

Wireless Networks

-Catching the mobile future-

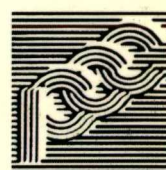
Edited by
Jos H. Weber
Jens C. Arnbak
Ramjee Prasad



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Communications PIMRC '94
September 18-22, 1994

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Jos H. Weber, Jens C. Arnbak, and Ramjee Prasad
Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands



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Table of Contents

Volume II

Session A4 & B4: COST 231 Propagation I

Organiser and Chair: Prof. J. Bach Andersen, AUC, Denmark

AB4.1	Ray tracing based path loss prediction in two microcellular environments Karim Rizk, Jean-Frederic Wagen, Fred Gardiol, Switzerland	384
AB4.2	A deterministic model for the planning of microcellular mobile radio communication systems M.G.J.J. Klaassen, A. Mawira, Netherlands	389
AB4.3	Investigation on the influence of large buildings on the propagation of radio waves W.A.T. Kotterman, A. Mawira, G.J.C. Verhoef, Netherlands	396
AB4.4	Propagation over buildings using the angular spectrum of plane waves Peter A. Matthews, U.K.	402
AB4.5	Ray optical wave propagation modeling in urban micro cells D.J. Cichon, W. Wiesbeck, Germany	407
AB4.6	Radio coverage of road tunnels at 900 and 1800 MHz by discrete antennas Thomas Klemenschits, Ernst Bonek, Austria	411

Session C4: Interference cancellation II

Organiser: Prof. Y. Bar-Ness, NJIT, U.S.A.; Chair: Prof. M. Nakagawa, Keio Univ. Japan

C4.1	Adaptive multiuser CDMA detector for asynchronous AWGN channels Zoran Siveski, Lizhi Zhong, Yeheskel Bar-Ness, U.S.A.	416
C4.2	On the multiuser detection using a Hopfield network in M-ary/SSMA communications T. Nagaosa, Teruyuki Miyajima, Takaaki Hasegawa, Japan	420
C4.3	A modified multi-stage co-channel interference cancellation in asynchronous CDMA systems Essam Sourour, Masao Nakagawa, Japan	425
C4.4	Blind adaptive deconvolution using higher order statistics over the spread spectrum multipath channel Massimiliano Martone, Italy	430
C4.5	Performance of DS signal data detection based on the matched filter and the median filter in the AWGN channel and with continuous tone jamming Jari Iinatti, Pentti Leppanen, Finland	431
C4.6	Interference cancellation for DS-CDMA systems over flat fading channels through pre-decorrelating Zhenyu Tang, Shixin Cheng, China	435

Session D4: Timing and Synchronization

Organiser: TPC; Chair: Prof. D. van Willigen, TU Delft, Netherlands

D4.1	Timing aspects of synchronous CDMA Richard D.J. van Nee, Netherlands	439
------	---	-----

D4.2	An improved acquisition algorithm for the synchronization of CDMA personal wireless systems W.A. Krzymien, A. Jalali, P. Mermelstein, Canada	444
D4.3	Simulations of the acquisition module for DS-CDMA systems A.Gonzales-Ahijado, Belen Ruiz-Mezcua, Spain	449
D4.4	Time-window control loop (TWCL) for post-detection RAKE receiver in DS/CDMA radios Yasuo Suzuki, Eisuke Kudoh, Japan	454
D4.5	Modified coherent PN-code tracking delay-locked loop A. Wilde, Germany	458
D4.6	Effects of imperfect synchronisation on a direct sequence spread spectrum communication system M.J. Stehouwer, Netherlands	462

Session E4: VLSI II

Organiser: Dr. S. Kato, NTT Res. Labs. Japan; Chair: Prof. E. Bonek, TU Wien, Austria

E4.1	A low power 13-bit linear feature codec with programmable frontend K. Riedmuller, T. Karema, Drago Strle, Anton Pletersek, Austria	467
E4.2	$\pi/4$-shift QPSK digital modulator LSIC for personal communication terminals Tetsu Sakata, Kazuhiko Seki, Shuji Kubota, Shuzo Kato, Japan	472
E4.3	A low power demodulator LSIC for personal communications - high performance coherent detection demodulator Yoichi Matsumoto, Shuji Kubota, Shuzo Kato, Japan	476
E4.4	A very low power consumption ADPCM voice codec LSIC for personal communication systems Kiyoshi Enomoto, Akira Dobashi, Masanobu Suzuki, Takeo Hasumi, Kazuhiko Seki, Shuji Kubota, Shuzo Kato, Japan	481

