ORTHOGONAL FREQUENCY DIVISION MULTIPLEXING FOR WIRELESS CHANNELS

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ABSTRACT

Orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM) has been shown to be an effective technique to combat multipath fading in wireless communications. It has been successfully used for HF radio applications and has been chosen as the standard for digital audio broadcasting and digital terrestrial TV broadcasting in Europe and high-speed wireless local areas networks. In this tutorial, we present the basic principles of OFDM and discuss the problems, and some of the potential solutions, in implementing an OFDM system. Techniques for peak-to-average power ratio reduction, time and frequency synchronization, and channel estimation will be discussed. We conclude with a brief overview of current application areas

BIOGRAPHIES OF PRESENTERS:

Leonard J. Cimini, Jr., received the B.S.E. (summa cum laude), M.S.E. and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania in 1978, 1979, and 1982, respectively. During the graduate work he was supported by a National Science Foundation Fellowship. Since 1982, he has been employed at AT&T, where his research interests are in wireless communications systems. Dr. Cimini is a member of Tau Beta Pi and Eta Kappa Nu. He has been very active in the IEEE Communications Society and is *Editor-in-Chief* of the *IEEE J-SAC: Wireless Communications Series.* He is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Pennsylvania.

Ye (Geoffrey) Li received the B.Eng and M.Eng degrees in 1983 and 1986, respectively, from the Department of Wireless Engineering, Nanjing Institute of Technology, Nanjing, China, and the Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering in 1994, Auburn University, Alabama. Since May 1996, he has been with AT&T Labs - Research. His current research interests are in statistical signal processing and wireless communications. He has served as a guest editor for a special issue on *Signal Processing for Wireless Communications* for the *IEEE J-SAC* and is an editor for Wireless Communication Theory for the *IEEE Transactions on Communications*.

OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Basic Concepts
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- Applications
- Summary
- References

OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Basic Concepts
- Peak-to-Average Power Ratio Reduction
- Time and Frequency Synchronization
- Channel Estimation
- Applications
- Summary
- References

INTRODUCTION

- Motivation
- Radio Environment
- Brief History

MOTIVATION

- High-bit-rate wireless applications
- Limitations caused by the radio environment
- OFDM can overcome these inherent bit rate limitations

PATH LOSS MODEL



- Path Loss
- Shadow Fading
- Multipath
 - Flat fading
 - Doppler spread
 - Delay spread
- Interference

PATH LOSS MODEL

- Different, often complicated, models are used for different environments.
- A simple model for path loss, L, is

$$\mathbf{L} = \frac{\overline{\mathbf{P}_{r}}}{\mathbf{P}_{t}} = \mathbf{K} \frac{\mathbf{1}}{\mathbf{d}^{\alpha}}$$

where P_r is the local mean received signal power, P_t is the transmitted power, and d is the transmitter receiver distance.

The path loss exponent $\alpha = 2$ in free space; $2 \le \alpha \le 4$ in typical environments.

SHADOW FADING

- The received signal is shadowed by obstructions such as hills and buildings.
- This results in variations in the local mean received signal power,

 $P_r(dB) = \overline{P_r}(dB) + G_s$

where $G_s \sim N(0, \sigma_s^2), 4 \le \sigma_s \le 10 \text{ dB}$.

Implications

- nonuniform coverage
- increases the required transmit power



Constructive and destructive interference of arriving rays



FLAT FADING

- The delay spread is small compared to the symbol period.
- The received signal envelope, r, follows a Rayleigh or Rician distribution.

$$P_r(dB) = \overline{P}_r(dB) + G_s + 20 \log r$$



- causes bursts of errors

DOPPLER SPREAD

• A measure of the spectral broadening caused by the channel time variation.

$$f_{D} \leq \frac{V}{\lambda}$$

Example: 900 MHz, 60 mph, $f_D = 80$ Hz 5 GHz, 5 mph, $f_D = 37$ Hz

Implications

 signal amplitude and phase decorrelate after a time period ~ 1/f_D

DELAY SPREAD TIME DOMAIN INTERPRETATION



 ^τ large ⇒ significant intersymbol interference, which causes an irreducible error floor

DELAY SPREAD FREQUENCY DOMAIN INTERPRETATION



• $\frac{\tau}{T}$ large \Rightarrow frequency-selective fading

BIT RATE LIMITATIONS

• ISI causes an irreducible error floor.



