Energy Efficient Symbol-Level Precoding in Multiuser MISO Channels

Maha Alodeh, Symeon Chatzinotas Björn Ottersten
Interdisciplinary Centre for Security, Reliability and Trust (SnT), University of Luxembourg
e-mail:{maha.alodeh, symeon/chatzinotas, and bjorn.ottersten}@uni.lu

Abstract—This paper investigates the idea of exploiting interference among the simultaneous multiuser transmissions in the downlink of multiple antennas systems. Using symbol level precoding, a new approach towards addressing the multiuser interference is discussed through jointly utilizing the channel state information (CSI) and data information (DI). In this direction, the interference among the data streams is transformed under certain conditions to useful signal that can improve the signal to interference noise ratio (SINR) of the downlink transmissions. In this context, new constructive interference precoding techniques that tackle the transmit power minimization (min power) with individual SINR constraints at each user’s receivers are proposed. Furthermore, we investigate the CI precoding design under the assumption that the received MPSK channel can reside in a relaxed region in order to be correctly detected. Finally, extensive numerical results show that the proposed schemes outperform other state of the art techniques.

I. INTRODUCTION

Interference is one of the crucial and limiting factors in wireless networks. The idea of utilizing the time and frequency resources has been proposed in the literature to allow different users to share the wireless medium without inducing harmful interference. The concept of exploiting the users’ spatial separation has been a fertile research domain for more than one decade [1]. This can be implemented by adding multiple antennas at one or both communication sides. Multiantenna transceivers empower the communication systems with more degrees of freedom that can boost the performance if the multiuser interference is mitigated properly. Exploiting the space dimension, to serve different users simultaneously in the same time slot and the same frequency band through spatial division multiplexing (SDMA), has been investigated in [1]-[4].

The main idea is to exploit the spatial multiuser interference by redesigning the interference to be constructively detected at the users’ terminal. The scheme is different from the conventional techniques [4], which they decouple the multiuser transmission to reduce the interference power received at each terminal. In [7], the interference in the scenario of BPSK and QPSK is classified into types: constructive and destructive. Based on this classification, a selective channel inversion scheme is proposed to eliminate the destructive interference while retaining the constructive one to be received at the users’ terminal. A more elaborated scheme is proposed in [8], which rotates the destructive interference to be received as useful signal with the constructive one. These schemes outperform the conventional precodings [4] and show considerable gains. However, the anticipated gains come at the expense of additional complexity at the system design level. Assuming that the channel coherence time is \( \tau_c \), and the symbol period is \( \tau_s \), with \( \tau_c \gg \tau_s \) for slow fading channels, the symbol precoder has to be recalculated with a frequency of \( \frac{1}{\tau_s} \) in comparison with the symbol based precoder \( \frac{1}{\min(\tau_c, \tau_s)} \). Therefore, faster precoder calculation and switching is needed in the symbol-level precoding which can be translated to more expensive hardware.

In this direction, we propose a symbol based precoding to exploit the interference by establishing the connection between the constructive interference precoding and multicast [10]-[11]. However, the precoding techniques design the received to be detected at the exact constellation point. In this work, we aim at optimizing the constructive interference among the spatial streams while we allow flexible precoding design. We exploit the fact that the received symbol should lie in the correct detection region but not necessarily at the exact constellation point. This enables flexibility at the precoding design level in comparison with [10]-[11], where they design the precoding to make the symbols detectable at the exact constellation (i.e. if we exclude the noise effect).

Notation: We use boldface upper and lower case letters for matrices and column vectors, respectively. \((\cdot)^H, (\cdot)^*\) stand for Hermitian transpose and conjugate of \((\cdot)\). \(\mathbb{E}(\cdot)\) and \(\|\cdot\|\) denote the statistical expectation and the Euclidean norm, \(\mathbf{A} \succeq \mathbf{0}\) is used to indicate the positive semidefinite matrix. \(\angle(\cdot), |\cdot|\) are the angle and magnitude of \((\cdot)\) respectively. \(\Re(\cdot), \Im(\cdot)\) are the real and the imaginary part of \((\cdot)\). Finally, the vector of all zeros with length of \(K\) is defined as \(\mathbf{0}_{K \times 1}\).

