A Complementary Codes Pilot-Based Transmitter Diversity Technique for OFDM Systems

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Abstract— This letter presents a complementary codes pilotbased space-time block code / orthogonal frequency division multiplex (STBC/OFDM) system. In this system, a pair of complementary codes transmitted in a pre-defined order with the OFDM data signals is used as the pilot signals in a twoantenna transmitter diversity system, and used to estimate the channels for optimal data detection at the receiver side. A complete receiver architecture has been designed and Monte Carlo simulations have been used to verify the performance of the system in mobile radio fading channels.

Index Terms— Complementary codes, space-time coding, orthogonal frequency division multiplex, channel estimation.

I. INTRODUCTION

N a recent paper, space-time block code (STBC) [1][2] has been suggested to improve the performance of an orthogonal frequency division multiplex (OFDM) system [3]. Garg [4] studied the degradation in the performance of the STC with imperfect channel estimation. In general, channel estimation is an important issue in realizing a successful STBC/OFDM system. We all know that channel estimation can be performed at a receiver by inserting pilot signals into transmitted signals. There are several factors which have to be considered for the practical use of pilot signals in multiple transmitter antenna systems. First, pilot signals should be sent in the same frequency band and at the same time with data signals to ensure the accuracy of channel estimation. Second, multiple channel state informations (CSIs) must be derived from the received signal in a system with multiple transmitter antennas. To estimate multiple channels, transmitter antennas can alternately transmit a single pilot signal or simultaneously transmit different pilot signals which have impulse-like auto-correlation and zero cross-correlation properties [5]-[8]. Third, the length of pilot signals should not be too short in order to achieve accurate channel estimation. In some special cases, pilot signals take the length of 2^{P} , where P is an integer, to meet with the requirement of fast signal processing algorithms. Finally, the values of pilot signals need to be taken from some predetermined signal sets such as $\{1, -1, j, -j\}$ to maintain constant amplitude and avoid the non-linear effect of an amplifier. The design of optimal pilot signals is an open problem [5] - [12]. Computer simulations are used in [5] - [8] to

Manuscript received Nov. 24, 2001; revised July 1, 2004 and November 10, 2004; accepted February 18, 2005. The editor coordinating the review of this paper and approving it for publication is I. B. Collings.

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Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/TWC.2006.03005.

exhaustively search the pilot signals which are able to achieve MMSE channel estimation. [9] proposed a channel estimator based on the correlation of channel frequency response at adjacent frequencies. However, a large size of matrix inverse is required in this scheme. [10]–[12] extended the work in [9] to reduce the complexity of channel estimation.

In this letter, we suggest that complementary codes (CC) can be used as pilot signals and transmitted in time domain for the purpose of channel estimation in a two transmitter antenna system. The CC pilot signals satisfy the requirements of pilot signals we mentioned above, and at the same time, have the minimum peak-to-average power ratio (PAPR). We will describe the functional block diagrams and simulate the performance of a STBC/OFDM system with CC pilot signals. The rest of this letter is organized as follows. In Section II, we will describe the CC pilot signals for a two transmitter antenna system. In Section III, We will introduce the transmitter architecture of a CC pilot-based STBC/OFDM system. The details of the receiver operation such as signal detection, channel estimation, etc., are described in Section IV. In Section V, we show our computer simulation and performance evaluation results. Finally, conclusions are drawn in Section VI.

II. CC PILOT SIGNALS FOR A Two Transmitter Antenna System

Binary CC were originally conceived by Golay for infrared multi-slit spectrometry applications [13]. More recently, these codes were also used in OFDM systems to reduce PAPR [14]. We can define CC as follows. Let us consider a pair of equally long sequences $\{\alpha[n]\}$ and $\{\beta[n]\}$, for $0 \le n \le N-1$, where N is the length of the two sequences. These sequences are called CC if their auto-correlations satisfy the relationship:

$$\Gamma[n] \equiv \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} \{ \alpha[m] \alpha^* [((m-n))_N] + \beta[m] \beta^* [((m-n))_N] \}$$

= $2N \cdot \delta[n]$
= $\begin{cases} 2N &, n=0 \\ 0 &, n \neq 0 \end{cases}$ (1)

where $(\cdot)^*$ denotes the complex conjugate operation, $((\cdot))_N$ denotes the modulo N operation, and $\delta[n]$ is the Kronecker delta function.