Session A5 & B5: COST 231 Propagation II

Organiser: Prof. J. Bach Andersen, AUC, Denmark; Chair: E. Damosso, CSELT, Italy

AB5.1	Ray tracing models for indoor environments and their computational complexity Thomas Huschka, Germany	486
AB5.4	Wide-band simulations and measurements of mill-wave indoor radio channels Peter F.M. Smulders, Jose J.G. Fernandes, Portugal	
AB5.5	Reflection and transmission behaviour of building materials at 60 GHz B. Langen, G. Lober, W. Herzig, Germany	
AB5.6	Estimation of materials characteristics from power measurements at 60 GHz Luis M. Correia, Paulo O. Frances, Portugal	

Session C5: Interference Cancellation III

Organiser: Prof. Y. Bar-Ness, NJIT, U.S.A.; Chair: Prof. L.B. Milstein, UC San Diego, U.S.A.

C5.1	Design and experimental results for a spread-spectrum near-far interference-suppression device	
	W. Pietsch, Michael Schubert, Germany	514
C5.2	An efficient technique for deriving receiver filters in multiuser asynchronous DS/SSMA	
	P.D.Alexander, Lars K. Rasmussen, Australia	519
C5.3	New results on the application of antenna diversity and turbo-codes in a JD-CDMA mobile radio system	
	Markus Nasshan, Peter Jung, Germany	524
C5.4	On the influence of the channel impulsional response estimation on the performance of a linear interference canceller for a DS/CDMA system	
	P. Diaz, R. Agustí, Spain	529
C5.5	Adaptive multiuser bootstrapped decorrelating CDMA detector in asynchronous unknown channels	
	Yeheskel Bar-Ness, David W. Chen, Zoran Siveski, Netherlands	533
C5.6	Slow FH/16-QAM mobile communication system with an interference immunity decoding method	
	Kiyoshi Hamaguchi, Hideichi Sasaoka, Japan	538

Session D5: Advanced coding and modulation

Organiser: Prof. A. Svensson, Chalmers UT, Sweden;

Chair: Prof. A. Svensson/Prof. T. Maseng, Univ. of Lund, Sweden

D5.1	A generalized concatenated coding scheme for CDMA digital radio communication systems	
	P. Kempf, Jamshid Khunjush, Germany	543
D5.2	Block QPSK modulation codes with two levels of error protection	
	R.H. Morelos-Zaragoza, S. Lin, Japan	548
D5.3	Trellis coded hybrid frequency and phase modulation with expurgated phase code and asymmetric signal constellation	
	Gunawan Wibisono, Iwao Sasase, Japan	553
D5.4	Trellis coded modulation using partially overlapped signal sets of non-equiprobable signaling	
	Masayuki Ariyoshi, Iwao Sasase, Japan	558
D5.5	M-ary phase coding for correlated Rayleigh fading channels	
	Raymond Knopp, Harry Leib, France	563
D5.6	Combined multi-amplitude and multi-dimensional digital communication systems	
	Spase L. Drakul, Italy	568

Session C6: Satellite Systems

Organiser and Chair: Prof. S.G. Glisic, Univ. Oulu, Finland

C6.1	Broadband CDMA satellite paging service	
	Donald L. Schilling, F.J. Bruno, U.S.A. (invited paper)	573
C6.2	Outage probability for the uplink of a DS-CDMA system operating over a LEO mobile satellite channel	
	B.R. Vojcic, L.B. Milstein, R.L. Pickholz, U.S.A.	574

C6.3	Performance analysis of hybrid forward error correction schemes in a fast and slow Rician fading wideband land-mobile satellite channel with BPSK and path diversity Mqhele E. Dlodlo, Rogier N. Van Wolfswinkel, Richard D.J. van Nee, Netherlands ...	579
C6.4	Dynamic CDMA code allocation for voice and data traffic in networks of LEO satellites E. Geraniotis, Y.-W. Chang, U.S.A.	584
C6.5	Frequency acquisition performance of discrete wavelet transform AFC Attapol Wannasarnmaytha, Shinsuke Hara, Norihiko Morinaga, Japan	590
C6.6	Intermodulation in CDMA T.S. Chu, U.S.A.	595