II. SYSTEM AND SIGNAL MODELS

We consider a single-cell multiple-antenna downlink scenario, where a single BS is equipped with \(M\) transmit antennas that serves \(K\) user terminals, each one of them equipped with a single receiving antenna. The adopted modulation technique is \(M\)-PSK. We assume a quasi static block fading channel \(\mathbf{h}_j \in \mathbb{C}^{1 \times M}\) between the BS antennas and the \(j^{th}\) user, where the received signal at \(j^{th}\) user is written as
\[
y_j[n] = \mathbf{h}_j^H \mathbf{x}[n] + z_j[n].
\] (1)
\(\mathbf{x}[n] \in \mathbb{C}^{M \times 1}\) is the transmitted signal vector from the multiple antennas transmitter and \(z_j\) denotes the noise at \(j^{th}\) receiver.
which is assumed i.d.d complex Gaussian distributed variable \( CN(0,1) \). A compact formulation of the received signal at all users’ receivers can be written as

\[
y[n] = Hx[n] + z[n]. \tag{2}
\]

Let \( x[n] \) be written as \( x[n] = \sum_{j=1}^{K} w_j \lbrack n \rbrack d_j[n] \), where \( w_j \) is the \( C_M \times 1 \) unit power precoding vector for the user \( j \). The received signal at \( j^{th} \) user \( y_j \) in \( n^{th} \) symbol period is given by

\[
y_j[n] = \sqrt{p_j[n]} h_j w_j[n] d_j[n] + \sum_{k \neq j} \sqrt{p_k[n]} h_j w_k[n] d_k[n] + z_j[n] \tag{3}
\]

where \( p_j \) is the allocated power to the \( j^{th} \) user. A more detailed compact system formulation is obtained by stacking the received signals and the noise components for the set of \( K \) selected users as

\[
y[n] = HW[n]P^{\frac{1}{2}}[n]d[n] + z[n] \tag{4}
\]

with \( H = [h_1, \ldots, h_K]^T \in \mathbb{C}^{K \times M} \), \( W = [w_1, \ldots, w_K] \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times M} \) as the compact channel and precoding matrices. Notice that the transmitted signal \( d \in \mathbb{C}^{K \times 1} \) includes the uncorrelated data symbols \( d_k \) for all users with \( \mathbb{E}[|d_k|^2] = 1 \), \( P^{\frac{1}{2}}[n] \) is the power allocation matrix \( P^{\frac{1}{2}}[n] = \text{diag}(\sqrt{p_1[n]}, \ldots, \sqrt{p_K[n]}) \).

It should be noted that CSI and DI are available at the transmitter side. From now on, we assume that the precoding design is performed at each symbol period and accordingly we drop the time index for the ease of notation.

### III. CONSTRUCTIVE INTERFERENCE

In symbol level precoding (e.g. M-PSK), interference can be constructed in advance in order to push the received symbols further into the correct detection region and, as a consequence it enhances the system performance. Therefore, the interference can be classified into constructive or destructive based on whether it facilitates or deteriorates the correct detection of the received symbol. For BPSK and QPSK scenarios, a detailed classification of interference is discussed thoroughly in [7]. In this section, we describe the required conditions to have constructive interference for any M-PSK modulation.

**A. Constructive Interference Definition**

Assuming both DI and CSI are available at the transmitter, the unit-power created interference from the \( k^{th} \) data stream on \( j^{th} \) user can be formulated as:

\[
\psi_{jk} = h_j w_k \frac{\|h_j\|}{\|w_k\|}. \tag{5}
\]

Since the adopted modulations are M-PSK ones, a definition for constructive interference can be stated as

**Lemma [11].** For any M-PSK modulated symbol \( d_k \), it is said to receive constructive interference from another simultaneously transmitted symbol \( d_j \) which is associated with \( w_j \) if and only if the following inequalities hold

\[
\angle d_j - \frac{\pi}{M} \leq \arctan \left( \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{K} \psi_{jk} d_k}{\sum_{j=1}^{K} \psi_{jk} d_j} \right) \leq \angle d_j + \frac{\pi}{M},
\]

\[
\Re \{d_k \} \Re \{\psi_{jk} d_j \} > 0, \Im \{d_k \} \Im \{\psi_{jk} d_j \} > 0.
\]

**Corollary [11].** The constructive interference is mutual. If the symbol \( d_j \) constructively interferes with \( d_k \), then the interference from transmitting the symbol \( d_k \) is constructive to \( d_j \).