The pilot signals of a two transmitter antenna system can be constructed from a pair of CC. For simplicity, we assume that CC sequences $\{\alpha[n]\}$ and $\{\beta[n]\}$ are normalized such that their combined auto-correlation value $\Gamma[n] = \delta[n]$ as shown in Eq.(1). Consider a system with two transmitter antennas and one receiver antenna. Two signals $\{\alpha[n]\}\$ and $\{-\beta[n]\}\$ are simultaneously transmitted from the two transmitter antennas over two independent frequency selective fading channels in the first time slot; the other two signals $\{\beta^*[((-n))_N]\}\$ and $\{\alpha^*[((-n))_N]\}\$ are then simultaneously transmitted over the same two channels in the second time slot. Furthermore, a cyclic prefix is added before each transmitted pilot signal to avoid inter-symbol interference (ISI) and to preserve the circular convolution between the pilot signal and the channel impulse response in the time domain. Here, we assume that the two channels are quasi-static over the two transmission time slots. Hence, the received pilot signals in the frequency domain in the first and second time slot, $R_{T1}[k]$ and $R_{T2}[k]$, can be expressed as

$$\begin{bmatrix} R_{T1}[k] \\ R_{T2}[k] \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} P_{\alpha}[k] & -P_{\beta}[k] \\ P_{\beta}^{*}[k] & P_{\alpha}^{*}[k] \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} H_{1}[k] \\ H_{2}[k] \end{bmatrix} + \mathbf{Z}[k]$$
$$= \mathbf{P}[k] \begin{bmatrix} H_{1}[k] \\ H_{2}[k] \end{bmatrix} + \mathbf{Z}[k]$$
(2)

for $0 \le k \le N - 1$, where $H_1[k]$ and $H_2[k]$ are the channel frequency responses from the two transmitter antennas to the receiver antenna, $P_{\alpha}[k]$ and $P_{\beta}[k]$ are the *N*-point discrete Fourier transform (DFT) of the CC sequences $\{\alpha[n]\}$ and $\{\beta[n]\}, \mathbf{P}[k]$ is called a pilot matrix which is a Unitary matrix, and $\mathbf{Z}[k]$ is an additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN) vector with zero mean and covariance matrix $\sigma_n^2 \mathbf{I}$, where \mathbf{I} is a 2×2 identity matrix. The received pilot signals are then multiplied by a matrix $\mathbf{P}^H[k]$, where $(\cdot)^H$ denotes the complex conjugate transpose operation, to obtain estimated CSIs in the frequency domain

$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{H}_{1}[k] \\ \hat{H}_{2}[k] \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{P}^{H}[k] \begin{bmatrix} R_{T1}[k] \\ R_{T2}[k] \end{bmatrix}$$
$$= \begin{bmatrix} H_{1}[k] \\ H_{2}[k] \end{bmatrix} + \mathbf{P}^{H}[k]\mathbf{Z}[k]$$
(3)

for $0 \le k \le N - 1$. As a result, the mean square error (MSE) of channel estimation is given by

$$MSE = E[(\hat{H}_{j}[k] - H_{j}[k])^{2}] = \sigma_{n}^{2}, \quad j = 1, 2$$
(4)

Generally speaking, the pilot matrix can be any unitary matrix which satisfies the power constraint of $|P_{\alpha}[k]|^2 + |P_{\beta}[k]|^2 = 1$ for all k. For example, $|P_{\alpha}[k]|^2 = |P_{\beta}[k]|^2 = 1/2$ for all k also satisfies the unitary matrix requirement. However, the CC pilot signals used in this letter have the minimum PAPR (= 0dB) in time domain, thus improve radio frequency (RF) power amplifier efficiency. In the case of $|P_{\alpha}[k]|^2 = |P_{\beta}[k]|^2 = 1/2$ for all k, the PAPR is $10log_2N(dB)$.