Session D6: Signal detection

Organiser: TPC; Chair: Prof. T.J. Tjhung, Nat. Univ. Singapore

D6.1	BER and outage performance of a dual-signal receiver for narrowband BPSK modulated co-channel signals in a Rician fading channel G.J.M. Janssen, Netherlands	601
D6.2	Error probability for diversity detection of binary signals over Nakagami fading channels Gennaro Fedele, Italy	607
D6.3	Bounds for the error probability of TCM-PSK over the correlated Rayleigh channel with diversity J. Ventura-Traveset, E. Biglieri, Netherlands	612
D6.4	Performance of a MTCM coded SSMA system T.P. Choo, K.H. Li, V.K. Dubey, Singapore	619
D6.5	Improved Eb/No estimation with soft quantized detection Dieter Kreuer, Enno Bierbaum, Germany	620

Session B6: Handover

Organiser: TPC; Chair: Dr. P.R. Chevillet, IBM Res. Switzerland

B6.1	Implications of cell planning on handoff performance in Manhattan environments Per-Erik Ostling, Sweden	625
B6.2	Continuous location of moving GSM mobile stations by pattern recognition techniques Olrik Kennemann, Germany	630
B6.3	Handling of user mobility in a CDMA cellular network Francesco Delli Priscoli, Fabrizio Sestini, Italy	635
B6.4	A new architecture for mobile radio with macroscopic diversity and overlapping cells Stefan Zurbes, Wolfgang Papen, Werner Schmidt, Germany	640

Session D7: Equalisation

Organiser: TPC; Chair: Dr. Kohno, Yokohama Univ., Japan

D7.1	An adaptive truncated MLSE receiver for Japan digital cellular K.A. Hamied, G.L. Stuber, U.S.A.	645
D7.2	Performance evaluation of decision feedback equalisation using measured indoor radio channels M.J. Krapels, R. Prasad, J. Wu, A.H. Aghvami, Netherlands	650
D7.3	Adaptive equalization scheme in dual diversity reception for digital mobile communication systems Kohi Ueda, Keishi Murakami, Tadashi Fujino, Japan	655

D7.4	Adaptive channel precoding for slowly fading channels W. Zhuang, W.A. Krzymien, P.A. Goud, Canada	660
------	---	-----

Session E5: Air interfaces

Organisers and Chair: Prof. Y. Kinoshita, Shinshu Univ., Japan and Dr. D. McFarlane, BT Res. Labs, U.K.

E5.1	A common air interface for a cellular auxiliary personal communications service John Avery, Jun Yamada, U.S.A.	665
E5.2	Radio access layer service guarantees Erik Anderlind, Sweden	670
E5.3	An advanced air interface-another point of view James M. Durante, Kenneth A. Felix, U.S.A.	675
E5.4	DCP systems specifications: a low-cost flexible CDMA architecture for cordless and PCS applications Christopher Flores, Saman Behtash, U.S.A.	680
E5.5	An advanced TDMA mobile access system for UMTS Alistair Urie, Malcolm Streeton, Christophe Mourot, France	685
E5.6	ATDMA test objectives K. David, T. Kassing, D. Florack, Germany	691

Session C8: RAKE receivers

Organiser: TPC; Chair: Prof. G.L. Stüber, Georgia Inst. of Tech., U.S.A.

C8.1	RAKE receiver CDMA performance Patrik Nilsson, Torleiv Maseng, Sweden	696
C8.2	Broad-band propagation channel analysis for DS and hybrid CDMA system design B.B. Mohebbi, A.H. Aghvami, W.G. Chambers, U.K.	700
C8.3	Improved channel modelling for performance analysis of a DS-CDMA link Michael A. Couture, Jean-Paul M.G. Linnartz, U.S.A.	705
C8.4	A study on multipath propagation characteristics for RAKE receiving technique Tetsu Tanaka, Japan	711
C8.5	Channel modelling for a predictive RAKE receiver system D.I. Laurenson, G.J.R. Povey, U.K.	715
C8.6	CDMA RAKE receiver for cellular mobile radio in Nakagami fading frequency selective channels Iman M. Salama, Emand K. Al-Hussaini, Egypt	720

Session D8: Antenna architectures

Organiser and Chair: Prof. E.S. Sousa, Univ. Toronto, Canada

D8.1	Mobile radio environments and adaptive arrays Ole Norklit, Jorgen Bach Andersen, Denmark	725
D8.2	A novel algorithm for flexible beam forming for adaptive space division multiple access systems B.X. Weis, Germany	729
D8.3	Performance enhancement for microwave and millimetre wave indoor communication systems by quasi-coherent combining of multiple antenna signals G.J.M. Janssen, W.R. Bredero, R. Prasad, Netherlands	730
D8.4	Application of space division multiple access to mobile radio C. Farsakh, J.A. Nossek, Germany	736

D8.5	Comparison of several space diversity techniques for MLSE receivers in mobile communications Rafal Krenz, Krzysztof Wesolowski, Poland	740
D8.6	Influence of the user mobility on the spatial multiplex gain of an adaptive SDMA system M. Tangemann, Germany	745

Session C9: CDMA techniques

Organiser: TPC; Chair: Prof. D.L. Schilling, City Coll. N.Y., U.S.A.