**B. Constructive Interference with Relaxed Detection Region (CIPMR)**

To grant a correct M-PSK symbol detection, the received symbol should lie in the correct detection region. Fig. (1)
depicts the detection region of the QPSK symbol $\frac{1+i}{\sqrt{2}}$ which spans the phases $[0^\circ; 90^\circ]$. In the previous section, we design the transmitted symbol to be received with the exact phase of the target data symbols except the random deviation resulted from the noise at the receiver; for example the code word was designed so that the symbol 11 with the phase of 45°. On the other hand, the same symbol can be correctly detected as 11 with range of phases as long as they lie in the first quadrant and the receiver noise does not push them outside the detection region. Therefore, it is not necessary to design the transmitted vector $x$ to have the exact phase to achieve a correct detection, it can span the set of $0 \leq 45 - \phi \leq 45 + \phi \leq 90$. Therefore, more flexibility for the system design can be obtained and more gains are anticipated. Since the detection region of symbols span different phases, we can utilize this property by relaxing the transmitted constellation point to include these angles. The relaxed optimization can be formulated as

$$w_j(H, d, \zeta, \Phi_1, \Phi_2) = \arg\min_{w_j} \sum_{j=1}^{K} w_j d_j^2$$

s.t. $$\begin{align*}
C_1 : \angle(d_j - \phi_{j1}) &\leq \angle(h_j \sum_{j=1}^{K} w_j d_j) \leq \angle(d_j + \phi_{j2}), \forall j \in K \\
C_2 : \|h_j \sum_{j=1}^{K} w_j d_j\|^2 &\geq \sigma^2 \zeta_j, \forall j \in K.
\end{align*}$$

The problem can be expressed as

$$x \ (H, d, \zeta, \Phi_1, \Phi_2) = \arg\min_{x} \|x_r\|^2$$

s.t. $$\begin{align*}
C_1 : \angle(d_j - \phi_{j1}) &\leq \angle(h_j x) \leq \angle(d_j + \phi_{j2}), \forall j \in K \\
C_2 : \|h_j x\|^2 &\geq \sigma^2 \zeta_j, \forall j \in K.
\end{align*}$$

where $\phi_{j1}$ and $\phi_{j2}$ are the phase that received symbol should be without the noise drifting, $\phi_1$ and $\phi_2$ are the vectors that contain all $\phi_{j1}$ and $\phi_{j2}$ respectively. Although this relaxes the phase constraints on the constructive interference design, it increases the system susceptibility to noise. Therefore, this phase relaxation should be related to the SNR targets to guarantee certain power saving and SER by selecting the allowable values of $\phi_{j1}$ and $\phi_{j2}$. The optimization can be written

$$x_r \ (H, d, \zeta, \Phi_1, \Phi_2) = \arg\min_{x} \|x_r\|^2$$

s.t. $$\begin{align*}
C_1 : h_j x_r + x_r^H h_j^H &\geq 2 \sqrt{\zeta_j} u_j, \forall j \in K \\
C_2 : h_j x_r - x_r^H h_j^H &\geq 2i \sqrt{\zeta_j} \sqrt{1 - u_j^2}, \forall j \in K \\
C_3 : \cos(\phi_{j2}^r) &\leq u_j \leq \cos(\phi_{j1}^r), \forall j \in K.
\end{align*}$$

This optimization has $3K$ constraints that need to be satis-

$^1$ $\pm$ in (C.2-7) indicates that the sign can be positive or negative depending on the value of $\sin \phi$ function. Moreover, $\zeta_j$ is used to indicate that different symbols have different signs (positive or negative) and thus to indicate the correct detection region.

