

Performance assessment of a downlink two-layer spreading encoded COMP MIMO OFDM system

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To cite this article:

Md. Mainul Islam Mamun, Joarder Jafor Sadique, Shaikh Enayet Ullah. Performance Assessment of a Downlink Two-Layer Spreading Encoded COMP MIMO OFDM System. *International Journal of Wireless Communications and Mobile Computing*. Vol. 2, No. 1, 2014, pp. 11-17. doi: 10.11648/j.wcmc.20140201.12

Abstract: In this paper, a comprehensive BER performance simulative study has been made on data transmission in a downlink coordinated multipoint wireless communication System. The COMP MIMO OFDM system under investigation implements Turbo and LDPC channel coding, Spatially multiplexing and Space-time block coding (STBC), Doubly Spreading Minimum Mean Square Error (MMSE) and Zero Forcing (ZF) signal detection (Equalizers) schemes under 16PSK and 16QAM digital modulations based on the analysis it is remarkable that the simulated system is highly effective to combat inherent interferences under Rayleigh fading channel and provides robust performance in 16QAM, MMSE channel equalization and spatial multiplexing schemes.

Keywords: Coordinated Multipoint (CoMP) Transmission, LDPC and Turbo Coding, Two-Layer Spreading, Signal Detection Schemes, Bit Error Rate (BER)

1. Introduction

With development of physical layer techniques, the data rates of mobile communication services have increased by about 100 times every 6–7 years and it is predicted that in 2020, the required data rate will be as large as 100–1000 times the currently served data rate. The wireless transmission and networking technologies are the essential components of the mobile communication systems. Due to the recent breakthrough in transmission technologies with consideration of constraints of traditional cellular systems in terms of transmit power, complicity in frequency of handover in high speed mobile environment (350km/h) and cell edge effect for transmission frequencies higher than 2 GHz, cellular communications have entered the era of cooperative communications. In Cooperative communication system, various types of cooperative schemes such as relay, DAS, multicellular coordination, Group Cell, Coordinated Multiple Point transmission and reception (CoMP) are used [1].

Cooperative communications have recently been migrated to one of state-of-the-art features of the 3GPP LTE-Advanced (LTE-A) system. In LTE-Advanced system, single carrier frequency division multiple access

(SC-FDMA) has been adopted in the uplink communication and orthogonal frequency division multiple access (OFDMA) has been adopted in the downlink communication. In such system, base-station (BS) cooperative transmission under CoMP cooperative transmission scheme has been widely recognized as a promising technique to enhance throughput by avoiding intercell interference (ICI), particularly for cell-edge users. In January 2009, CoMP and Cooperative Relay based trial networks have been deployed in the campus of Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunication. [2, 3]

Orthogonal Frequency-Division Multiplexing (OFDM) has emerged as a successful air-interface technique. OFDM techniques are also known as Discrete Multi-Tone (DMT) transmissions and are employed in the American National Standards Institute's (ANSI's) Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL), High-bit-rate Digital Subscriber Line (HDSL) and Very-high-speed Digital Subscriber Line (VDSL) standards as well as in the European Telecommunication Standard Institute's (ETSI's) VDSL applications. In wireless scenarios, OFDM has been advocated by many European standards such as Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB), Digital Video Broadcasting for Terrestrial television (DVB-T), Digital Video Broadcasting

for Handheld terminals (DVB-H), Wireless Local Area Networks (WLANs) and Broadband Radio Access Networks (BRANs). MIMO OFDM is the key technology for various cellular communications such as 3GPP-LTE, Mobile WiMAX and IMT-Advanced. The quality of a wireless link viz. transmission rate, transmission range and transmission reliability can be improved using MIMO aided OFDM technology [4, 5]. In this present study, MIMO-aided OFDM radio interface technology in CoMP transmission based wireless network. In Figure 1, a scenario of joint processing (JP) CoMP transmission based MIMO wireless network has been shown where it is seen that a single mobile user (user equipment, UE) is receiving identical spatially demultiplexed complex signals transmitted simultaneously from seven different geographically located multi antenna supported macro base stations (eNBs).