III. CC PILOT-BASED STBC/OFDM TRANSMITTER ARCHITECTURE

The transmitter block diagram of a CC pilot-based STBC/OFDM system is shown in Fig. 1(a). The block diagram shows two transmitter antennas. The transmitted signal from each antenna consists of a data signal and a pilot signal. Now we describe the generation of the data signals. At the output



Fig. 1. CC pilot-based STBC/OFDM systems.

of the signal mapper, the *ith* block of 2N data symbols $d^{(i)}[k]$ are separated into two data sub-blocks and represented as

$$\begin{aligned}
X_F^{(i)}[k] &= d^{(i)}[k] \\
X_S^{(i)}[k] &= d^{(i)}[N+k]
\end{aligned}$$
(5)

for $0 \le k \le N-1$, where N denotes number of subcarriers in an OFDM symbol, $X_F^{(i)}[k]$ and $X_S^{(i)}[k]$ are the kth data symbol of the first and second data sub-block, respectively. Here, we use Alamouti's STBC encoding method [1] to encode the two data sub-blocks, $X_F^{(i)}[k]$ and $X_S^{(i)}[k]$, in the sequence as described in [3]. An N-point inverse DFT (IDFT) unit is used in each arm of Fig. 1(a) to transform the frequency domain data symbols into a time domain data signal. Afterward, we add the CC pilot signal as described in Section II to the time domain data signal. Both the data signal and the pilot signal are assumed to be of the same length and they are added synchronously to become an effective OFDM symbol with symbol duration T. The cyclic extension with time duration T_q of an effective OFDM symbol is then inserted as a guard interval to combat the ISI effect. Finally, a complete OFDM symbol with symbol duration $T + T_g$ is converted into an analog signal with a digital-to-analog (D/A) converter, filtered by a low-pass filter (LPF), up converted to RF band, and transmitted in air with a pre-selected antenna.

IV. CC PILOT-BASED STBC/OFDM RECEIVER ARCHITECTURE

The receiver block diagram of the CC pilot-based STBC/OFDM system is shown in Fig. 1(b). This receiver architecture consists mainly of a fine signal detection functional block and a channel estimation functional block, along with other common blocks. After a RF signal is received from an antenna, it is down converted to the equivalent baseband, low-pass filtered, and digitized. We assume that timing and carrier frequency synchronization are perfect and the length of the channel impulse response is not longer than the length of the guard interval. The channels are assumed to be quasi-static during any two successive time slots. The frequency response of the propagation channel between the first transmitter antenna and the receiver antenna is denoted by



Fig. 2. Fine signal detection functional block.



Fig. 3. Channel estimation functional block.

 $H_1^{(i)}[k]$, and the other one is denoted by $H_2^{(i)}[k]$, where index i is used to indicate the corresponding (2i)th and (2i+1)th time slot. Hence, after the guard interval removal, serial-to-parallel (S/P) conversion and N-point DFT computation, the successively received signals $Y_e^{(i)}[k]$ and $Y_o^{(i)}[k]$ on the kth subcarrier in the (2i)th and (2i + 1)th time slot can be represented as

$$Y_{e}^{(i)}[k] = H_{1}^{(i)}[k](X_{F}^{(i)}[k] + P_{\alpha}[k]) +H_{2}^{(i)}[k](X_{S}^{(i)}[k] - P_{\beta}[k]) + Z_{e}^{(i)}[k] Y_{o}^{(i)}[k] = H_{1}^{(i)}[k](-X_{S}^{*(i)}[k] + P_{\beta}^{*}[k]) +H_{2}^{(i)}[k](X_{F}^{*(i)}[k] + P_{\alpha}^{*}[k]) + Z_{o}^{(i)}[k]$$
(6)

for $0 \le k \le N-1$, where $Z_e^{(i)}[k]$ and $Z_o^{(i)}[k]$ are the AWGN in the (2i)th and (2i+1)th time slot, respectively. The noise in each time slot is modeled as an independent complex Gaussian random variable with zero-mean and variance σ_n^2 .

A. Fine Signal Detection

Fig. 2 shows the details of the fine signal detection functional block which include a pilot cancellation unit, a combiner unit and a maximum likelihood (ML) decoder unit. We assume that the estimated CSIs are accurate, i.e. $\hat{H}_1^{(i)}[k] = H_1^{(i)}[k]$; $\hat{H}_2^{(i)}[k] = H_2^{(i)}[k]$, and the pilot interference signals can thus be reconstructed and be completely subtracted from the received signals $Y_e^{(i)}[k]$ and $Y_o^{(i)}[k]$. The output of the pilot signal cancellation unit can be expressed as

$$\bar{Y}_{e}^{(i)}[k] = H_{1}^{(i)}[k]X_{F}^{(i)}[k] + H_{2}^{(i)}[k]X_{S}^{(i)}[k] + Z_{e}^{(i)}[k]
\bar{Y}_{o}^{(i)}[k] = -H_{1}^{(i)}[k]X_{S}^{*(i)}[k] + H_{2}^{(i)}[k]X_{F}^{*(i)}[k] + Z_{o}^{(i)}[k]
(7)$$

for $0 \le k \le N - 1$. We then use the combiner unit to combine the received signals from different transmitter antennas according to the method revealed in [3]. Finally, in the ML decoder unit, the ML decision rule [1] can be used to detect the transmitted data symbol on each subchannel.