The rms delay spread imposes a limit on the maximum bit rate. For example, for QPSK

	τ	Maximum Bit Rate
Mobile (rural)	25 μsec	8 kbps
Mobile (city)	2.5 µsec	80 kbps
Microcells	500 nsec	400 kbps
Large Building	100 nsec	2 Mbps

INTERFRENCE

• Frequencies are reused often to maximize spectral efficiency.



• For interference-limited systems, the noise floor is dominated by co-channel interference.

$$\frac{\mathbf{S}}{\mathbf{I}+\mathbf{N}}\approx\frac{\mathbf{S}}{\mathbf{I}}=\frac{1}{6}\left(\frac{\mathbf{D}}{\mathbf{R}}\right)^{\alpha}$$

Implications

 high reuse efficiency requires interference mitigation

HISTORY

- Military HF radio (1950's 1960's)
 - Kineplex
 - Kathryn
- Wireline modem (Telebit, Gandalf)
- Cellular modem (Telebit)
- Digital audio and terrestrial TV broadcasting (Europe)
- Asymmetric digital subscriber line (DMT)
- Wireless LANs
 - IEEE802.11 National Information Infrastructure
 - HIPERLAN TYPE II

OUTLINE

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- Summary
- References

BASIC CONCEPTS

- Multicarrier
- Basic OFDM
- Impairments
- Alternative forms

MULTICARRIER

- The transmission bandwidth is divided into many narrow subchannels which are transmitted in parallel.
- Ideally, each subchannel is narrow enough so that the fading it experiences is flat ⇒ no ISI.

Transmitter



- Disadvantage:
 - Requires filter bank at receiver
 - Spectrally inefficient

Horizontal slide here

BASIC OFDM RECEIVER



- Subchannel separation - choose $f_n = f_0 + n\Delta f$, with $\Delta f = \frac{1}{NT}$ - integrate over NT, then $\stackrel{\wedge}{d}(m) = d(m)$
- A guard interval can virtually eliminate ISI (or, interblock interference) ⇒ lower spectral or power efficiency.

PASSBAND VERSUS BASEBAND

Passband

$$\mathbf{x}_{p}(\mathbf{t}) = \Re\left\{\sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \mathbf{a}[k] \mathbf{e}^{j2\pi(f_{c}+k\Delta f)t}\right\}, \ \mathbf{0} \le \mathbf{t} \le \mathbf{T}_{s}$$

Baseband

$$\mathbf{x}_{b}(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \mathbf{a}[k] \mathbf{e}^{j2\pi k \Delta ft}, \ \mathbf{0} \le t \le \mathbf{T}_{s}$$

DFT IMPLEMENTATION TRANSMITTER

• Transmitted signal can be obtained using a Discrete Fourier Transform

$$\mathbf{x}_{b}(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \mathbf{a}[k] \mathbf{e}^{j2\pi k \Delta ft}, \ \mathbf{0} \le t \le \mathbf{T}_{s}$$

• If sampled at a rate of T_s/N ,

$$\mathbf{x}_{b}[\mathbf{n}] = \mathbf{x}_{b}\left(\frac{\mathbf{n}}{\mathbf{N}}\mathbf{T}_{s}\right) = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \mathbf{a}[k] \mathbf{e}^{j2\pi \mathbf{n}k \Delta f \mathbf{T}_{s}/N}$$

• For orthogonality, $\Delta fT_s = 1$,

$$x_{b}[n] = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} a[k] e^{j2\pi nk/N} = IDFT\{a[k]\}$$

Efficient FFT implementation

DFT IMPLEMENTATION RECEIVER

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{a}[k] &= DFT\{x_{b}[n]\} \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x_{b}[n] e^{-j2\pi nk/N} \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} a[m] e^{j2\pi n(m-k)/N} \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} a[m] \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} e^{j2\pi n(m-k)/N} \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} a[m] N\delta[m-k] \\ &= a[k] \end{aligned}$$

PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT

- Coding across subchannels ⇒ works best with large delay spread
- Adaptive loading
 - More bits/symbol where SNR is sufficient
 - Could also adapt transmit power in each subchannel
 - Requires reliable feedback channel and accurate channel information
- Frequency equalization and coherent detection
 ⇒ requires accurate channel estimation