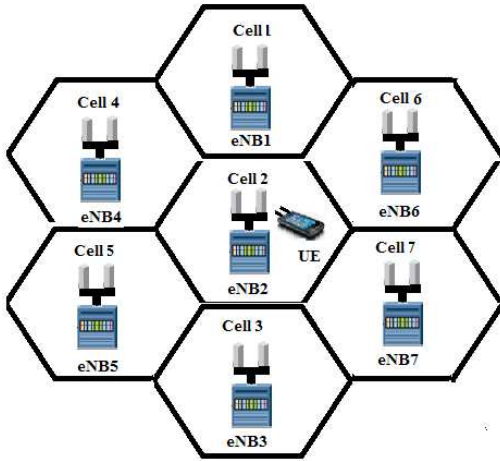


Figure 1. Downlink Coordinated Multiple-Point Transmission (CoMP) Scenario for homogeneous macro network. User unit (UE) in Cell 2 receives data from seven multi antenna supported macro base stations (eNBs.)

2. Signal Processing Schemes

In this paper, various signal processing schemes have been implemented. A brief overview of such schemes is given below in concise form.

2.1. LDPC Coding and Decoding

An low-density parity-check (LDPC) code invented by Gallager, is a (n,k) linear block code of rate $R= k/n$. It can be defined in terms of $(n-k) \times n$ parity-check matrix $[H]=[h_1, h_2, h_3, \dots, h_n]$. Each entry h_{ij} of matrix $[H]$ is an element of finite field of $GF(2)$ viz. 0 or 1. The parity-check matrix contains only a few 1's in comparison to 0's (i.e., sparse matrix). In this present study, a $1/2$ -rated irregular LDPC code with code length 1024 has been used. Its parity-check matrix $[H]$ has a dimension of 512×1024 and it is formed from a concatenation of two matrices $[A]$ and $[P]$ ($[H]=[A][P]$), each has a dimension of 512×512 . The columns of the parity-check matrix $[H]$ is rearranged/reordered to produce a

new parity-check matrix $[H_{new}]$. With reordered matrix elements, the matrix $[A]$ becomes non-singular and it is further processed to undergo LU decomposition. The redundant or parity bits sequence $[p]$ has been considered to be obtained from the frame based input binary data sequence $[u]=[u_1u_2u_3u_4\dots u_{512}]^T$ and three matrices $[P]$ (of $[H_{new}]$), $[L]$ and $[U]$ using the following Matlab notation :

$$p = \text{mod}(U \setminus (L \setminus z), 2); \text{ where, } z = \text{mod}(P * u, 2);$$

The LDPC encoded 1024×1 sized frame based binary data sequence $[c]$ is formulated from concatenation of parity check bit p and information bit u as:

$$[c]=[p;u] \quad (1)$$

The first 512 bits of the codeword matrix $[c]$ are the parity bits and the last 512 bits are the information bits. In Log Domain Sum-Product LDPC decoding Algorithm, data retrieval is made with adaptation of an iterative approach. The binary data sequence c is converted into another data sequence x with its each sampled value $=+1(-1)$ when element of $c=0(1)$.

The received signal vector $r (=x+n)$ is contaminated with the independent white Gaussian noise vector n of variance, σ^2

Initially, four key parametric values are set as follows:

- (i) A parametric matrix $[LCi]$ of dimension 1024×1 is set as:

$$[LCi] = -4r / \sigma^2 \quad (2)$$

In row wise iterative decoding, it is assumed that B is a 512×1024 sized matrix with its each row containing all elements of matrix $[LCi]$, the element wise product of matrix B and modified parity-check matrix $[H_{new}]$ is given by:

$[LQIJ] = [H_{new}][B]$ with its element $l_{qij} (i=1,2,3,\dots,512; j=1,2,3,\dots,1024)$.

