# MIMO physical layer security using multiple Reconfigurable Intelligent Surfaces

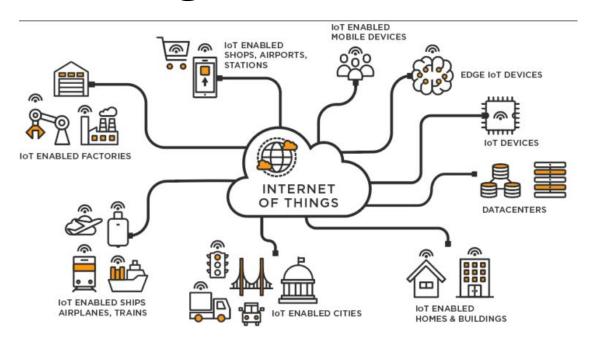
**Marrocco Simone** 

Advisors: Segata Michele, Paolo Casari

20/03/2025



#### **Background and motivation**



https://businesstech.bus.umich.edu/uncategorized/tech-101-internet-of-things/



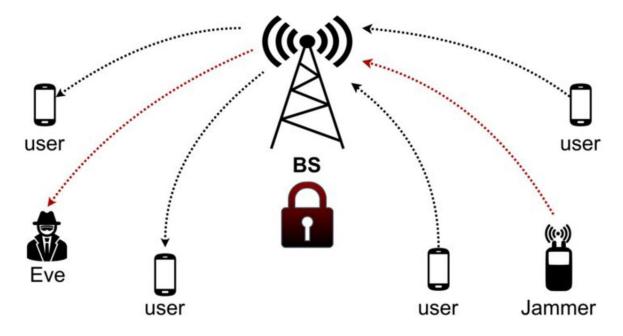
https://www.itf-oecd.org/co-operative-mobility-systems-automated-driving-roundtable

- Our lives depend more and more on various devices
- They need to communicate fast, reliably and securely with each other
- These requirements cannot be mutually exclusive anymore





#### **Physical Layer Security**







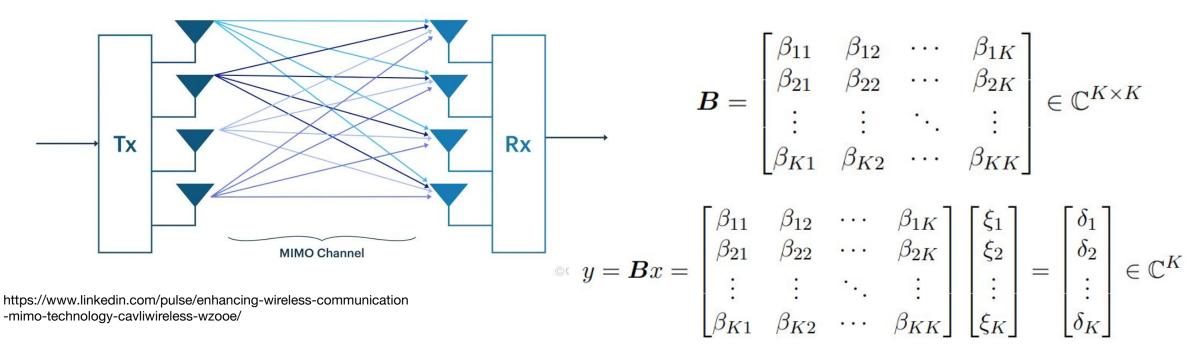
https://quantumai.google/discover/whatisqc

- With our lives depending more and more on technology, we need to be protected from malicious actors that may hear or disrupt our communications
- Quantum computing could break encryption
- We need new, low latency security schemes





## Multiple Input Multiple Output (MIMO)

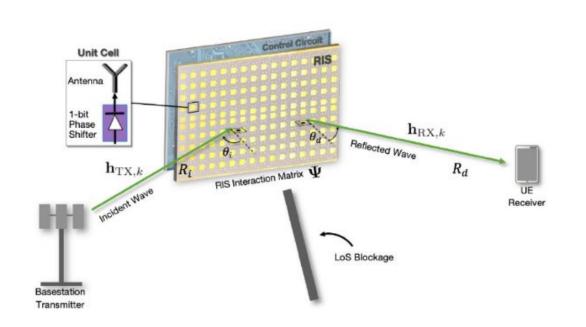


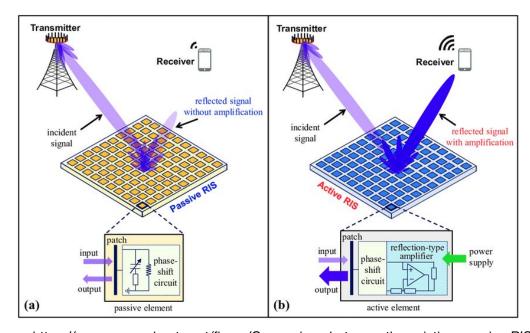
- We can use multiple antennas to communicate
- The signals from each transmitter antenna to each receiver antenna form a matrix of complex numbers, the channel gain matrix
- The received total signal at the receiver is the transmitter signal multiplied by the transmitted signal