C9.1	A constructive method to find the cycles of an arbitrary cyclic (n,k)-code over F_q relevant to weight distribution and cross-correlation C. Herrmann, Germany	750
C9.2	Linear equivalence of binary Golay complementary sequences Kari H.A. Karkkainen, Pentti A. Leppanen, Finland	755
C9.3	Multichannel identification in multiuser spread spectrum communications affected by multipath using third order cumulants Massimiliano Martone, Italy	760
C9.4	Pe performance of a half chip offset QPSK modulation CDMA scheme for wireless LAN systems Takotoshi Sugiyama, Masato Mizoguchi, Shuji Kubota, Shuzo Kato, Japan	761
C9.5	DS-CDMA performance evaluation over measured indoor radio propagation channels Homayoun Nikookar, Ramjee Prasad, Netherlands	766

Author Index

Influence of the User Mobility on the Spatial Multiplex Gain of an Adaptive SDMA System

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Abstract: Adaptive SDMA (Space Division Multiple Access) is a new technology for mobile communication systems with which the capacity can be increased and cochannel interference can be reduced. It is based on the application of an adaptive array antenna at the base station site which is used to form multiple independent beams per traffic channel. Each of these beams is used to support a connection with a mobile station, i.e., multiple mobile users can be served in the same traffic channel, and the capacity of the base station is increased.

To evaluate the benefits of A-SDMA in terms of capacity increase, an analysis is presented which permits to analyse the spatial multiplex gain of an A-SDMA system taking into account the user mobility. Additionally, various other performance parameters of particular interest for the design of a cellular system with A-SDMA technology are derived. Furthermore, an example is given, where from a cellular scenario a user density distribution is derived which is then used as an input for the analysis derived in the first part of this paper.

1. Introduction

The ever increasing capacity demands in current cellular mobile communication systems will lead to a situation where the infrastructure installed is saturated during busy hours, leading to undesirably low quality of service. Two effects limit the capacity of these systems: The equipment limit is reached, if e.g. the number of carriers or call-handling devices installed is not sufficient to handle a given amount of offered traffic. On the other hand, even if there are resources available, the interference level caused by activating another carrier in a given cell might be too large, i.e. the system is interference-limited.

Both limits can be tackled using a new technique called A-SDMA [5,6]. It is based on the exploitation of the spatial dimension which has so far not been used for

parallelism. Using adaptive array antennas [1] at the base station sites, multiple independent beams can be formed with which several mobile users can be served simultaneously in one traffic channel. This approach is an extension of the system in [4], where adaptive arrays are used for interference reduction, without exploiting the potential of spatial parallelism. An example of a typical A-SDMA scenario is depicted in Fig. 1, where seven mobile stations are served on only two carrier frequencies marked by bright and dark beams, respectively.

The purpose of this paper is to analyse the grade of spatial parallelism that can be achieved with A-SDMA by taking into account a given angular user density distribution which could be obtained from measurements or from scenarios describing the user mobility. The analysis is presented in Sec. 2. An example for the application of the analysis is given in Sec. 3, where a motorway scenario is assumed as a basis for the user mobility model and the call blocking probabilities as well as the achievable spatial multiplex gain are analysed. An extended version of this paper is available in [7].

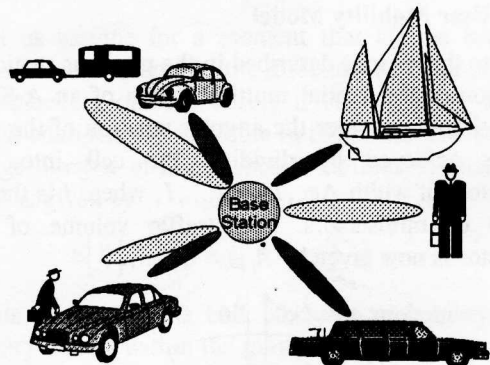


Fig. 1: Typical scenario for A-SDMA application

2. Analysis of the Spatial Multiplex Gain

2.1. Characterisation of the Problem

As A-SDMA aims at exploiting the spatial dimension of the radio resource, the spatial distribution of the users

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is critical to the effectiveness of A-SDMA and the benefits finally achieved. Even though a certain number of parallel beams per channel may be provided by the base station of a cell, they can be used for communication links only if the users to be served by these beams are located in different angular positions, far enough apart to be separated by different beams such that the C/I requirements are not violated.

