Interleave-Division Multiple-Access

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Abstract—This paper provides a comprehensive study of interleave-division multiple-access (IDMA) systems. The IDMA receiver principles for different modulation and channel conditions are outlined. A semi-analytical technique is developed based on the density evolution technique to estimate the bit-error-rate (BER) of the system. It provides a fast and relatively accurate method to predict the performance of the IDMA scheme. With simple convolutional/repetition codes, overall throughputs of 3 bits/chip with one receive antenna and 6 bits/chip with two receive antennas are observed for IDMA systems involving as many as about 100 users.

Index Terms—CDMA, density evolution, iterative decoding, multi-user detection.

I. INTRODUCTION

THE performance of code-division multiple-access (CDMA) systems is mainly limited by multiple access interference (MAI) and intersymbol interference (ISI). In the wake of the success of turbo codes [1], turbo-type iterative multi-user detection (MUD) has been extensively studied [2]-[10] to mitigate MAI and ISI, and significant progress has been made.

A conventional random waveform CDMA (RW-CDMA) system (such as IS-95) involves separate coding and spreading operations. Theoretical analysis [11][12] shows that the optimal multiple access channel (MAC) capacity is achievable when the entire bandwidth expansion is devoted to coding. This suggests combining coding and spreading using lowrate codes to maximize the coding gain [11][13]. In this case, interleavers can be employed to distinguish signals from different users. The principle has been studied previously and its potential advantages have been demonstrated [2][14]-[19]. Ref. [2] showed the possibility of employing interleaving for user separation in coded systems. Ref. [14] proposed narrow-band coded-modulation schemes in which trellis code structures are used for user separation and interleaving is considered as an option. For wideband systems, the performance improvement by assigning different interleavers to different users in conventional CDMA has been demonstrated in [15] and [16]. Ref. [17] studied a chip interleaved CDMA scheme and a maximal-ratio-combining (MRC) technique for MACs with ISI. It clearly demonstrated the advantages of introducing

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chip-level interleavers. An interleaver-based multiple access scheme has also been studied in [18][19] for high spectral efficiency, improved performance and low receiver complexity. This scheme relies on interleaving as the only means to distinguish the signals from different users, and hence it has been called interleave-division multiple-access (IDMA). IDMA inherits many advantages from CDMA, in particular, diversity against fading and mitigation of the worst-case othercell user interference problem. Furthermore, it allows a very simple chip-by-chip iterative MUD strategy [18][19]. The normalized MUD cost (per user) is independent of the number of users.

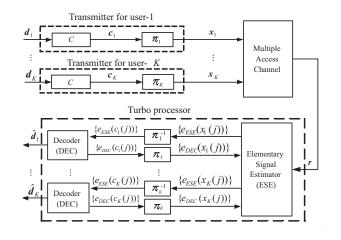
In this paper, we will provide a comprehensive study of the IDMA scheme, incorporating the principles developed in [18][19]. The contributions of this paper are as follows. First, we will derive several low-cost detection algorithms for different channel conditions, namely, real-single-path, realmulti-path and complex-multi-path channels. These algorithms are very simple and efficient, as confirmed by simulation results. Second, we will develop a semi-analytical technique based on the SNR density evolution technique [9], [20]-[22] to estimate the bit-error-rate (BER) performance of these algorithms. This offers a fast and accurate method to predict the performance of the IDMA scheme, and is useful for system analysis and design. Finally, we will present a comprehensive assessment of the IDMA principle using numerical examples. Simulation results are provided to demonstrate the advantages of the IDMA scheme in terms of both bandwidth and power efficiencies. For example, with simple convolutional/repetition codes, overall throughputs of 3 bits/chip with one receive antenna and 6 bits/chip with two receive antennas are observed for IDMA systems with as many as about 100 users. More sophisticated low-rate codes can also be used for further performance enhancement, as illustrated by comparisons between low-rate and high-rate coded IDMA systems.

Although our focus in this paper is on multi-user systems, the principles developed in this paper, such as the iterative detection algorithms and SNR evolution techniques, are directly applicable to a variety of different applications, such as space-time coding for antenna diversity [23] and superposition coding for bandwidth efficient coded modulation [24] and adaptive modulation [25].

II. IDMA TRANSMITTER AND RECEIVER PRINCIPLES

A. IDMA Transmitter and Receiver Structures

The upper part of Fig. 1 shows the transmitter structure of the multiple access scheme under consideration with K simultaneous users. The input data sequence \mathbf{d}_k of user-k is encoded based on a low-rate code C, generating a coded sequence $\mathbf{c}_k \equiv [c_k(1), \ldots, c_k(j), \ldots, c_k(J)]^T$, where J is



Transmitter and (iterative) receiver structures of an IDMA scheme with K simultaneous users.

the frame length. The elements in c_k are referred to as coded bits. Then c_k is permutated by an interleaver π_k , producing $\mathbf{x}_k \equiv [x_k(1), \ldots, x_k(j), \ldots, x_k(J)]^T$. Following the CDMA convention, we call the elements in x_k "chips". Users are solely distinguished by their interleavers, hence the name interleave-division multiple-access (IDMA).

The key principle of IDMA is that the interleavers $\{\pi_k\}$ should be different for different users. We assume that the interleavers are generated independently and randomly. These interleavers disperse the coded sequences so that the adjacent chips are approximately uncorrelated, which facilitates the simple chip-by-chip detection scheme discussed below.