(ii) $\alpha_{ij} \triangleq \text{sign}(l_{qij})$; (iii) $\beta_{ij} \triangleq |l_{qij}|$ and

(iv) $\pi_{\beta_{ij}} = \log_e [(\exp(\beta_{ij}+1)) / (\exp(\beta_{ij}-1))]$

If $kk_i (i=1,2,3,\dots,512)$ is the number of non zero element in matrix $[H_{new}]$ at its different row i .

The $[SMIJ]$ is a 512×1 matrix containing its elements obtained from row wise summation of all non zero elements in matrix $[LQIJ]$. For each row wise non zero elements in matrix $[LQIJ]$, a new value is computed as:

$NWSM_{im} = SMIJ_i - LQIJ_{im}; i=1, 2, \dots, 512$, m is the identification number $(=1, 2, \dots, kk)$ viz, first, second, third, non zero element in each row of matrix $[LQIJ]$.

To avoid division by zero/very small value, its threshold value is set at 1×10^{-20} which implies that if the computed value of $NWSM_{im}$ is found to be below this level, it would be threshold value. From values of $NWSM_{im}$, another logarithm term is computed as:

$$LGSM_{im} = \log_e [(\exp(NWSM_{im}+1)) / (\exp(NWSM_{im}-1))] \quad (3)$$

If $ALIJ_{im}$ contains non zero elements in each row of matrix $[\alpha_{ij}]$, the previously considered matrix $[LRJI] = 0_{512 \times 1024}$ would be updated through replacing 0's at the desired locations with

$LRJI_{im} = ALIJ_{im} \times LGSM_{im}$ ($i=1,2,\dots,512$), m is the identification number ($=1,2,\dots,kk$).

For a matrix $[SUMJI]$ with dimension 1024×1 with its each element computed from summation of all non-zero elements column wise in matrix $[[LRJI]$, the updated matrix is

$$[LQi] = [Lci] + [SUMJI] \quad (4)$$

If element of matrix $[LQi] < 0$, it indicates 1 and if the element of matrix $[LQi] > 0$, it indicates 0, the decoded bit sequence b contains merely 1024 binary bits(0/1). Its first 512 bits are the parity and the rest 512 are the retrieved bits [6, 7].

2.2. Turbo Coding and Decoding

Turbo codes are formed by concatenating in parallel two recursive systematic convolutional (RSC) codes separated by an interleaver. The conventional convolutional code is constructed in a feed-forward fashion; that is, the encoder consists of no feedback. In contrast, its RSC equivalence involves feedback in the encoding process. Apparently, the turbo code is a systematic code. Its coding rate is $\frac{1}{3}$ that is, for every input bit, the Turbo encoder produces three code bits. In maximum a posteriori (MAP) turbo decoding, the transmitted message bits can be retrieved iteratively through computation of their log likelihood ratio (LLR).

Let $\bar{c} = c_0, c_1, c_2, c_3, \dots, c_{N-1}$ be a coded sequence produced by the rate 1/2 RSC encoder and $\bar{r} = r_0, r_1, r_2, r_3, \dots, r_{N-1}$ be the noisy received sequence where the code word is $c_k = (c_k^{(1)} \ c_k^{(2)})$ with the first bit being the message bit and the second bit being the parity bit. The corresponding received word is-

$$r_k = (r_k^{(1)} \ r_k^{(2)}) \quad (5)$$

The coded bit 0/1 is converted to a value +1/-1. The maximum a posteriori (MAP) decoding is carried out as:

$$c_k^{(1)} = \begin{cases} +1, & \text{if } P(c_k^{(1)} = +1 | \bar{r}) \geq P(c_k^{(1)} = -1 | \bar{r}) \\ -1, & \text{if } P(c_k^{(1)} = +1 | \bar{r}) < P(c_k^{(1)} = -1 | \bar{r}) \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

$(i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N-1)$

A posteriori log likelihood ratio (LLR) of $c_k^{(1)}$ is given by

$$L(c_k^{(1)}) \triangleq \ln \left[\frac{P(c_k^{(1)} = +1 | \bar{r})}{P(c_k^{(1)} = -1 | \bar{r})} \right] \quad (7)$$