## Reconfigurable Intelligent Surfaces (RISs)





 $https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Comparison-between-the-existing-passive-RIS-a-and-the-proposed-active-RIS-b\_fig1\_350484632$ 

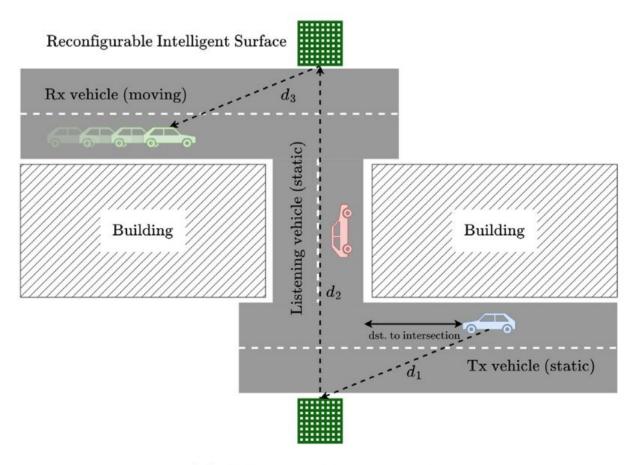
- RISs are a promising technology that can help us expand the signal reach
- We can modulate the reflection to better suit our needs
- They can be either passive or active

G. C. Trichopoulos et al., "Design and Evaluation of Reconfigurable Intelligent Surfaces in Real-World Environment,"





## Using RISs for physical layer security



- Our objective is to find a way to hide our signal in NLoS scenarios, using the same RISs we use for actors to communicate
- This is crucial in crossroads used by cooperative autonomous vehicles

(b) Z-intersection scenario

Michele Segata, Paolo Casari, Marios Lestas, Alexandros Papadopoulos, Dimitrios Tyrovolas, Taqwa Saeed, George Karagiannidis, Christos Liaskos, CoopeRIS: A framework for the simulation of reconfigurable intelligent surfaces in cooperative driving environments,





## Space Shift Keying (SSK) Modulation

$$j = \underset{j}{\operatorname{arg \, max}} \ p_{y}(y|x_{j}, \boldsymbol{B}) = \underset{j}{\operatorname{arg \, min}} \ ||y - b_{j}||^{2}$$

$$y = \boldsymbol{B}x = \begin{bmatrix} \beta_{11} & \beta_{12} & \cdots & \beta_{1K} \\ \beta_{21} & \beta_{22} & \cdots & \beta_{2K} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \beta_{K1} & \beta_{K2} & \cdots & \beta_{KK} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \beta_{11} \\ \beta_{12} \\ \vdots \\ \beta_{1K} \end{bmatrix}$$

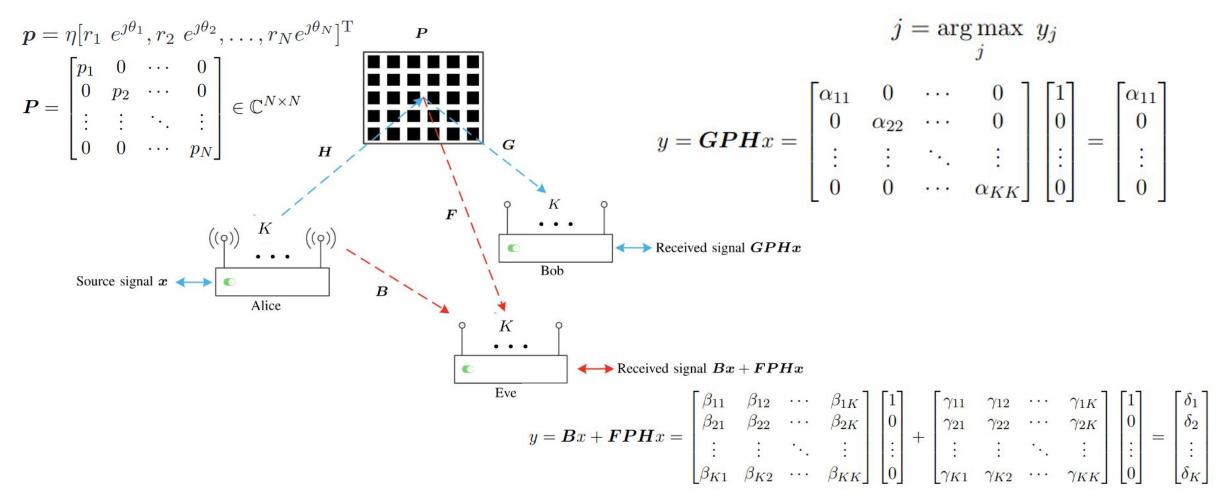
- Communicate using the antenna index
- Resistant to noise and signal variations
- More complex schemes exist to use multiple antennas at the same time





