Timing Synchronization for Cooperative Wireless Communications

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Master of Information and Communication Technology
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January 2011

A thesis submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy of The Australian National University

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Declaration

The contents of this thesis are to the best of the candidate’s knowledge and belief, the results of original research, except as acknowledged in the text, and the materials have not been submitted for a higher degree at The Australian National University or to any other university or institution.

Much of the work in this thesis has been published or has been submitted for publication as journal papers or conference proceedings. These papers are:

**Journal Articles**


5. Md. Tofazzal Hossain, Sithamparanathan Kandeepan and David Smith, “Timing Synchronization for Fading Channels with Different Characterizations us-
ing Near ML Techniques”, *Academy Publisher Journal of Communications*, vol. 4, no. 6, pp. 404–413, July 2009.

**Conference Papers**


The research work presented in this thesis has been performed jointly with David B. Smith (National ICT Australia), Prof. Rodney Kennedy (The Australian National University) and Kandeepan Sithamparanathan (CREATE-NET International Research Centre, Trento, Italy). The substantial majority of this work was my own.

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Australia.
I wish to express my gratitude to all those who provided valuable assistance and support throughout my PhD. The work presented in this thesis would not have been possible without the support of a number of individuals and organizations and they are gratefully acknowledged below:

I would first like to thank my academic supervisors David B. Smith, Prof. Rodney Kennedy and Kandeepan Sithamparanathan for their guidance, insight, support and encouragement throughout my PhD. Thank goes to my principle supervisor David B. Smith for his inspiration, constant encouragement, many helpful and stimulating discussions. I am grateful to David B. Smith for his comments and proofreading which helped me a lot in improving the presentation of this thesis. I have been very fortunate to work with Prof. Rodney Kennedy who provided invaluable instruction, suggestions, technical advice, sound judgement and support. I would like to thank Kandeepan Sithamparanathan for defining the early directions of my research, his endless flow of ideas and his continuous generous support along the way.

Special thanks go to Tharaka Lamahewa (Australian National University), Salman Durrani (Australian National University) and Leif Hanlen (National ICT Australia) for many fruitful discussions during my PhD studies.

Thanks to everyone in the National ICT Australia Human Performance Improvement (HPI) group (former BANESH Group) for their efforts for providing a friendly research environment.

Many thanks to my parents and siblings for everything they have provided for me in terms of education, guidance, encouragement and continuous mental support.

I thank my wife Presila Israt for her love, understanding, unwavering support and patience throughout my PhD studies. It would not be possible to complete this work without her fortitude during the hard times throughout the pathway of my research. Also, special thanks to my wife’s parents for their continual support and encouragement.

I gratefully acknowledge and convey thanks to the Australian National Univer-
sity and National ICT Australia for the PhD scholarship, travel grants and other research grants.
Abstract

In this work the effect of perfect and imperfect synchronization on the performance of single-link and cooperative communication is investigated. A feedforward non-data-aided near maximum likelihood (NDA-NML) timing estimator which is effective for an additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN) channel and also for a flat-fading channel, is developed. The Cramer Rao bound (CRB) and modified Cramer Rao bound (MCRB) for the estimator for a single-link transmission over an AWGN channel is derived. A closed form expression for the probability distribution of the timing estimator is also derived. The bit-error-rate (BER) degradation of the NDA-NML timing estimator with raised cosine pulse shaping for static timing errors over an AWGN channel is characterized. A closed form expression is derived for the conditional bit error probability (BEP) with static timing errors of binary phase shift keying modulation over a Rayleigh fading channel using rectangular pulse shaping.

The NDA-NML timing estimator is applied to a cooperative communication system with a source, a relay and a destination. A CRB for the estimator for asymptotically low signal-to-noise-ratio case is derived. The timing complexity of the NDA-NML estimator is derived and compared with a feedforward correlation based data-aided maximum likelihood (DA-ML) estimator. The BER performance of this system operating with a detect-and-forward relaying is studied, where the symbol timings are estimated independently for each channel. A feedforward data and channel aided maximum likelihood (DCA-ML) symbol timing estimator for cooperative communication operating over flat fading channels is then developed. For more severe fading the DCA-ML estimator performs better than the NDA-NML estimator and the DA-ML estimator. The performance gains of the DCA-ML estimator over that of the DA-ML estimator become more significant in cooperative transmission than in single-link node-to-node transmission.

The NDA-NML symbol timing estimator is applied to three-node cooperative communication in fast flat-fading conditions with various signal constellations. It is found that timing errors have significant effect on performance in fast flat-fading conditions.
channels. The lower complexity NDA-NML estimator performs well for larger signal constellations in fast fading, when compared to DA-ML estimator. The application of cooperative techniques for saving transmit power is discussed along with the related performance analysis with timing synchronization errors. It is found that power allocations at the source and relay nodes for transmissions, and the related timing errors at the relay and the destination nodes, have considerable effect on the BER performance for power constrained cooperative communication.