The MAP decoding rule in Equation (6) can be presented alternatively as:

$$c_k^{(1)} = \text{sign} \left[L(c_k^{(1)} | \bar{r}) \right] \quad (8)$$

The magnitude of LLR, $|L(c_k^{(1)} | \bar{r})|$ measures the likelihood of $c_k^{(1)} = +1$ or $c_k^{(1)} = -1$. The LLR can be expressed as a function of the probability $P(c_k^{(1)} = +1 | \bar{r})$

$$L(c_k^{(1)}) = \ln \left[\frac{P(c_k^{(1)} = +1 | \bar{r})}{P(c_k^{(1)} = -1 | \bar{r})} \right] = \ln \left[\frac{P(c_k^{(1)} = +1 | \bar{r})}{1 - P(c_k^{(1)} = +1 | \bar{r})} \right] \quad (9)$$

2.3. Signal Detection Schemes

In Spatially multiplexed MIMO (SM-MIMO) wireless communication system, the transmitted signal X_s , Received signal Y , channel coefficient matrix H and additive white Gaussian noise term N can be written as the following signal model:

$$Y = HX_s + N \quad (10)$$

With implementation of Signal Detection/ channel equalization techniques, the transmitted signal is recovered/detected using the following relation:

$$\tilde{X}_{S_{detected}} = WY \quad (11)$$

Where, W is the assigned weight matrix for different channel equalization schemes.

In Minimum mean square error (MMSE) channel equalization scheme, the MMSE weight matrix in terms of equivalent channel matrix H and noise variance σ_n^2 is given by-

$$W_{MMSE} = (H^H H + \sigma_n^2 I)^{-1} H^H \quad (12)$$

In Zero-Forcing (ZF) scheme, the ZF weight matrix is given by [5]-

$$W_{ZF} = (H^H H)^{-1} H^H \quad (13)$$

3. System Model

A simulated single user 2 x 2 spatially multiplexed and FEC encoded Two-Layer Spreading aided COMP MIMO OFDM wireless communication system is depicted in Figure 2. This is merely a comprehensive block diagram where signal is transmitted from a single cell to a mobile user unit although the present study has taken into consideration of downlink simultaneous data transmission from seven cells. However, in such a communication system, a single user is receiving synthetically generated binary bit stream from the Base station. In transmitting section, we consider that a

binary data sequence D of length K are channel encoded using $1/3$ -rated Turbo coding / $1/2$ -rated LDPC. The channel encoded binary data D_{FEC} is interleaved and mapped into digitally modulated symbols with its size L depending upon the order of modulation considered and copied. The number of digitally modulated symbols is increased sixty four times in copying section (as the processing gain of the Walsh Hadamard codes is sixty four) and multiplied with Walsh Hadamard (W-H) spreading codes. The spreaded data symbol vector X are spatially demultiplexed/space time block encoded with implementation of Alamouti scheme to produce two complex data streams X_1 and X_2 . The data of each stream are rearranged into $M(=32*L/(N_c))$ number of blocks. In each block, N_c number of modulated source symbols, $S_{m,q}(n)$, $n=0,1,2,3,\dots,N_c-1$ are processed with serial to parallel converter (S/P). The time domain signal OFDM signal using inverse Fast Fourier Transform (IFFT) can be written as

$$x_{m,q}(t) = \frac{1}{N_c} \sum_{n=0}^{N_c-1} S_{m,q}(n) e^{j(2\pi f_n t)} \quad (14)$$

$$0 \leq t \leq T_s$$

where, m and q are the transmitting antenna and block identifiers ; $m=1,2$ and $q=1,2,3,\dots,M$, $T_s(=N_c T_d)$ is the OFDM symbol duration, T_d is the source symbol duration and N_c is the total number of sub-carriers($=1024$). In each of the two data stream, the complex data symbols are again multiplied with Walsh Hadamard (W-H) spreading codes after OFDM modulation. However, in each OFDM block, each sub-carrier is used for modulating each source symbol. The subcarrier spacing is assigned to a value of $1/T_s$ and N_c sub-carrier frequencies are located at