J. Jeganathan, A. Ghrayeb, L. Szczecinski and A. Ceron, "Space shift keying modulation for MIMO channels,"

#### Reference scenario



J. Luo, F. Wang, S. Wang, H. Wang and D. Wang,

"Reconfigurable Intelligent Surface: Reflection Design Against Passive Eavesdropping,"





#### RIS parametrization

$$||\mathbf{GPH} - [\mathbf{GPH}]_{diag}||^2 = 0$$

$$\boldsymbol{W} = \sum_{i,k=1,i\neq k}^{K} (g_k \odot h_i^T)^H (g_k \odot h_i^T)$$

$$\mathbf{W}p = 0$$

$$W = R\Sigma V^H$$

$$N(\mathbf{W}^{H}) = [r_{N-K(K-1)}, \cdots, r_{N}] = \mathbf{U}$$

$$p = \frac{\eta \boldsymbol{U}q}{\max\left(|\boldsymbol{U}q|\right)}$$

- The idea is finding a RIS vector to satisfy our condition
- By analyzing the null space of W, we have a family of solutions in the last N-K(K-1) columns of R
- We can multiply this matrix *U* by a random complex vector
   q to get the RIS configuration
- We are now able to communicate between two stationary antennas

J. Luo, F. Wang, S. Wang, H. Wang and D. Wang,

"Reconfigurable Intelligent Surface: Reflection Design Against Passive Eavesdropping,"



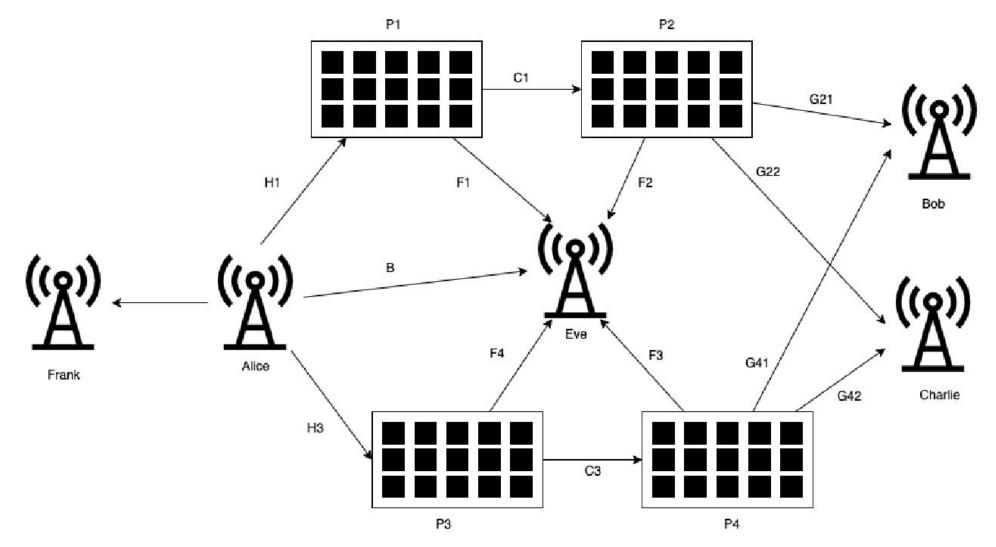
#### Contribution

- Can we send the message to multiple receivers at the same time?
- Can we concatenate multiple RIS together (in series)?
- Can we send the message through multiple paths (in parallel)?
- What are the performance of all these cases?
- Is our framework valid for realistic communications?





#### Multi-user and multi-RIS scenario







#### Multi-user and multi-RIS scenario

$$\forall j \in \{1, 2, \dots, J\} \rightarrow ||\boldsymbol{G}_{j}\boldsymbol{P}\boldsymbol{H} - [\boldsymbol{G}_{j}\boldsymbol{P}\boldsymbol{H}]_{diag}||^{2} = 0$$

$$\forall j \in \{1, 2, \dots, J\} \to \mathbf{W}_j = \sum_{i, k=1, i \neq k}^K (g_{j_{k,:}} \odot h_i^T)^H (g_{j_{k,:}} \odot h_i^T)$$

$$\forall j \in \{1, 2, \dots, J\} \rightarrow \mathbf{W}_j p = 0$$

$$egin{bmatrix} m{W}_1 \ m{W}_2 \ ... \ m{W}_J \end{bmatrix} p = 0$$

$$egin{bmatrix} oldsymbol{W}_1 \ oldsymbol{W}_2 \ ... \ oldsymbol{W}_I \end{bmatrix} = oldsymbol{W} \in \mathbb{C}^{JNxN}, oldsymbol{W} = oldsymbol{R} oldsymbol{\Sigma} oldsymbol{V}^H$$

- By having the condition of using multiple receivers, our matrix W is not square
- We cannot use *R* to find the null space of dimension N anymore
- We can however use the last N-K(K-1) rows of V^H

$$N(oldsymbol{W}) = egin{bmatrix} v_{N-K(K-1)}^H & \dots & \\ v_{N}^H & \end{bmatrix}^H = oldsymbol{U}$$

$$p = \frac{\eta \boldsymbol{U} q}{\max\left(|\boldsymbol{U}q|\right)}$$





#### Multi-user and multi-RIS scenario

RIS in parallel

$$\sum_{m=1}^{M} \mathbf{G}_{j} \mathbf{P}_{m} \mathbf{H}_{m} x = \left(\sum_{m=1}^{M} \mathbf{G}_{j} \mathbf{P}_{m} \mathbf{H}_{m}\right) x$$