The performance of multi-node multi-relay decode-and-forward cooperative communication system, of various architectures, operating under different fading conditions, with timing synchronization and various combining methods, is presented. Switch-and-stay combining and switch-and-examine combining are proposed for multi-node cooperative communication. Apart from the proposed two combining methods equal gain combining, maximal ratio combining and selection combining are also used. It is demonstrated that synchronization error has significant effect on performance in cooperative communication with a range of system architectures, and it is also demonstrated that performance degradation due to synchronization error increases with increasing diversity. It is demonstrated that decode-and-forward relaying strategy with timing synchronization, using a very simple coding scheme, performs better than detect-and-forward relaying with timing synchronization.

Analytical expressions are derived for BEP with static and dynamic timing synchronization errors over Rayleigh fading channels using rectangular pulse shaping for amplify-and-forward and detect-and-forward cooperative communications. Moment generating function (MGF) based approach is utilized to find the analytical expressions. It is found that timing synchronization errors have an antagonistic effect on the BEP performance of cooperative communication. With the relay intelligence of knowing whether symbols are detected correctly or not, detect-and-forward cooperative communication performs better than the low complexity amplify-and-forward cooperative communication.
List of Acronyms

AAF amplify-and-forward
ABER average bit-error-rate
AWGN additive white Gaussian noise
BEP bit error probability
BER bit-error-rate
BPSK binary phase shift keying
CRB Cramer Rao bound
DA data-aided
DAF detect-and-forward
DCA data and channel aided
DF decode-and-forward
CSI channel state information
DPSK differential phase shift keying
EGC equal gain combining
ERC equal ratio combining
FM frequency modulation
IF intermediate frequency
ISI inter-symbol interference
MAC medium access control
MCRB modified Cramer Rao bound
MIMO multiple input multiple output
MISO multiple input single output
ML maximum likelihood
MLE maximum likelihood estimation
\( M \)-PSK \( M \)-ary phase shift keying
\( M \)-QAM \( M \)-ary quadrature amplitude modulation
MRC maximal ratio combining
NDA non-data-aided
NML near maximum likelihood
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>NRZ</td>
<td>non-return-to-zero</td>
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<tr>
<td>OFDM</td>
<td>orthogonal frequency division multiplexing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAM</td>
<td>pulse amplitude modulation</td>
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<tr>
<td>pdf</td>
<td>probability density function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pmf</td>
<td>probability mass function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSK</td>
<td>phase shift keying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QAM</td>
<td>quadrature amplitude modulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QoS</td>
<td>quality-of-service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QPSK</td>
<td>quadrature phase shift keying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RC</td>
<td>raised cosine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF</td>
<td>radio frequency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC</td>
<td>selection combining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEC</td>
<td>switch-and-examine combining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNR</td>
<td>signal-to-noise ratio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNRC</td>
<td>signal-to-noise ratio combining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SoMRC</td>
<td>sub-optimal maximal ratio combining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SoSC</td>
<td>sub-optimal selection combining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRC</td>
<td>square root raised cosine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSC</td>
<td>switch-and-stay combining</td>
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Notations and Symbols

$\alpha$  
roll-off factor

$E_b$  
average energy per bit

$E_s$  
energy of a symbol

$E_z\{\cdot\}$  
statistical expectation with respect to the subscripted variable

$f_D$  
maximum Doppler shift

$f_s$  
sample rate

$g(t)$  
continuous time impulse response of a Nyquist filter with the raised cosine characteristic

$g_{src}(t)$  
continuous time impulse response of a square root raised cosine filter

$G(f)$  
frequency response of $g(t)$

$h(t)$  
fading channel gains

$I_0(\cdot)$  
modified Bessel function of the first kind and zero-th order

$K$  
samples per symbol

$L$  
number of symbols to estimate timing offset

$M$  
number of parallel branches in cooperative network

$N_0$  
noise power spectral density

$N$  
number of relays in each parallel branch in cooperative network

$p(t)$  
continuous time impulse response of a pulse shaping filter

$P(f)$  
frequency response of $p(t)$

$P_b$  
thoretical bit error probability over AWGN channel

$r(t)$  
received signal before passing through matched filter

$\gamma$  
instantaneous-signal-to-noise ratio

$\bar{\gamma}$  
average signal-to-noise ratio

$t$  
time
\( \tau \)  timing offset
\( \hat{\tau} \)  timing offset estimate
\( T_c \)  coherence time
\( T_s \)  sample period
\( T \)  symbol period
\( \nu_\xi \)  standard deviation of the Tikhonov distribution
\( z(t) \)  received signal after passing through matched filter
\( \xi \)  normalized static timing error
\( \ln(\cdot) \)  natural logarithm
\( Q(\cdot) \)  Gaussian Q-function
\( \Re[\cdot] \)  real part
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