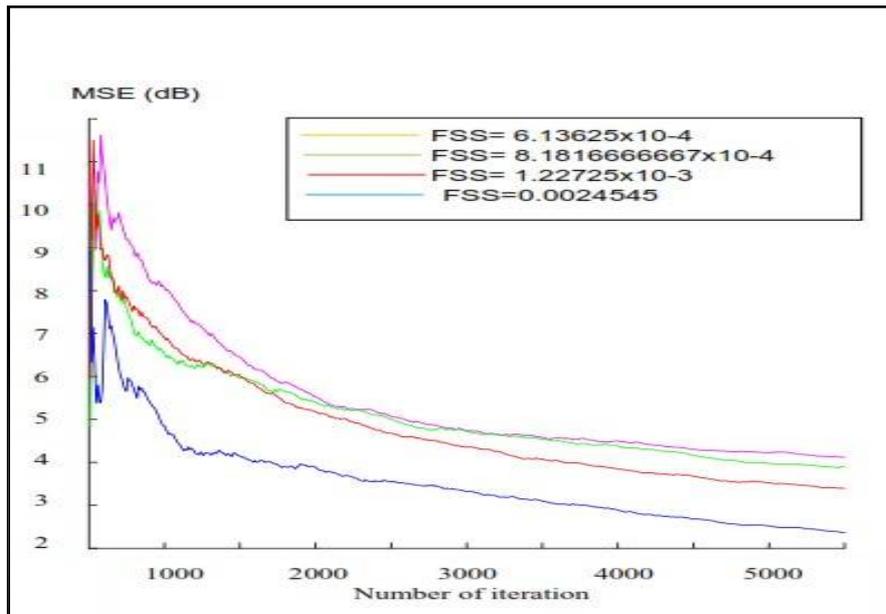


Fig.6. Effect of Increasing Step Size (FSS) on MA algorithm

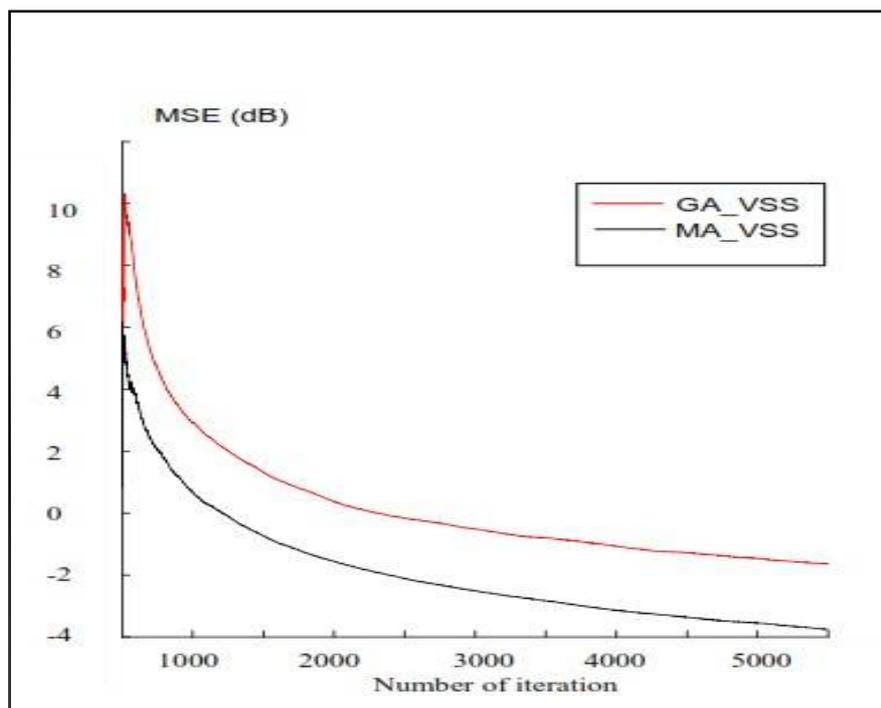


Fig.7. The proposed algorithm MA\_VSS for variable Step Size (VSS) parameter and



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Comparison with CMA (GA\_VSS).

Comparison with GA\_VSS

Fig. 7 shows that the proposed algorithm MA\_VSS for variable Step Size (VSS) parameter and

## VI.CONCLUSION

In this paper, a new MA\_VSS blind equalizer uses two techniques: one uses a MA algorithm which is a combination of DDA and GA depending on the absolute value of the error signal for each algorithm, and another technique based on cross correlation of channel output and error signal. This has been proposed as a solution to the problem of slow convergence of the fixed step size conventional CMA (GA) blind and conventional equalizers which employ the least mean square algorithm LMS. Thus, the conflict is removed between the convergence rate and low steady state error of the fixed step-size conventional CMA and LMS algorithm. It has been shown that a combination of conventional CMA and LMS with the proposed MA\_VSS technique provides an effective and robust way for adaptive blind and non-blind equalization. Also demonstrated to be very suitable for high speed blind channel tracking.

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