$$f_n = \frac{n}{T_s}, \quad n = 0,1,2,3,\dots,N_c - 1 \quad (15)$$

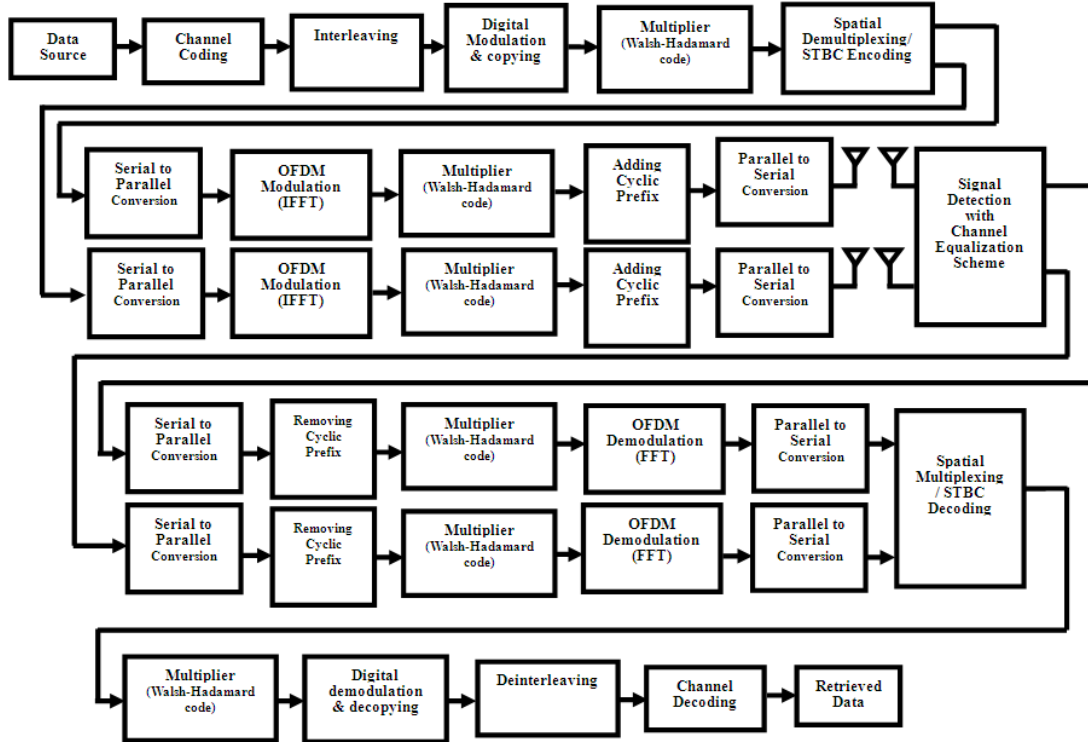


Figure 2. Block diagram of a Downlink Two-Layer Spreading Encoded COMP MIMO OFDM wireless communication system

The sampled sequence of the complex envelope $x_m(t)$ of an OFDM symbol presented in Equation (14) with rate $1/T_d$ can be written as

$$x_{m,q}(v) = \frac{1}{N_c} \sum_{n=0}^{N_c-1} S_{m,q}(n) e^{j2\pi n v / N_c}, \quad v = 0,1,2,3,\dots,N_c - 1 \quad (16)$$

We assume that the OFDM symbol duration T_s is large as compared to the duration of the impulse response of the channel τ_{max} and ISI is reduced significantly. In order to avoid completely the effects of ISI and to maintain the

orthogonality between the signals on the sub-carriers for avoiding ICI, a guard interval of duration $T_g \geq \tau_{max}$ is inserted between adjacent OFDM symbols. The guard interval is a cyclic extension of each OFDM symbol, which is obtained by extending the duration of an OFDM symbol to

$$T'_s = T_g + T_s \quad (17)$$

The discrete length of the guard interval is-

$$L_g \geq \left\lceil \frac{\tau_{\max} N_c}{T_s} \right\rceil \quad (18)$$

The sampled sequence with cyclic extended guard interval results in the following expression [9].