An extreme case would evolve if all the users within a cell are grouped together in one place, e.g., a market place or a stadium. As seen from the base station, all these users have the same angular position, and they cannot be separated by different beams. In this case the application of an adaptive array antenna at the base station site would still help to reduce the interference in cochannel cells, but spatial multiplexing would be impossible.

On the other hand, a uniform user distribution is optimal for the application of A-SDMA since the spatial multiplex gain is only limited by the angular resolution of the direction finding and beam forming algorithms. Assuming a beamwidth of $2\pi/M$ with an M -element array, the theoretical maximum number of parallel beams is M . However, many direction finding algorithms limit the number of directions that can be detected to $M-1$. Taking into account several further limiting effects such as propagation effects and hardware restrictions, we frequently use $M/2$ as an estimate for the number of parallel beams N , which has been found to be a good compromise in a variety of situations. However, these considerations do not take into account the distribution of the mobile users in the cell which may further decrease the spatial multiplex gain in extreme situations.

2.2. A User Mobility Model

Due to the reasons described in the previous section, an evaluation of the spatial multiplex gain of an A-SDMA system should consider the angular position of the users. This is achieved by dividing the cell into small minisectors of width $\Delta\phi_i$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, I$, where I is the total number of minisectors. The traffic volume of each minisector is now given by λ_i , $i = 1, 2, \dots, I$.

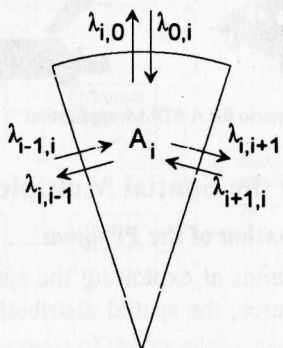


Fig. 2: Flow model for a minisector

A model of the flow of mobile stations into and out of the minisector is given in Fig. 2. The external arrival rate $\lambda_{0,i}$ includes active mobile stations entering the cell via handover as well as mobile stations inside the minisector becoming active by generating a call. Accordingly, the departure rate $\lambda_{i,0}$ includes active mobile stations leaving the cell via handover and active mobile station terminating their calls. In addition to that, transitions of mobiles into neighbouring minisectors are possible. They are characterised by the transition rates λ_{ij} , $|i - j| = 1$.

2.3. Queueing Model for the Active Mobiles in a Cell

The queueing model of a cell for the purpose of description of the spatial distribution of the customers is based on a division of the cell into minisectors as described in the preceding section. Each minisector is modelled as a single queue with a service unit consisting of multiple servers (cf. Fig. 3). The service unit serves the mobiles before they are routed to another minisector or leave the cell.

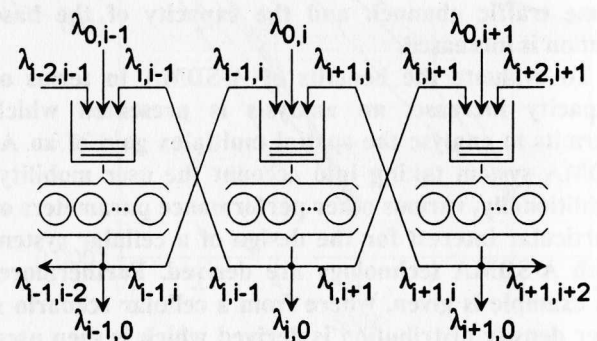


Fig. 3: Queueing model of a cell.

For the queueing model analysed here, the following assumptions are made:

1. External arrivals into the minisectors follow a Poisson process, i.e., the interarrival times are exponentially distributed. The arrival rate is

$$\lambda_i = \lambda_{0,i} + \lambda_{i-1,i} + \lambda_{i+1,i} \quad (1)$$

2. The sojourn time of an active mobile in a minisector is exponentially distributed with a mean of $1/\epsilon_i$.

3. The service unit of the queue consists of an infinite number of servers, i.e., each customer is served immediately after arrival, and no waiting phase in the queue is included. This assumption means that a) the physical space inside the minisector is enough for any number of customers which can be assumed to be true in practical scenarios, and that b) the number of traffic channels available inside a minisector is unlimited (Of course this latter assumption is not valid, and it will be removed in a later stage of the analysis using the results derived here as an approximation which is valid for small call blocking probabilities. For the moment, we concentrate only on the number of mobile stations that are

willing to communicate without taking into account the number of channels available).