 For RISs in parallel, the sum of multiple diagonal matrices is still a diagonal matrix

RIS in series

$$||GP_1C_1...P_MH - [GP_1C_1...P_MH]_{diag}||^2 = 0$$
  
 $\forall m \in [1, M-1] : p_m[i] = \eta r_i e^{j\theta_i}$   
 $G' = GP_1C_1...P_{M-1}C_{M-1} \in \mathbb{C}^{K \times N}$   
 $||G'P_MH - [G'P_MH]_{diag}||^2 = 0$ 

- For RISs in series, we can setup the first (or last) M-1 RISs randomly, and setup only the last one
- Complex configuration can also be set up





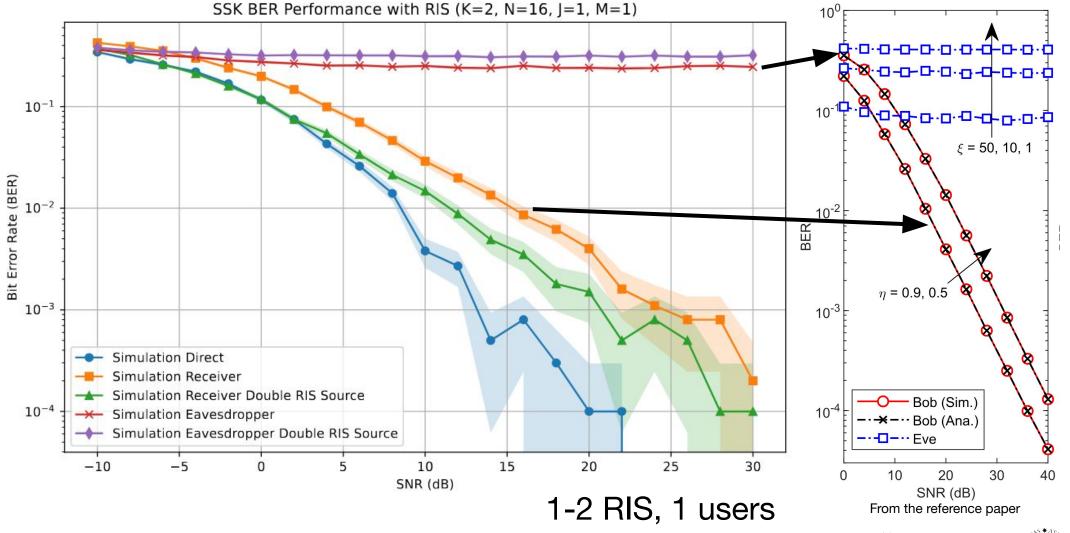
#### Performance evaluation

- We first make simulations correlating the Bit Error Rate (BER) to the Signal to Noise Ratio (SNR)
- The BER indicates the percentage of wrong bits in a message
- •The SNR indicates how strong the noise is in relation to the correct signal
- •We will show that for higher SNR, the receiver reception gets clearer, while the eavesdropper error rate remains constant due to the RIS noise
- We will then realistically model the channel gains and the path loss considering the distance between two points
- •We will create an heatmap showing for each point the received BER
- We will discuss how the type of the RIS influence the signal received by an eavesdropper





## Bit Error Rate (BER) simulations

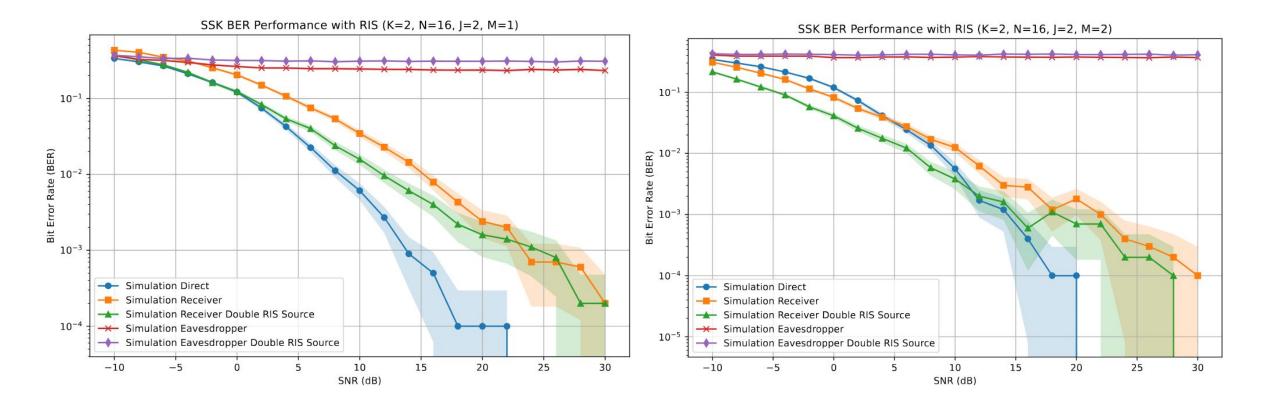




## Bit Error Rate (BER) simulations

1-2 RIS, 2 users

2-4 RIS, 2 users





#### Realistic channel model

$$u^2 = \frac{\tau \xi}{1+\tau} \qquad \sigma^2 = \frac{\xi}{2(1+\tau)} \qquad \Xi \sim C(\frac{\nu}{\sqrt{2}}, \sigma)$$