SAMPLE DESIGN

- Goal
 - Transmit 1.2 Mbits/sec using QPSK with B=800 kHz bandwidth channel
 - Delay span up to 40 μsec (max 5 kbaud for single carrier)
- Design
 - Choose subchannel width so that there is no ISI in each subchannel $\Rightarrow \Delta f = 6.25 \text{ kHz} \Rightarrow \text{N} = B/\Delta f = 128 \text{ subchannels}$
 - OFDM symbol duration $T_s = 1/\Delta f = 160 \mu sec$
 - Guard interval T_{α} = 40 µsec
 - OFDM block length: $T_f = T_s + T_g = 200 \ \mu sec$
 - Assuming 4 guard channels on each end, there are 120 data subchannels, each transmitting 2 bits in 200 μsec

$$R_{b} = \frac{120 \text{ x 2 bits}}{200 \text{ } \mu \text{ sec}} = 1.2 \text{ Mbits/sec}$$

IMPAIRMENTS

- Time-varying fading, frequency offset, and timing mismatch impair the orthogonality of the subchannels.
- Large amplitude fluctuations can be a serious problem when transmitting through a nonlinearity.

TIME-VARYING IMPAIRMENTS

General expression:

 $\hat{a}[k] = DFT\{\chi_{b}[n]\} = \underbrace{a[k]K[k,k]}_{attenuated \& rotated} + \underbrace{\sum_{n \neq k} a[n]K[n,k]}_{ICI}$

Frequency offset

For a frequency offset between the transmitter and receiver,

$$\mathbf{x}_{\mathsf{b}}(\mathsf{t}) = \sum_{\mathsf{k}=0}^{\mathsf{N}-1} \mathbf{a}[\mathsf{k}] \, \mathbf{e}^{j2\pi(\mathsf{k} \Delta \mathsf{f} - \delta \mathsf{f})\mathsf{t}}, \, \mathbf{0} \le \mathsf{t} \le \mathsf{Ts}$$

$$K[n,k] = \left[\frac{\sin\left[\pi\left(n-k-\frac{\delta f}{\Delta f}\right)\right]}{\pi\left(n-k-\frac{\delta f}{\Delta f}\right)} \right] e^{j\pi\left(n-k-\frac{\delta f}{\Delta f}\right)}$$
$$K[k,k] = \left[\frac{\sin\left(\pi\frac{\delta f}{\Delta f}\right)}{\pi\frac{\delta f}{\Delta f}} \right] e^{j\pi\frac{\delta f}{\Delta f}}$$

TIMING MISMATCH

• Timing offset smaller than the guard interval results in a phase shift.

 $\boldsymbol{\hat{a}}_{\delta t}[\boldsymbol{k}] = \boldsymbol{a}[\boldsymbol{k}] \boldsymbol{e}^{j2\pi f_k \delta t}$

↓ a phase shift

- Otherwise, additional interference is generated.
- Best solution is to choose sufficient guard interval.

DELAY SPREAD

 Assuming time-invariance, the multipath channel results in a received signal at k-th subchannel

 $\hat{a}[k] = H[k]a[k] + w[k]$

- Simple complex multiplicative distortion
- For coherent detection, channel parameter estimation and tracking are required.

NONLINEARITIES

- Large peak-to-average power ratio (PAPR)
- PAPR ~ number of subcarriers



- Large PAPR ⇒ inband distortion and spectral spreading
- PAPR reduction techniques required

ALTERNATIVE FORMS

- Bandlimited OFDM:
 - R.W. Chang (BSTJ, Dec. 1966)
 - B.R. Saltzberg (*IEEE Trans. on Comm. Tech.*, Dec. 1967)
 - B. Hirosaki (*IEEE Trans. on Comm.*, Jan. 1980)
- Wavelet-Based OFDM:
 - B. LeFloch (Proc. IEEE, June 1995)

OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Basic Concepts
- Peak-to-Average Power Ratio Reduction
- Time and Frequency Synchronization
- Channel Estimation
- Applications
- Summary
- References

PAP RATIO REDUCTION

- PAPR properties
- Clipping and filtering
- Selective mapping
- Partial transmit sequences
- Coding
- Other techniques
PAPR PROPERTIES

- Superposition of a large number of subcarrier signals results in a Rayleigh envelope.
- PAPR definition

$$PAPR = \frac{max_{0 < t < Ts} |x_{b}(t)|^{2}}{P_{ave}} = N$$

For N=128, PAPR = 21 dB.

• However, these large peaks do not occur very often.