4. The branching probabilities for the departure process are independent of previous routing decisions, i.e., the branching process is memoryless.

From Burke's theorem [2] it can be concluded that as a consequence of the second assumption, the departure process from a service stage again is Poisson process given that the input process is a Poisson process. However, since memoryless branching and combining of Poisson streams again yields Poisson streams [3] the input process into each queue is Poisson, and finally an open queueing network consisting of $M/M/\infty$ queues is obtained. For this type of queueing network, the product form solution holds [2], i.e., the I -dimensional distribution of the cell state $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_I)$ is given by

$$P\{(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_I) = (k_1, k_2, \dots, k_I)\} = \prod_{i=1}^I P\{X_i = k_i\} \quad (2)$$

This means that the distributions of the X_i are independent of each other. Therefore, it is sufficient to consider the minisectors in separation. Since the traffic load in a minisector i is

$$A_i = \frac{\lambda_i}{\epsilon_i} \quad (3)$$

the stationary state distribution in an $M/M/\infty$ queue is given by

$$p_{i,k_i} = P\{X_i = k_i\} = \frac{A_i^{k_i}}{k_i!} \cdot e^{-A_i}, \quad (4)$$

which is a Poisson distribution [2]. With eq. (2) now the distribution of the cell state is obtained as

$$P\{(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_I) = (k_1, k_2, \dots, k_I)\} = e^{-A} \cdot \prod_{i=1}^I \frac{A_i^{k_i}}{k_i!}, \quad (5)$$

where

$$A = \sum_{i=1}^I A_i \quad (6)$$

is the total offered traffic of the cell.

An interesting characteristic of this solution is its additivity property. If, e.g., two adjacent minisectors are joined to form one, the number of active customers in the new minisector is

$$\tilde{X}_i = X_i + X_{i+1}, \quad (7)$$

for which the state distribution

$$\tilde{p}_{i,k_i} = P\{\tilde{X}_i = k_i\} = \frac{\tilde{A}_i^{k_i}}{k_i!} \cdot e^{-\tilde{A}_i} \quad (8)$$

is obtained, which is again a Poisson distribution with a mean value of

$$\tilde{A}_i = E[\tilde{X}_i] = A_i + A_{i+1}. \quad (9)$$

Consequently, with the above assumptions the stochastic behaviour of the traffic in a minisector is simply given by the average load A_i in the minisector.

This property is independent of the manner in which the cell is divided into minisectors. For the special case $I = 1$ the cell itself is covered by one minisector, and a Poisson distribution with a mean value of A according to eq. (6) is obtained.

On the whole, an I -dimensional compound Poisson distribution is obtained for the state distribution of the cell. Therefore, it is sufficient to characterise the cell by its traffic profile $A_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, I$, independently of the underlying traffic flow rates and service processes.

2.4. Traffic and Blocking within an A-SDMA Beam

To serve a customer which is located in minisector i a beam is formed in the direction φ_i of this minisector. Due to the fact that the minisector width is much smaller than the beamwidth β , the same channel cannot be reused in adjacent minisectors less than $\beta/2$ apart from minisector i . Vice versa, channels used in minisectors less than $\beta/2$ apart from minisector i cannot be reused in minisector i .

Therefore, within the range $(\varphi_i - \beta/2, \varphi_i + \beta/2)$ which corresponds to a beam directed to minisector i each of the C channels of the system can be used only once. To derive the blocking probability experienced by the users due to this limit, the distribution of the number of active mobiles in the beam is required. Due to the property of additivity of the state distribution, it is given by

$$\hat{p}_{i,k_i} = P\{\hat{X}_i = k_i\} = \frac{\hat{A}_i^{k_i}}{k_i!} \cdot e^{-\hat{A}_i}, \quad (10)$$

with a mean value of

$$\hat{A}_i = E[\hat{X}_i] = \int_{\varphi_i - \beta/2}^{\varphi_i + \beta/2} a(\varphi) d\varphi. \quad (11)$$

Let us assume for a moment that all the beams for these users are steered in the direction φ_i of minisector i . Then blocking of calls occurs if $\hat{X}_i > C$ since then not enough channels are available in the beam. Therefore, the average number of active mobile stations $\hat{Y}_i$ that can be served is given by

$$E[\hat{Y}_i] = \sum_{i=0}^C i \cdot \hat{p}_{i,k_i} + C \cdot \sum_{i=C+1}^{\infty} \hat{p}_{i,k_i}. \quad (12)$$

This yields for the call blocking probability for an arbitrary mobile within the range of the beam

$$\hat{p}_{B,i} = \frac{E[\hat{X}_i] - E[\hat{Y}_i]}{E[\hat{X}_i]}. \quad (13)$$

However, since only the beams for the mobile stations in minisector i are pointing in the direction of φ_i , this blocking probability is only valid for minisector i , and

$$p_{B,i} = \hat{p}_{B,i} \quad (14)$$

is obtained. For the other minisectors, the results may be changed due to user density fluctuations when the beam position is corrected.