$$e_r(\Omega) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n_r}} \begin{bmatrix} 1\\ exp(-j2\pi\Delta\Omega)\\ exp(-j2\pi2\Delta\Omega)\\ \vdots\\ exp(-j2\pi(n_r-1)\Delta\Omega) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{\Xi} \odot \sqrt{n_t n_r} exp(-j2\pi d/\lambda) e_r(\Omega_r) e_t(\Omega_t)^H$$

$$PL = ((4\pi/\lambda)^2 d^k)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \qquad y = PL_B \cdot \mathbf{B}x$$

David Tse, Pramod Viswanath, "Fundamentals of Wireless Communication"  We generate the fading matrix from a complex distribution using the Shape and Scale parameters

- We calculate the channel gain matrix from the distance and the incidence angle between the antennas arrays
- We use the ideal Free Space path loss

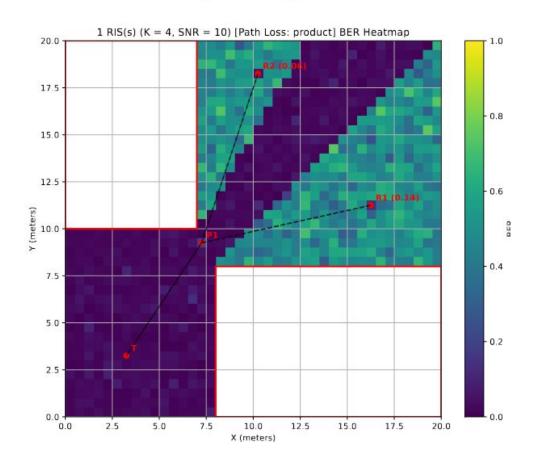




## **BER Heatmaps - scenario 1**

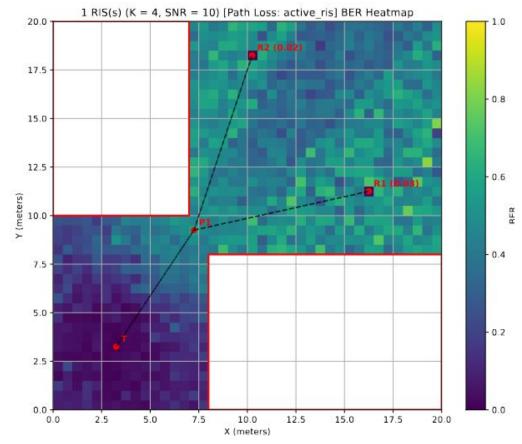
Passive RIS

$$y = PL_G \cdot PL_H \cdot \mathbf{GPH}x$$



**Active RIS** 

$$y = PL_H \cdot \mathbf{GPH}x$$
.





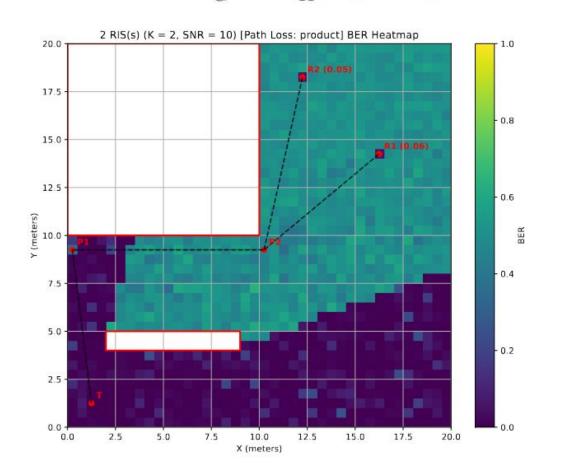


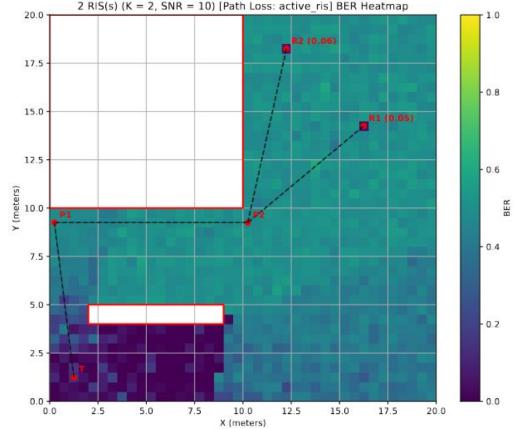
## **BER Heatmaps - scenario 2**

Passive RIS

$$y = PL_G \cdot PL_H \cdot \mathbf{GPH}x$$

Active RIS  $y = PL_H \cdot \mathbf{GPH} x.$ 







#### **Conclusions and future directions**

- •We expanded on the work RECONFIGURABLE INTELLIGENT SURFACE: REFLECTION DESIGN AGAINST PASSIVE EAVESDROPPING
- We proved the correctness of our contribution
- We validated our solution in realistic scenarios
- •Still, the area when the message is received is limited in size