$$x_{m,q}(v) = \frac{1}{N_c} \sum_{n=0}^{N_c-1} S_{m,q}(n) e^{j2\pi n v / N_c} \quad (19)$$

$$v = -L_g \dots \dots \dots N_c - 1$$

Considering applicability of signal model presented in Equation (19) for all blocks of signals transmitted from all antennas, we can write the transmitted signal vector X_s in terms of its two signal vector components X_{s1} and X_{s2} as:

$$X_s = \begin{bmatrix} X_{s1} \\ X_{s2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_{1,1}(v) & x_{1,2}(v) & \dots & x_{1,M-1}(v) & x_{1,M}(v) \\ x_{2,1}(v) & x_{2,2}(v) & \dots & x_{2,M-1}(v) & x_{2,M}(v) \end{bmatrix} \quad (20)$$

If H_1, H_2, \dots, H_7 are considered to be the 2×2 channel matrices for the base stations to the user unit and n_1, n_2, \dots, n_7 are the corresponding zero mean circularly symmetric complex Gaussian noises, Equation (5) can be written under such special case as

$$Y = (H_1 + H_2 + H_3 + H_4 + H_5 + H_6 + H_7) X_s + (n_1 + n_2 + n_3 + n_4 + n_5 + n_6 + n_7) \quad (21)$$

Equation (21) can be written as in terms of equivalent channel matrix H and Equivalent noise N as signal model presented in Equation (10).

With implementation of channel equalization techniques, the transmitted signals are recovered/detected using signal models presented in Equation (11) through Equation (13)

The detected signals can be represented in matrix form as

$$\tilde{X}_{s_{detected}} = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{X}_{s1} \\ \tilde{X}_{s2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{x}_{1,1}(v) & \tilde{x}_{1,2}(v) & \dots & \tilde{x}_{1,M-1}(v) & \tilde{x}_{1,M}(v) \\ \tilde{x}_{2,1}(v) & \tilde{x}_{2,2}(v) & \dots & \tilde{x}_{2,M-1}(v) & \tilde{x}_{2,M}(v) \end{bmatrix} \quad (22)$$

In Equation (22), first L_g samples of each element of the two rows are induced with ISI and these L_g samples are removed from each cyclically extended OFDM block and Walsh Hadamard (W-H) spreading codes prior to multi-carrier demodulation with exploitation of Fast Fourier Transform (FFT). The FFT operated OFDM blocks are undergone parallel to serial conversion and fed into spatial multiplexer/STBC decoder. Its output is multiplied with Walsh-Hadamard codes. The de-spreaded complex symbols are decopied, demodulated, de-interleaved and turbo/LDPC decoded to recover the transmitted data [10,11]

4. Results and Discussion

In this section, we present a series of simulation results to illustrate the significant impact of system performance in

terms of BER in Coordinated Multiple Point transmission and reception. The simulation study has been made using MATLAB 2012a based on the parameters given in Table 1. It is assumed that the channel state information (CSI) is available at the receiver and the fading process is approximately constant during whole transmission time from each macro base station to user unit. The graphical illustrations presented in Figure 3 through Figure 6.