B. Channel Estimation

Fig. 3 depicts the detailed structure of the channel estimation functional block. First, we use a coarse signal detection unit to obtain coarsely estimated data symbols $\hat{X}_{FC}^{(i)}[k]$ and $\hat{X}_{SC}^{(i)}[k]$ by using the estimated CSIs in the previous two time slots, i.e., the (2i - 2)th and (2i - 1)th time slot. The structure of the coarse signal detection unit is similar to the fine signal detection functional block as shown in Fig. 2. The data interference signals are then reconstructed and subtracted from the received signals $Y_e^{(i)}[k]$ and $Y_o^{(i)}[k]$ in a data interference cancellation unit. We assume that the data interference signals can be cancelled perfectly and the refined signals can be represented as

$$\breve{Y}_{e}^{(i)}[k] = H_{1}^{(i)}[k]P_{\alpha}[k] - H_{2}^{(i)}[k]P_{\beta}[k] + Z_{e}^{(i)}[k]
\breve{Y}_{o}^{(i)}[k] = H_{1}^{(i)}[k]P_{\beta}^{*}[k] + H_{2}^{(i)}[k]P_{\alpha}^{*}[k] + Z_{o}^{(i)}[k]$$
(8)

for $0 \le k \le N - 1$. Next, the refined signals are multiplied by the complex conjugate transpose of the pilot matrix $\mathbf{P}[k]$ in the pilot matching unit in Fig. 3, to obtain more accurately estimated CSIs in the frequency domain. We then use an *N*point IDFT unit to obtain the estimated CSIs in the time domain, i.e.,

$$\bar{h}_{1}^{(i)}[n] = h_{1}^{(i)}[n] + IDFT\{Z_{e}^{(i)}[k]P_{\alpha}^{*}[k] + Z_{o}^{(i)}[k]P_{\beta}[k]\}
\bar{h}_{2}^{(i)}[n] = h_{2}^{(i)}[n] + IDFT\{-Z_{e}^{(i)}[k]P_{\beta}^{*}[k] + Z_{o}^{(i)}[k]P_{\alpha}[k]\}
(9)$$

for $0 \le n \le N - 1$. Finally, a path selection unit is used to suppress the noise effect and to refine the estimated CSIs. For path selection, we first define a parameter N_p , which is the desired number of paths to be selected. Only the N_p paths with larger amplitudes in $\bar{h}_1^{(i)}[n]$ (or $\bar{h}_2^{(i)}[n]$) are preserved and all the other paths are discarded. As a result, we obtain $\hat{h}_1^{(i)}[n]$ and $\hat{h}_2^{(i)}[n]$ in the following way:

$$\hat{h}_{j}^{(i)}[n] = \begin{cases} \bar{h}_{j}^{(i)}[n] &, \text{ if } |\bar{h}_{j}^{(i)}[n]| \text{ is one of the } N_{p} \\ & \text{ larger values} \\ 0 &, \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$(10)$$

for $0 \le n \le N - 1$; j = 1, 2.

To initialize the channel estimator, pilot preambles without data signals added are transmitted in the first two time slots. The received signals are passed only through the pilot matching and the path selection unit to generate the preliminary channel estimations.