- •Future work should be studied in channel gain estimation for moving vehicles
- Low level language implementations should be made to calculate the latency of communication
- Complex schemes that expand on SSK modulation should be considered





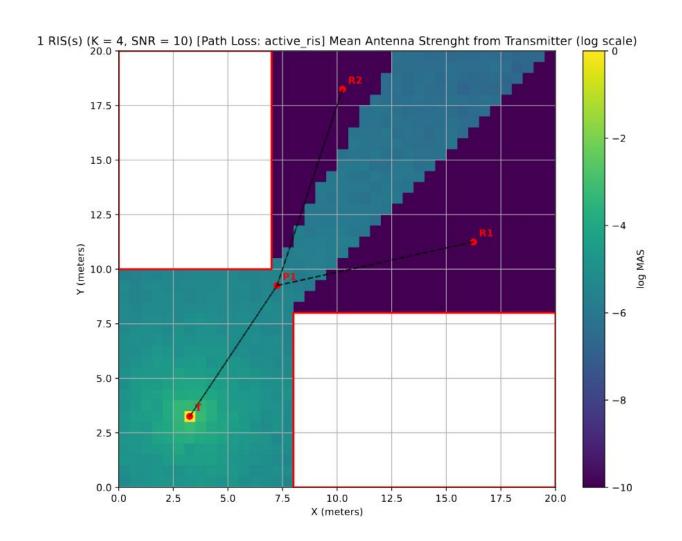
## Thank you

Questions?





## Mean Antenna Strength



$$MAS_{H} = \sum_{x=1}^{X} ||h_{x}||^{2} / X$$

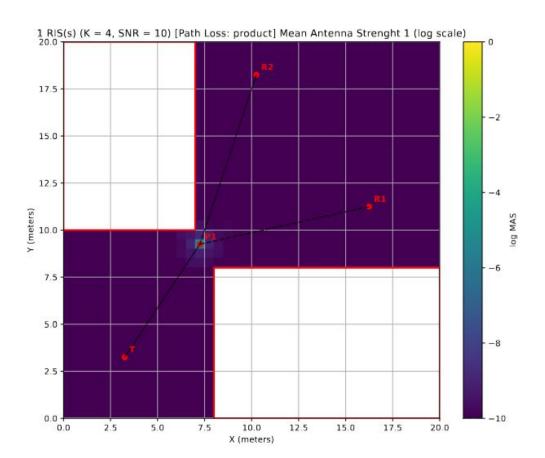
$$log MAS_{\boldsymbol{H}} = log_{10} MAS_{\boldsymbol{H}}$$



## **BER Heatmaps - scenario 1**

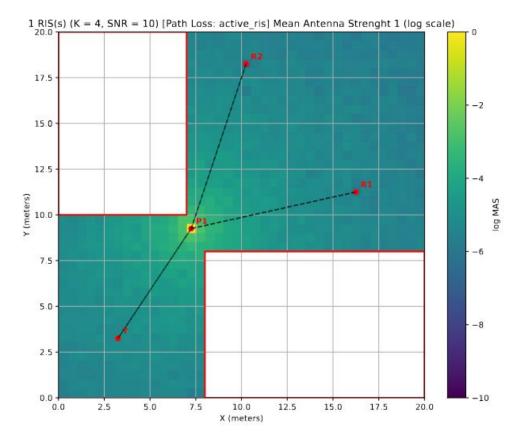
Passive RIS

$$y = PL_G \cdot PL_H \cdot \mathbf{GPH}x$$



**Active RIS** 

$$y = PL_H \cdot \mathbf{GPH}x$$
.





#### Channel Gain Estimation

- The transmitter communicates to the RIS controller a setup message x' that it will send to the receiver
- The RIS will set a random P'
- The receiver gets a signal y' (which will mean nothing), and sends it back to the RIS controller
- Based on x', y', P' the RIS controller estimates G, H and correctly sets up P
- The transmitter sends x, and the receiver gets y which it can correctly convert back
- If transmitter and receiver are moving, the procedure will start all over. Otherwise, G and H remain the same, and the RIS controller can just create a new P for the next messages

https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/8879620

#### Algorithm 1: JBF-MC algorithm

```
Input: Y, S, X, prior distributions p(G) and p(Z)
```

% sparse matrix factorization via BiG-AMP

```
    Initialization: ∀l, n, t: generate g<sub>l,n</sub> from p(g<sub>l,n</sub>), v<sup>g</sup><sub>l,n</sub>(1) = ν<sub>g</sub>

     \hat{z}_{n,t}(1) = \mathbb{E}(z_{n,t}), v_{n,t}^z(1) = \lambda \nu_z, \text{ and } \hat{u}_{l,t}(1) = 0
```