2.5. Performance of the Base Station

With eq. (14) the blocking probability in a minisector has already been derived. It permits to calculate the mean number of active mobiles that can be served as

$$E[Y_i] = A_i \cdot (1 - p_{B,i}) \quad (15)$$

By adding these values of all minisectors, the load actually served within the cell is obtained as

$$E[Y] = \sum_{i=1}^I E[Y_i] \quad (16)$$

and with the average total offered traffic of

$$E[X] = \sum_{i=1}^I E[X_i] = \sum_{i=1}^I A_i = A \quad (17)$$

finally

$$p_B = \frac{E[X] - E[Y]}{E[X]} \quad (18)$$

is obtained for the blocking probability of an arbitrary active mobile station within the cell.

3. Examples

3.1. A Scenario for User Mobility

A simplified scenario with which the results of the analysis of Sec. 3 can be demonstrated is depicted in Fig. 4. In this scenario a cell with an idealised circular coverage area serves a linear section of a motorway. The mobile stations are assumed to be equally distributed along the motorway section, and there are no mobiles elsewhere in the cell.

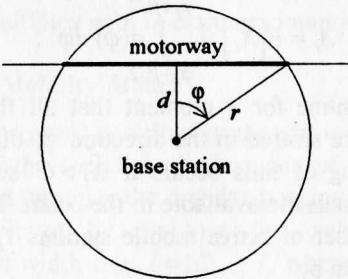


Fig. 4: Example of a scenario for the user mobility.

The cell radius is r , and the distance d of the base station from the motorway is varied. With traditional base station concepts with omnidirectional or fixed directional antennas it would be a rather natural choice to place the base station near the motorway, i.e., $d = 0$. For A-SDMA, however, this choice is not optimal. In the analysis in this section, the ratio d/r will be varied from 0 to 1, and an optimal value will be obtained for which the spatial multiplex gain of A-SDMA is maximised.

This yields the traffic profiles in Fig. 5, where the cell has been divided into $I = 100$ minisectors of 3.6° and the normalised values A_i/A have been depicted for different d/r ratios (the minisector numbering starts at $\varphi = -\pi$).

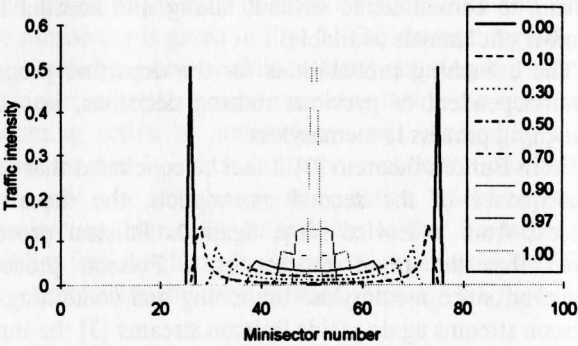


Fig. 5: Normalised traffic profiles for different d/r values

For $d/r = 0$, the base station antenna is located above the motorway, and mobile stations are seen only in two directions $\varphi = \pm \pi/2$ (minisectors 25 and 75). If, on the other hand, $d/r \rightarrow 1$, only a small piece of the motorway at $\varphi = 0$ (minisector 50) is covered. For values of d/r between these extremes, the angular traffic distribution has two maxima, and a minimum at $\varphi = 0$. This phenomenon is due to the fact that for larger values of $|\varphi|$ larger segments of the motorway are seen under the same angle.

3.2. Call Blocking Performance

The above traffic profiles have been used as input data for the analysis of Sec. 3. The base station is assumed to have $C = 8$ traffic channels and an antenna with a beamwidth of 45° . The blocking probability p_B according to eq. (18) finally obtained are depicted in Fig. 6 as a function of the total offered traffic A . It can be seen clearly that the d/r parameter has a significant influence on the performance of the base station. If the maximum load that can be carried is defined by an upper limit of the blocking probability, e.g., $p_{B,max} = 0.01$, $d/r = 1.0$ permits a maximum of $A_{max} \approx 4$ Erlangs, whereas with $d/r = 0.4$ an optimum value of $A_{max} \approx 12$ Erlangs is obtained.