Table 1. Summary of the Simulated Model Parameters

No. of synthetically generated binary data used	8192 and 8188
Communication System Type	Cooperative based on Coordinated Multiple Point transmission and reception (CoMP)
No. of cells in a group	7
Channel Coding	1/3-rated Turbo and 1/2-rated LDPC
Digital modulation	16QAM and 16PSK
No. of subcarriers (FFT Size)	2048
CP length	205 symbols
Decision method adopted in LDPC decoding	Soft decision with log-likelihood ratios (LLR) computation
Method used in Turbo decoding	A-posteriori probability (APP)
No of iterations considered in LDPC and Turbo decoding	10
Antenna Configuration (User Equipment and Base station)	(2,2)
Signal Detection Scheme	Minimum Mean square error(MMSE) and Zero Forcing (ZF),
Channel	AWGN and Rayleigh fading
Signal to noise ratio (SNR)	-5 to 5 dB

In Figure 3, it is quite evident that the spatially multiplexed system is incapable of showing its performance acceptability under LDPC channel coding, 16PSK digital modulation and ZF channel equalization schemes. At a quite hostile environment (-3dB SNR) where noise power is greater than signal power by 3dB, the system shows a performance enhancement of 9.04 dB in case of MMSE receiver as compared to ZF receiver with both 16PSK digital modulation. In Figure 3, it is also observable that at a typically target 1% (10^{-2})BER, the MMSE linear equalizer and ZF linear equalizer with both 16QAM digital modulation require approximately 1.6 dB and 2.0 dB higher SNR respectively as compared to MMSE linear equalizer with 16PSK. In Figure 4, the BER results are shown for representing STBC encoded system performance. With MMSE linear equalizer receiver, it is noticeable that the noise enhancement is significant and the COMP scheme is incapable of providing satisfactory performance with LDPC and 16PSK schemes. With ZF linear equalizer

receiver, the system performance is well defined and quite satisfactory. At a typically assumed SNR value of -3dB, the estimated BER values are 0.1377 and 0.2802 in case of ZF and MMSE linear equalizer receiver with both 16PSK digital modulations which is indicative of performance improvement by 3.09 dB. In Figure 5, Turbo encoded system performances are well defined. At low SNR regime with 16QAM digital modulation, both MMSE and ZF linear equalizer receiver shows almost identical system performance. At SNR value of -3dB, the simulated system is found to have performance improvement of 7.51dB in case of MMSE linear equalizer receiver with 16QAM as compared to ZF linear equalizer receiver with 16PSK. In Figure 5, it is also observable that at a typically target 1%(10⁻²)BER, the MMSE and ZF linear equalizer with both 16PSK digital modulation require approximately 0.6 dB and 2.9 dB higher SNR respectively as compared to MMSE linear equalizer with 16QAM. On crucial examination of the simulation results presented in Figure 3 through Figure 6, it is observable that the COMP aided simulated system shows comparatively better performance in Turbo channel coding as compared to LDPC. In Figure 6, the turbo encoded simulated system shows robust performance with MMSE linear equalizer receiver and 16QAM and comparatively worst performance with ZF linear equalizer receiver and 16PSK. At -3 dB SNR value, the estimated BER values are 0.0250 and 0.1020 in case of MMSE with 16QAM and ZF with 16PSK which implies a system performance improvement of 6.11 dB. In Figure 6, it is also remarkable that at a typically target 1%BER, the ZF linear equalizer with 16QAM, MMSE linear equalizer with 16PSK and ZF linear equalizer with 16PSK digital modulation require approximately 0.5 dB, 1.1 dB and 1.4 dB higher SNR respectively as compared to MMSE linear equalizer with 16QAM.

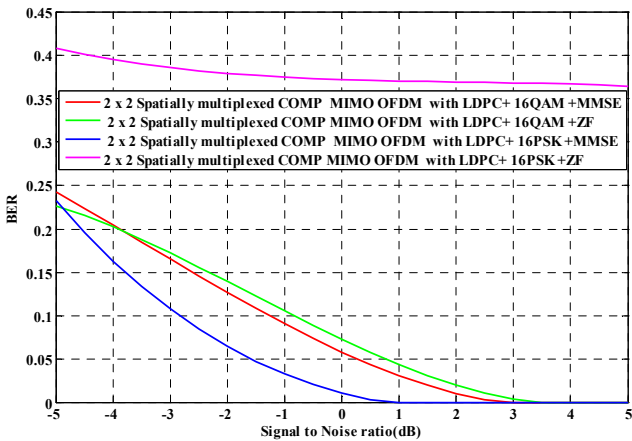


Figure 3. BER performance of the system under deployment of LDPC channel coding, Spatial multiplexing various channel equalization and digital modulation schemes.