2: for  $i = 1, ..., I_{\text{max}}$  % outer iteration

3: for  $j = 1, ..., J_{\text{max}}$  % inner iteration

4: 
$$\forall l, t : \bar{v}_{l,t}^p(i) = \sum_{n=1}^N |\hat{g}_{l,n}(i)|^2 v_{n,t}^z(i) + v_{l,n}^g(i) |\hat{z}_{n,t}(i)|^2$$
  
5:  $\forall l, t : \bar{p}_{l,t}(i) = \sum_{n=1}^N \hat{g}_{l,n}(i) \hat{z}_{n,t}(i)$ 

6: 
$$\forall l, t: v_{l,t}^p(i) = \overline{v_{l,t}^p(i)} + \sum_{n=1}^N v_{l,n}^g(i) v_{n,t}^z(i)$$

7: 
$$\forall l, t: \hat{p}_{l,t}(i) = \bar{p}_{l,t}(i) - \hat{u}_{l,t}(i-1)\bar{v}_{l,t}^{p}(i)$$

8: 
$$\forall l, t: v_{l,t}^b(i) = \sigma^2 v_{l,t}^p(i) / [v_{l,t}^p(i) + \sigma^2]$$

9: 
$$\forall l, t: \hat{b}_{l,t}(i) = v_{l,t}^p(i)[y_{l,t} - \hat{p}_{l,t}(i)]/[v_{l,t}^p(i) + \sigma^2] + \hat{p}_{l,t}(i)$$

10: 
$$\forall l, t: v_{l,t}^u(i) = \left[1 - v_{l,t}^z(l)/v_{l,t}^p(i)\right]/v_{l,t}^p(i)$$

11: 
$$\forall l, t: \hat{u}_{l,t}(i) = [\hat{b}_{l,t}(i) - \hat{p}_{l,t}(i)]/v_{l,t}^p(i)$$

12: 
$$\forall l, n: v_{l,n}^q(i) = \left[\sum_{t=1}^T |\hat{z}_{n,t}(i)|^2 v_{l,t}^u(i)\right]^{-1}$$

13: 
$$\forall l, n: \hat{q}_{l,n}(i) = \hat{g}_{l,n}(i) \begin{bmatrix} 1 - v_{l,n}^q(i) \sum_{t=1}^T v_{n,t}^z(i) v_{l,t}^u(i) \end{bmatrix} + v_{l,n}^q(i) \sum_{t=1}^T \hat{z}_{n,t}^*(i) \hat{u}_{l,t}(i)$$

14: 
$$\forall n, t: v_{n,t}^r(i) = \left[\sum_{l=1}^L |\hat{g}_{l,n}(i)|^2 v_{l,t}^u(i)\right]^{-1}$$

15: 
$$\forall n, t: \hat{r}_{n,t}(i) = \hat{z}_{n,t}(i) \left(1 - v_{n,t}^r(i) \sum_{l=1}^L v_{l,n}^g(i) v_{l,t}^u(i)\right) + v_{n,t}^r(i) \sum_{l=1}^L \hat{g}_{l,n}^*(i) \hat{u}_{l,t}(i)$$

16: 
$$\forall l, n: \hat{g}_{l,n}(i+1) = \mathbb{E}\{g_{l,n}|\hat{q}_{l,n}(i), v_{l,n}^q(i)\}$$

7: 
$$\forall l, n: v_{l,n}^g(i+1) = Var\{g_{l,n}|\hat{q}_{l,n}(i), v_{l,n}^g(i)\}$$

18: 
$$\forall n, t: \hat{z}_{n,t}(i+1) = \mathbb{E}\{z_{n,t}|\hat{r}_{n,t}(i), v_{n,t}^r(i)\}$$

19: 
$$\forall n, t: v_{n,t}^z(i+1) = Var\{z_{n,t} | \hat{r}_{n,t}(i), v_{n,t}^r(i)\}$$

22: 
$$\forall l, n, t, \hat{g}_{l,n}(i) = \hat{g}_{l,n}(i+1), \nu_{m,n}^g(i) = \nu_{l,n}^g(i+1),$$
  
 $\hat{z}_{n,t}(i) = \hat{z}_{n,t}(1), \nu_{n,t}^z(i) = v_{n,t}^z(1)$ 

24: 
$$\hat{\boldsymbol{G}} \leftarrow \hat{\boldsymbol{G}}(i+1), \hat{\boldsymbol{Z}} \leftarrow \hat{\boldsymbol{Z}}(i+1)$$

% matrix completion via RGrad

25: Initialization: 
$$\mathbf{A}(0) = \mathbf{0}$$

26: **for** 
$$k = 1, ..., K_{\text{max}}$$

27: 
$$Q(k) = S^* \odot (\hat{Z} - A(k))$$

28: 
$$\alpha(k) = \frac{\|\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{S}(k)}(\mathbf{Q}(k))\|_F^2}{\|\mathbf{S}^* \odot (\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{S}(k)}(\mathbf{Q}(k)))\|_F^2}$$