C. Receiver Complexity

The complexity of the CC pilot-based STBC/OFDM receiver will be calculated in this subsection. Either N-point DFT or IDFT needs DFTN multiplications per OFDM symbol. At the recever, three DFT or IDFT operations are needed for every OFDM symbol (see Figs. 1-3). According to Fig. 2, the pilot signal cancellation unit and the combiner unit need 8N multiplications for every two OFDM symbols. In Fig. 3, the data interference cancellation unit and the pilot matching unit also need 8N multiplications for every two OFDM symbols. Furthermore, the coarse signal detection

Modulation	OFDM & BPSK
Carrier frequency	2 GHz
Total bandwidth	5.12 MHz
Number of receiver antennas	1
Number of subcarriers	256
Useful symbol time	$50 \ \mu s$
Guard interval	$12.5 \ \mu s$
Transmitted data signal energy/ antenna	0.5
Pilot signal energy/ antenna	0.5
Vehicle speed	8, 30, 120 km/hr
Delay of multipaths	0.19 $\mu s \sim$ 9.77 μs

TABLE I Simulation parameters

unit requires the same number of multiplications as the fine signal detection functional block, i.e. 8N per two OFDM symbols. Hence, the receiver has the complexity order of 3DFTN + 12N multiplications per OFDM symbol.

V. COMPUTER SIMULATION RESULTS

We utilize computer simulations to verify the performance of the proposed CC pilot-based STBC/OFDM system in a two-path fading channel and a Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS) defined channel. The equivalent baseband impulse response of the two-path fading channel is represented by

$$h(t) = a_1 \delta(t) + a_2 \delta(t - \tau) \tag{11}$$

where $\delta(t)$ denotes a delta function, τ is the excess delay of the second path, and a_l is the complex gain of the *lth* path, which is generated from the Jake's fading channel model [15]. Besides, the channel selected for evaluating the third generation UMTS European systems with relative path power profiles: -2.5, 0, -12.8, -10, -25.2, -16 (*dB*), is also used to simulate the system performance [16]. We also assume the two transmitter antennas are spatially separated far enough and the two channels from the two transmitters to the receiver are uncorrelated in our simulation.

parameters for the CC The system pilot-based STBC/OFDM system simulation are listed in Table I. In our simulation, a single-user at a time scenario, i.e. time division multiple access (TDMA) can be used as a multiple access scheme, is assumed. The entire simulations are conducted in the equivalent baseband. We assume both symbol synchronization and carrier synchronization are perfect. Golay's binary CC [13] is directly used to generate the CC pilot signals. Each transmitter antenna transmits both the data signal and the pilot signal at an equal power level of 0.5 per sample. The excess delay of the paths is uniformly distributed between $0.19\mu s$ and $9.77\mu s$. Finally, throughout the simulation, the parameter SNR is defined as the received data signal power to the noise power ratio.



Fig. 4. Bit error rate of CC pilot-based STBC/OFDM system in a two-path fading channel with vehicular speed as a parameter $(N_p = 2)$.



Fig. 5. Bit error rate of CC pilot based STBC/OFDM system in a UMTS system defined fading channel with N_p as a parameter ($V = 120 \ km/hr$).

A. The Performance of the System in a Two Path Fading Channel

Fig. 4 shows the bit error rate (BER) performance of the proposed system in a two-path fading channel with a relative path power profile: 0, 0 (dB) at different vehicle speeds. Here, we set the number of selected paths $N_p = 2$. The system performance is approximately only 1dB poorer (in SNR) at a BER= 10^{-3} as compared with the theoretic BPSK case with a second-order diversity, even when the motor vehicle moves at a high speed. The simulated performance curves under the perfect CSIs assumption are also included for comparison purpose. These curves indicate that CC pilot-based channel estimation method works very well.

B. Path Selection Effects

Fig. 5 shows the BER performance of the proposed system in a UMTS defined multipath fading channel (with six paths) at a vehicle speed of 120 km/hr, with N_p is chosen as a simulation parameter. It is observed that the system performance have a small degradation of about 2dB at a BER= 10^{-3} as compared with the previous two-path fading channel case as shown in Fig.4. When the parameter N_p is chosen appropriately, i.e. close to the actual number of paths in the mobile radio environment, the system performance is almost the same. In other words, the parameter N_p can be set a little bit larger than the number of available paths in a practical system design.

VI. CONCLUSION

In this work, we designed a pilot signal structure for a STBC/OFDM system by utilizing a pair of complementary codes, which can be systematically generated from wellunderstood rules. We have also described the detailed functional block diagrams of the CC pilot-based STBC/OFDM system and simulated its performance. The CC pilot signals are transmitted simultaneously along with data signals in the time domain and used to estimate CSIs optimally at the receiver end. This approach does not reduce bandwidth efficiency as compared with other schemes in which pilot carriers are added in the frequency domain.

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