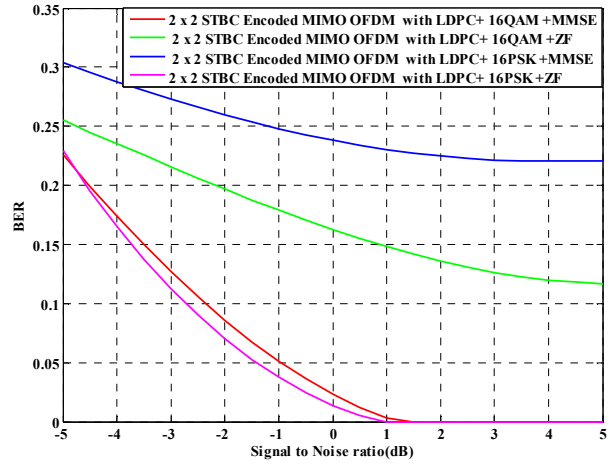


Figure 4. BER performance of the system under deployment of LDPC channel coding, Space-Time Block Coding, various channel equalization and digital modulation schemes

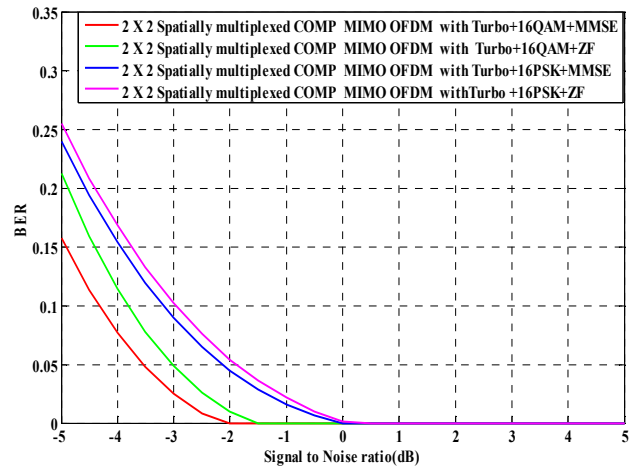


Figure 5. BER performance of the system under deployment of Turbo channel coding, Space-Time Block coding, various channel equalization and digital modulation schemes.

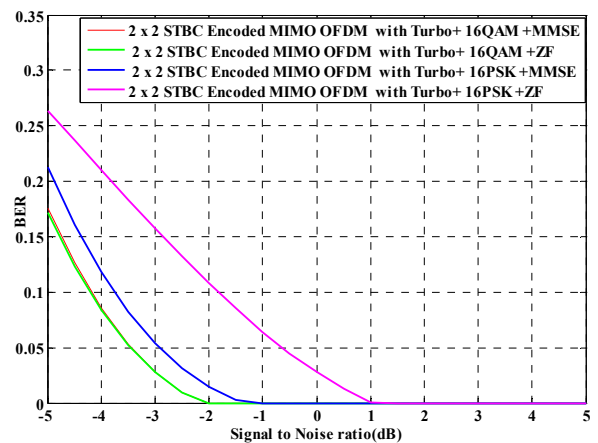


Figure 6. BER performance of the system under deployment of Turbo channel coding, Spatial multiplexing, various channel equalization and digital modulation schemes.

5. Conclusion

In this paper, we have presented simulation results concerning the adaptation of various signals detection and two-layer spreading schemes in a FEC encoded COMP MIMO OFDM wireless communication system. A range of system performance results under the regime of low SNR highlights the impact of Coordinated Multiple Point transmission and reception scheme on data transmission. In the context of system performance, it can be concluded that the spatially multiplexed and Turbo encoded COMP MIMO OFDM wireless communication system with Minimum Mean Square Error (MMSE) signal detection and 16QAM digital modulation schemes provides robust system performance.

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