29: 
$$\mathbf{W}(k) = \mathbf{A}(k) + \alpha_k \mathcal{P}_{S(k)}(\mathbf{Q}(k))$$

30: 
$$A(k+1) = \mathcal{H}_r(W(k))$$

33: 
$$\hat{\boldsymbol{H}} \leftarrow \hat{\boldsymbol{A}} \boldsymbol{X}^{\dagger}$$
 with  $\hat{\boldsymbol{A}} = \boldsymbol{A}(k+1)$ 

Output:  $\hat{G}$  and H

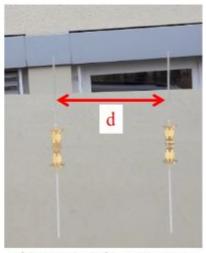




#### **Channel Gain Estimation for Vehicles**



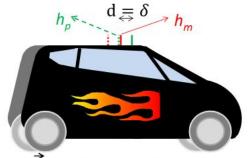
a) Car with mounted metallic plane



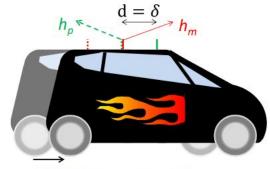
b) Monopole antennas on the metallic plane

- I Current position of Predictor antenna
- Position of Predictor antenna during prediction
- Current position of antenna

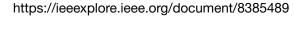
Position of Predictor antenna during prediction



a) displacement  $\delta \sim 0.8\lambda$ 



b) displacement  $\delta \sim 3\lambda$ 

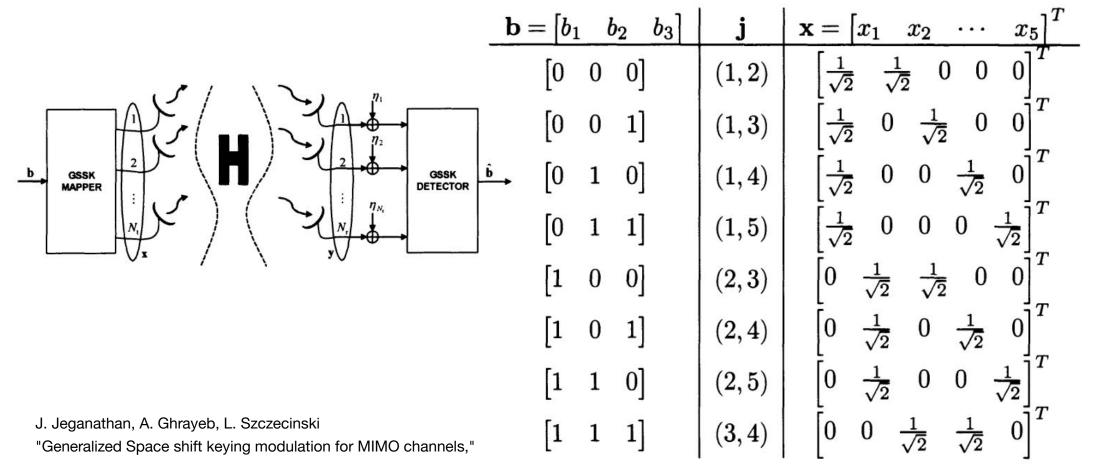






## Generalized Space Shift Keying Modulation

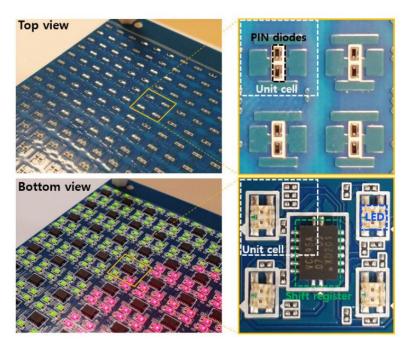
TABLE I EXAMPLE OF THE GSSK MAPPER RULE.

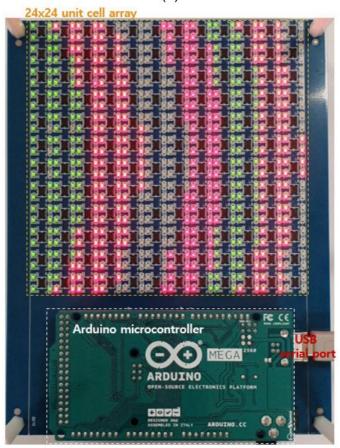




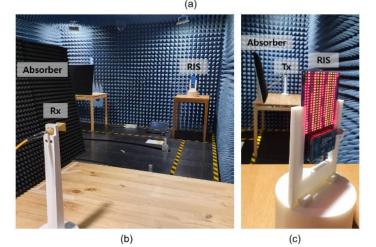


## **RIS** implementations





RIS



https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/9881509