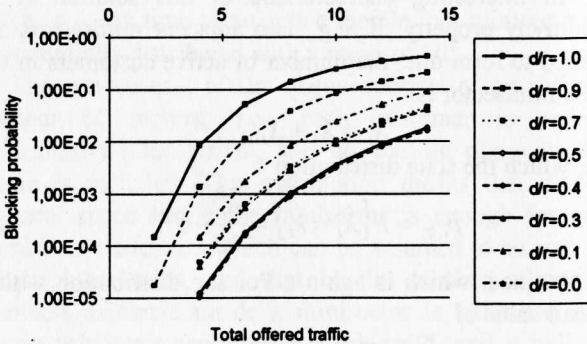


Fig. 6: Call blocking probability for different d/r values

Since in the case $d/r = 1.0$ no spatial multiplex gain can be achieved (all the beams are steered in the same

direction $\varphi=0$), this case yields the same results as a conventional system with an omnidirectional antenna. By comparison of the results to the case $d/r=1.0$, the benefits of A-SDMA application can be evaluated.

3.3. Spatial Multiplex Gain

The most important performance figure to express the performance benefits of A-SDMA is the spatial multiplex gain. It is defined as the average number of parallel beams that can be achieved and is a direct measure for the capacity increase obtained by A-SDMA.

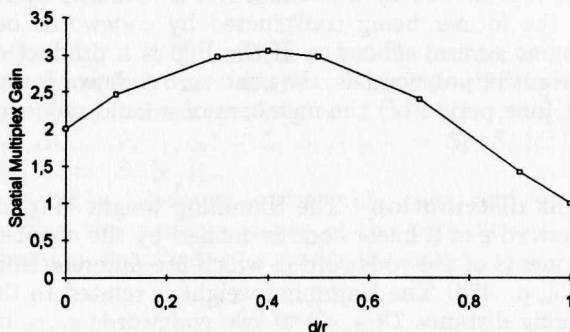


Fig. 7: Spatial multiplex gain vs. d/r ratio

To obtain the spatial multiplex gain for the scenario treated here, the ratio of the maximum offered traffic values under the constraint of $p_{B,max}=0.01$ between a system with A-SDMA and a traditional system is evaluated. Hence,

$$N = \frac{A_{max,SDMA}}{A_{max,trad.}} \quad (19)$$

denotes the spatial multiplex gain or the average number of parallel beams. In Fig. 7, the results for N are presented. As mentioned before, with $d/r=1.0$ no multiplex gain can be achieved, i.e. $N=1$. For $d/r=0$, exactly two parallel beams at $\varphi=\pm\pi/2$ can be used to serve the mobiles. Hence, $N=2$ is obtained. Between these extremes, a maximum exists, which is $N\approx 3$ for $d/r=0.4$. Consequently, it is possible to achieve a threefold capacity increase if the optimum d/r ratio is chosen.

To illustrate that this is even a rather pessimistic view of the benefits of A-SDMA, we would like to point out here that with the scenario according to Fig. 4 less than half the angular space of the cell is covered by the users. Assuming that additional users are located in the area $\pi/2 \leq \varphi \leq 3\pi/2$, i.e. in the lower half of the cell in Fig. 4, larger values of N can be obtained.

4. Conclusion

In this paper, an analysis of a new multiplex technique called A-SDMA (Adaptive Space Division Multiple

Access) has been presented. A-SDMA has been designed to be implemented in current as well as future mobile communication systems to improve the spectrum efficiency by reducing the interference in cochannel cells and increasing the capacity. This increase of capacity is achieved with an adaptive array antenna at the base station site, with which multiple independent beams per traffic channel are created and hence more mobile users can be served.

The analysis in this paper is based on a queueing network approach and takes into account the angular user density distribution which is of critical importance for the performance of an A-SDMA system. The spatial multiplex gain of A-SDMA, i.e., the average number of parallel beams that can be supported as well as various other performance parameters such as blocking probabilities and carried load profiles have been derived.

An example has shown that the analysis is easily applicable to a large variety of scenarios. It therefore represents an ideal basis for new cell planning methods for cellular systems with A-SDMA. Cell planning with A-SDMA should consider the expected user density distribution. An appropriate selection of the base station sites will permit to increase the capacity of a single base station and hence the overall spectrum efficiency of the system.

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