PAPR PROPERTIES

- Large PAPR
 - In band noise \Rightarrow increases BER
 - Spectral spreading \Rightarrow ACI
- Possible Solutions
 - Amplifier backoff
 - Reduce PAPR of OFDM signal

CLIPPING AND FILTERING

- Deliberate clipping will reduce peak value, but will result in spectral spreading (ACI) and in-band distortion (BER).
- Filtering is required to minimize spectral spreading. ⇒ peak regrowth

CLIPPING AND FILTERING



SELECTIVE MAPPING



- Multiply data signal by M different sequences, r₁,... r_M,
- Convert each data sequence into the timedomain with an N-point IFFT
- Select sequence for transmission with the smallest PAPR

PARTIAL TRANSMIT SEQUENCE



- Divide the OFDM tones into M clusters
- Convert each cluster into the time-domain using an N-point IFFT
- Combine the M output sequences to minimize the PAPR

PERFORMANCE



Using the same redundancy, PTS can achieve a lower PAPR at the expense of more complexity.

CODING

• Nonlinear

- Map transmitted sequence into a larger sequence where high-peak sequences are not used
- Good performance with little overhead
- Requires table look-up ⇒ only applicable for small number of subchannels
- Error propagation
- Current work searching for systematic implementation with some error correction capability

OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Basic Concepts
- Peak-to-Average Power Ratio Reduction
- Time and Frequency Synchronization
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- Summary
- References

TIME AND FREQUENCY SYNCHRONIZATION

- Timing offset estimation
- Frequency offset estimation
- Joint offset estimation

TIMING OFFSET ESTIMATION

Pilot-based methods

- Non-OFDM-based pilot symbols
 OFDM-based pilot symbols
- Non-pilot based methods

PILOT-BASED TIMING Non-OFDM Pilot Symbols

Use a null signal inserted at the start of each group of OFDM blocks



PILOT-BASED TIMING OFDM Pilot Symbols

Design special OFDM block for estimation (Moose, Schmidl)



PILOT-BASED TIMING Performance



NON-PILOT BASED TIMING

Use redundancy in the cyclic prefix to estimate the time offset



FREQUENCY OFFSET ESTIMATION

Pilot-based methods

– Non-OFDM-based pilot symbols

- OFDM-based pilot symbols

Non-pilot based methods

FREQUENCY OFFSET ESTIMATION Pilot-Based

An OFDM-based pilot scheme for coarse and fine frequency synchronization



FREQUENCY OFFSET ESTIMATION Performance



JOINT ESTIMATION

Based on shortened Moose pilot symbol



JOINT ESTIMATION

Based on a 16-sample cyclic prefix



OUTLINE

- Introduction
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- Summary
- References

CHANNEL ESTIMATION

- Differential and coherent detection
- Decision-directed estimation
- Pilot-symbol-aided estimation

DIFFERENTIAL AND COHERENT DETECTION

• 3-dB SNR degradation for differential detection



- Differential
 - in time \Rightarrow sensitive to Doppler shift
 - in frequency \Rightarrow sensitive to delay spread
- Coherent detection requires channel information

DECISION-DIRECTED ESTIMATION

- Use sliced data for estimating channel parameters
- Obtain an MMSE or robust estimator using the correlations of the channel parameters in time and/or frequency.

DECISION-DIRECTED ESTIMATION MMSE Estimator

Using time and frequency correlations

Estimator coefficients

 $\mathbf{C}[\mathbf{n}] = \mathbf{U}\boldsymbol{\Phi}[\mathbf{n}]\mathbf{U}^{\mathsf{H}}$ $\boldsymbol{\Phi}[\mathbf{n}] = \mathbf{diag}\{\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{\mathsf{1}}[\mathbf{n}], \dots, \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{\mathsf{N}}[\mathbf{n}]\}$

Estimator structure



DECISION-DIRECTED ESTIMATION Robust Estimator

• Why robust estimation?

- A large performance degradation is possible if MMSE estimator is not matched to the channel.
- Robust design
 - Match rectangular spectrum in time and frequency domains
 - Good performance for almost all channels
 - Relatively insensitive to Doppler and delay profiles

PILOT-SYMBOL-AIDED ESTIMATION

Pilot symbol grid



• Obtain an estimate of the channel at the pilot symbol positions.

• Obtain estimates at other frequencies and times by interpolation.

