On the Impact of Colored Transmitter Noise on Millimeter Wave MIMO Systems

Sina Rezaei Aghdam, Thomas Eriksson
Department of Electrical Engineering, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden
{sinar, thomase}@chalmers.se

I. INTRODUCTION

The performance of wireless systems is considerably affected by different radio frequency (RF) impairments such as inphase/quadrature-phase (I/Q) imbalance and distortions due to the power amplifier or mixer nonlinearities. The impact of residual distortion caused by these impairments on the channel capacity of multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) systems has been studied in a few recent articles. In [1], the authors demonstrate that the residual transmit RF impairments can be modeled as an additive noise. The impact of this noise on the performance of training-based MIMO systems is characterized in [2].

Dissimilar to the existing works where the residual transmit RF impairments are modeled as a zero-mean white complex Gaussian noise, we consider a more general scenario where this noise has an arbitrary covariance matrix. We consider a MIMO system with \( N_t \) transmit and \( N_r \) receive antennas with the following input-output relationship

\[
y = H(s + w) + n,
\]

where \( y \in \mathbb{C}^{N_r} \) is the receive vector, \( H \in \mathbb{C}^{N_r \times N_t} \) denotes the channel matrix, and \( s \) stands for the data signal where \( \mathbb{E}\{ss^H\} = I_{N_r} \). \( w \sim \mathcal{C}\mathcal{N}(0, K_w) \) is the transmit noise and \( n \sim \mathcal{C}\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_n^2 I_{N_r}) \) denotes the thermal noise at the receiver. Therefore, the residual noise can be written as \( \bar{n} = Hw + n \) and its covariance is given by \( K_n = HK_wH^H + \sigma_n^2 I_{N_r} \).

In order to evaluate the channel capacity, we pre-multiply the two sides of (1) by \( K_n^{-1/2} \) and obtain an equivalent input-output relationship as

\[
y' = Gs + n',
\]

where \( G = K_n^{-1/2}H \) and \( n' \sim \mathcal{C}\mathcal{N}(0, I_{N_r}) \). Under the assumption that the transmitter knows the channel matrix \( H \) and the covariance of the transmit noise, i.e., \( K_w \), the channel capacity is achieved by a singular value decomposition (SVD) precoding/combining along with a waterfilling power allocation. When transmitter noise \( w \) is white and its covariance matrix has equal diagonal elements (similar to the scenarios considered in [1]-[2]), \( GG^H \) resolves into the same eigenmodes as the system without transmitter noise (i.e., (1) with \( w = 0 \)). However, the optimal waterfilling solution for the scenarios with \( w = 0 \) is not optimal in the cases with colored transmitter noise and the power allocation should be carried out based on the eigenvalues of \( GG^H \).

II. NUMERICAL RESULTS

We investigate the impact of transmitter noise on the channel capacity over a mmWave MIMO channel. We consider a setup with \( N_t = N_r = 9 \). We consider a general covariance matrix for \( K_w \) with non-zero off-diagonal elements. The coefficients for our line-of-sight (LOS) channel (with non-optimal inter-antenna distances) is generated according to the specifications of our testbed, i.e., Chalmers mmWave MIMO testbed (MATE) [3], and for this fixed channel, information rates are evaluated. Fig. 1 depicts the performance of different precoding/combining strategies. It can be inferred from Fig. 1 that the impact of transmit noise is more limiting in the high SNR regime. Moreover, the poor performance of the transmit zero-forcing in the presence of transmitter noise is evidenced.

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