C. Constructive Interference Power Minimization Bounds

In order to assess the performance of the proposed algorithm, we mention two theoretical upper bounds as follows
0.5K∥h_k∥(∑_k(−μ_k+α_ki))∥h_k∥p_1k−∑_k(−μ_k+α_ki)∥h_k∥ρ_1^*k = \sqrt{ζ_1}\sqrt{1−(2√ζ−ζ_1−γ_i)^2−4ζ(λ_1+1)+λ_1^2+2λ_1γ_1+γ_i^2−4ζ(λ_1+1)+λ_1^2+2λ_1γ_1+γ_i^2}

0.5K∥h_k∥(∑_k(−μ_ki−α_k))∥h_k∥p_1k+∑_k(−μ_ki−α_k)∥h_k∥ρ_1^*k = \sqrt{ζ_1}\sqrt{1−(2√ζ−λ_k−γ_i)^2−4ζ(λ_k+1)+λ_k^2+2λ_kγ_k+γ_i^2−4ζ(λ_k+1)+λ_k^2+2λ_kγ_k+γ_i^2)}

... 

0.5K∥h_k∥(∑_k(−μ_k+α_ki))∥h_k∥p_Kk−∑_k(−μ_k+α_ki)∥h_k∥ρ_K^*k = \sqrt{ζ_K}\sqrt{1−(2√ζ−λ_k−γ_i)^2−4ζ(λ_k+1)+λ_k^2+2λ_kγ_k+γ_i^2−4ζ(λ_k+1)+λ_k^2+2λ_kγ_k+γ_i^2)}

... 

0.5K∥h_k∥(∑_k(−μ_ki−α_k))∥h_k∥p_Kk+∑_k(−μ_ki−α_k)∥h_k∥ρ_K^*k = \sqrt{ζ_K}\sqrt{1−(2√ζ−λ_k−γ_i)^2−4ζ(λ_k+1)+λ_k^2+2λ_kγ_k+γ_i^2−4ζ(λ_k+1)+λ_k^2+2λ_kγ_k+γ_i^2)}

1) Genie aided upper bound: This bound occurs when all multiuser transmissions are constructively interfering by nature and without the need to optimize the output vector. If we assume W = H, where H = [h^H_B, h^H_1, ..., h^H_B]^H. By exploiting singular value decomposition (SVD) of H, V' is the power scaled V to normalize each column in W to unity. The received signal can be as

\[ y = HWd = SVDD^H V' S^H P^{1/2} d. \]  (14)

If we denote G = SVDD^H and B = S^H. Utilizing the reformulation of y in (14), the received signal can be written as

\[ y_j = ∥g_j∥_2 ∑_{k=1}^K √p_k ξ_{jk} d_k, \]  (15)

where g_j is the jth row of the matrix G, ξ_{jk} = \frac{g_j h_k}{∥g_j∥_2}. The minimum transmit power for a system that exploits the constructive interference on symbol basis can be found by the following theoretical bound

**Theorem 1.** The genie-aided minimum transmit power in the downlink of multiuser MISO system can be found by solving the following optimization

\[
P_{min} = \arg \min_{p_1, ..., p_K} ∑_{k=1}^K p_k \ s.t. \ ||g_k||^2(∥ξ_k∥^2 p_k + ∑_{j=1, j\neq k}^K p_j∥ξ_{kj}∥^2) ≥ ξ_k, \forall k ∈ K.
\]  (16)

2) Optimal Multicast: Based on theorem (2), a theoretical upperbound can be characterized. This bound occurs if we drop the phase alignment constraint C1. The intuition of using this technique is the complete correlation among the information that needs to be communicated (i.e. same symbol for all users). The optimal input covariance for power minimization in multicast system can be found as a solution of the following optimization

\[
\min_{Q, Q^*} tr(Q) \ s.t. \ h_j Q h_j^H ≥ ζ_j, \forall j ∈ K. \]  (17)

This problem is thoroughly solved in [5].