PILOT-SYMBOL-AIDED ESTIMATION Grid Selection

• 2-D spectrum of channel parameters at pilot symbol positions



• Non-rectangular pilot symbol grids are better

SIMULATION PARAMETERS

- 800 kHz bandwidth
- Number of subchannels N = 128 subchannels (4 guard subchannels at each end)
- OFDM block duration T_f = 200 μsec (with 40-μsec guard interva)
- (40,20) R-S code, which corrects 10 erasures, based on signal strength, and correct 5 random errors

WORD ERROR RATE Typical Urban Channel

(a)



WORD ERROR RATE Hilly Terrain Channel

(b)



OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Basic Concepts
- Peak-to-Average Power Ratio Reduction
- Time and Frequency Synchronization
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- Summary
- References

APPLICATIONS

- Asymmetric digital subscriber line
- Digital audio and terrestrial TV broadcasting
- Wireless LAN's
- High-speed cellular data

DIGITAL AUDIO BROADCASTING

- Broadcasting standard in Europe
- Single frequency network
- Bandwidth = 7 MHz
- Useful bit rate = 5.6 Mbits/sec
- N = 448 subchannels
- $T_f = 80 \ \mu sec$, $T_f = 64 \ \mu sec$, and $T_g = 16 \ \mu sec$
- Rate-1/4 conv. coding with constraint length 7
- Time interleaving: 16 X 24 msec
- Pilot symbols for channel estimation

WIRELESS LANS

• IEEE802.11(a)

- New NII spectrum at about 5 GHz

- Indoor applications

Modulation scheme	OFDM
Sub-carrier Modulation	DBPSK, 16 QAM in each subchannel
Number of subchannels	48 Subchannels out of 64
Coding	Convolution K=7, R=1/2 or R=3/4 inter-carrier interleave
Data rates	5 Mbps (BPSK, R=1/2)
	10 Mbps (QPSK, R=1/2)
	15 Mbps (QPSK, R=3/4))
	20 Mbps (16QAM, R=1/2)
	30 Mbps (16QAM, R=3/4)

WIRELESS LANS

HIPERLAN: High Performance Radio Local Area Network

- Standard in Europe at 5.2 GHz

- HIPERLAN Type I: single carrier GSMK with equalization

- HIPERLAN Type II: COFDM

Information data rate	48, 32, 24, 16 and 8 Mbps
Modulation	OFDM with 16-QAM, QPSK or BPSK
Coding rate	Convolutional 3/4 or 1/2
Coding	48
OFDM symbol duration	3 μs
Guard interval	600 ns
T _{prefix}	600 ns
T _{postfix}	75 ns
Subchannel spacing	416.666 kHz
Roll-off factor	0.025
Channel Spacing	25 MHz
Occupied -3 dB Bandwidth	20 MHz
HIGH SPEED CELLULAR

Band Division Multiple Access (BDMA)

- Proposal by Sony, Japan
- Combination of TDMA, OFDM and cluster hopping



- Parameters
 - number of tones per cluster: $N_c = 24$
 - tone spacing: $\Delta f = 4.17 \text{ kHz}$
 - symbol duration: $T_s = 1/\Delta f = 240 \ \mu sec$
 - guard interval: $T_q = 38.8 \ \mu sec$
 - ramp time: $T_r = 10 \ \mu sec$
 - block length: $T_f = T_s + T_r + T_g = 288.5 \ \mu sec$
 - cluster width: $B_c = N_c \Delta f = 100 \text{ kHz}$

HIGH SPEED CELLULAR

Advanced Cellular Internet Service (ACIS)

- Goal to provide wide-area Internet service to mobile subscribers
- Combines OFDM with multiple transmitter and receiver antennas and coding
- Parameters
 - total bandwidth: B = 800 kHz
 - number of tones: N = 192
 - tone spacing: $\Delta f = B/N = 4.17 \text{ kHz}$
 - symbol duration: $T_s = 1/\Delta f = 240 \ \mu sec$
 - guard interval: $T_q = 48.5 \ \mu sec$
 - block length: $T_f = T_s + T_q = 288.5 \ \mu sec$
 - rate-1/2 R-S code across subchannels

OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Basic Concepts
- Peak-to-Average Power Ratio Reduction
- Time and Frequency Synchronization
- Channel Estimation
- Applications
- Summary
- References

SUMMARY

- High-bit-rate wireless data is desirable, but the radio environment puts an upper limit on the achievable bit rate.
- OFDM, by transmitting data over many narrow subchannels, can overcome the bit rate limit.
- However, to realize an OFDM system, several practical issues must be addressed, including PAPR, frequency offset and timing mismatch, and channel estimation.
- Several promising solutions have been proposed for all of these problems.
- OFDM is currently a very popular choice for future wireless applications, including wireless LANs, cellular and PCS data, and possibly Fourth Generation systems.

OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Basic Concepts
- Peak-to-Average Power Ratio Reduction
- Time and Frequency Synchronization
- Channel Estimation
- Applications
- Summary
- References

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