V. NUMERICAL RESULTS

In order to assess the performance of the proposed transmissions schemes, Monte-Carlo simulations of the different algorithms have been conducted to study the performance of the proposed techniques and compare to the state of the art techniques. The adopted channel model is assumed to be \( h_k ∼ CN(0, σ^2). \) For the sake of comparison, the system energy efficiency is used and can be defined as

\[
η = \frac{∑_{j=1}^K R_j (SER_j(ζ_j, φ_j))}{∥x(H, d, ζ, Φ)∥^2} \]  (18)

where \( R_j \approx R_j (1 − SER(ζ_j, φ_j)) \), \( R_j \) is the rate associated with MPSK modulation, \( R_j \) is the effective rate for jth user or goodput that takes into the account the symbol error rate servo_1 for the jth user.

The comparison among optimal multicast, CIPM and CIPMR is illustrated in this figure while the assumed scenario is M = 3, K = 2, we study the performance of CIPMR at \( φ = \frac{π}{8} \) and \( π \). It can concluded that the power consumption gap between the optimal multicast and CIPM is fixed for all target rates. This relation holds also for the gap between the CIPMR and CIPM. Moreover, it can be concluded that the CIPMR outperforms CIPM by achieving less power at all target SINR values. Moreover, CIPMR shows a better performance at \( φ = \frac{π}{8} \) than \( φ = \frac{π}{8} \).

In Fig. (3), we depicted the performance of the proposed techniques from energy efficiency perspective with the channel strength. CIZF shows inferior performance in comparison with all depicted techniques. It has already been proven that CIZF outperforms the conventional techniques like minimum mean square error (MMSE) beamforming and zero forcing beamforming (ZFB) [8]. In comparison with other depicted techniques, it can be concluded that the proposed constructive interference CIPM and CIPMR have better energy efficiency in comparison with CIZF. This can be explained by the channel
inversion step in CIZF which wastes energy in decoupling the effective users' channels and before exploiting the interference among the multiuser streams. Furthermore, it can be deduced that CIMRT has a very close performance to CIPM especially at high targets. CIMRT outperforms CIZF at expense of complexity.

Most importantly, it can be noted that CIPMR achieves higher energy efficiency than CIPM at different average channel power values. It can be concluded that despite increasing the phase margin decreases the effective rate, it decreases the power consumption. Therefore, the energy efficiency is function of the phase margin and can optimized to find the optimal phase margin at certain SNR target and average channel power.

![Graph](image-url)

**Fig. 2.** Power consumption vs channel SNR. CIPM[1] denotes the scenario of $\phi = \frac{\pi}{8}$ and CIPMR[2] denotes the scenario of $\phi = \frac{\pi}{3}$. (image-url)

**Fig. 3.** Rate per user vs. channel strength. CIPM[1] denotes $\phi = \frac{\pi}{8}$ and CIPMR[2] denotes the scenario of $\phi = \frac{\pi}{3}$, $M = 3$, $K = 2$, $\zeta = 4.7121$ dB, QPSK. (image-url)

### Table I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Technique</th>
<th>Related Equations and Algorithms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Genie</td>
<td>Constructive Interference Zero Forcing</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multicast</td>
<td>Constructive Interference Maximum Ratio Transmissions</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIPM</td>
<td>Constructive Interference Power Minimization</td>
<td>6, 10, 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIPMR[1]</td>
<td>Constructive interference power minimization with relaxed constellation</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIPMR[2]</td>
<td>Optimal Multicast</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VI. CONCLUSIONS**

In this paper, we study the possibility of exploiting the interference among the multiuser transmissions in the downlink of multiple antennas base stations. We propose a symbol based precoding that uses M-PSK modulation to exploit the interference among the multiuser transmissions. Particularly, we utilize the concept that the detection region of an M-PSK symbol spans the range of phases, this enables us to relax the system design to achieve more power savings. This can be implemented by allowing the precoder to select the optimal phase for each user symbols that can achieve the minimum power without being erroneously detected at the receiver. From the simulation, it can be noticed that the relaxed system designs achieve less power consumption and higher energy efficiency than the strict constellation points.

**REFERENCES**