We adopt an iterative sub-optimal receiver structure, as illustrated in Fig. 1, which consists of an elementary signal estimator (ESE) and K single-user a posteriori probability (APP) decoders (DECs). The multiple access and coding constraints are considered separately in the ESE and DECs. The outputs of the ESE and DECs are extrinsic log-likelihood ratios (LLRs) about $\{x_k(j)\}$ defined below [18][19]:

$$e(x_k(j)) \equiv \log \left(\frac{p(\mathbf{y}|x_k(j) = +1)}{p(\mathbf{y}|x_k(j) = -1)} \right), \forall k, j.$$
 (1)

These LLRs are further distinguished by subscripts, i.e., $e_{ESE}(x_k(j))$ and $e_{DEC}(x_k(j))$, depending on whether they are generated by the ESE or DECs. For the ESE, y in (1) denotes the received channel output. For the DECs, y in (1) is formed by the deinterleaved version of the outputs of the ESE. (See Fig. 1 and the discussions in Section II.F below.) A global turbo-type iterative process is applied to process the LLRs generated by the ESE and DECs [1][18], as detailed below.

B. The Basic ESE Function

We first assume that the channel has no memory. After chipmatched filtering, the received signal from K users can be written as

$$r(j) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} h_k x_k(j) + n(j), j = 1, 2, ..., J$$
 (2)

where h_k is the channel coefficient for user-k and $\{n(j)\}$ are samples of an AWGN process with variance $\sigma^2 = N_0/2$. We assume that the channel coefficients $\{h_k\}$ are known a priori at the receiver. (For the channel estimation in IDMA systems, please refer to [18].) Due to the use of random interleavers $\{\pi_k\}$, the ESE operation can be carried out in a chip-by-chip manner, with only one sample r(j) used at a time. Rewrite

$$r(j) = h_k x_k(j) + \zeta_k(j) \tag{3}$$

where

$$\zeta_k(j) \equiv r(j) - h_k x_k(j) = \sum_{k' \neq k} h_{k'} x_{k'}(j) + n(j)$$
 (4)

is the distortion (including interference-plus-noise) in r(i)with respect to user-k. From the central limit theorem, $\zeta_k(j)$ can be approximated as a Gaussian variable, and r(j) can be characterized by a conditional Gaussian probability density function

$$p(r(j)|x_{k}(j) = \pm 1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi \text{Var}(\zeta_{k}(j))}} \exp\left(-\frac{(r(j) - (\pm h_{k} + \text{E}(\zeta_{k}(j))))^{2}}{2\text{Var}(\zeta_{k}(j))}\right) (5)$$

where $E(\cdot)$ and $Var(\cdot)$ are the mean and variance functions, respectively. Note that the central limit theorem applies to the summation of a large number of random variables. This implies the assumption of a large number of simultaneous users, which is reasonable in spread-spectrum cellular systems (both IDMA and CDMA).

The following is a list of the ESE detection algorithm based on $(2)\sim(5)$ [18], assuming that the a priori statistics $\{E(x_k(j))\}\$ and $\{Var(x_k(j))\}\$ are available (see Section II.F).

Algorithm 1. Chip-by-Chip Detection in a Single-Path Channel

Step (i): Estimation of Interference Mean and Variance

$$E(r(j)) = \sum_{k} h_k E(x_k(j)), \qquad (6)$$

$$\operatorname{Var}(r(j)) = \sum_{k} |h_k|^2 \operatorname{Var}(x_k(j)) + \sigma^2, \tag{7}$$

$$E(\zeta_k(j)) = E(r(j)) - h_k E(x_k(j)), \tag{8}$$

$$\operatorname{Var}(\zeta_k(j)) = \operatorname{Var}(r(j)) - |h_k|^2 \operatorname{Var}(x_k(j)). \tag{9}$$

Step (ii): LLR Generation

$$e_{ESE}(x_k(j)) = 2h_k \cdot \frac{r(j) - \mathcal{E}(\zeta_k(j))}{\text{Var}(\zeta_k(j))}.$$
 (10)

Comments:

- Under the assumption that $\{x_k(j)\}$ are independent, (6)-(9) are a straightforward consequence of (2) and (4).
- Step (ii) is obtained by evaluating (1) based on (5).
- Algorithm 1 is an extremely simplified form of that derived in [4] when the spreading sequences are all length-1.

three multiplications and two additions per coded bit per user. Overall, the ESE operations in (6)-(10) cost only seven multiplications and five additions per coded bit per user, which is very modest. Interestingly, the cost per information bit per user is independent of the number of users K. This is considerably lower than that of other alternatives. For example, the well-known MMSE algorithm in [4] has a complexity of $O(K^2)$.

C. The ESE Function for Multi-Path Channels

We now consider the ESE function in a quasi-static multi-path fading channel with memory length L-1. Let $\{h_{k,0},\cdots,h_{k,L-1}\}$ be the fading coefficients related to userk. After chip-matched filtering, the received signal can be represented by

$$r(j) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \sum_{l=0}^{L-1} h_{k,l} x_k(j-l) + n(j), \quad j = 1, \dots, J+L-1.$$
 (11)

We write

$$r(j+l) = h_{k,l} x_k(j) + \zeta_{k,l}(j)$$
 (12)

where

$$\zeta_{k,l}(j) = r(j+l) - h_{k,l} x_k(j).$$
 (13)

The similarity between (12) and (3) is clearly seen. Assume again BPSK signaling and real channel coefficients. Algorithm 2 below is a straightforward extension of Algorithm 1.

Algorithm 2. Chip-by-Chip Detection in a Multi-Path Channel

Step (i): Estimation of Interference Mean and Variance

$$E(r(j)) = \sum_{k,l} h_{k,l} E(x_k(j-l)),$$
 (14)

$$Var(r(j)) = \sum_{k,l} |h_{k,l}|^2 Var(x_k(j-l)) + \sigma^2,$$
 (15)

$$E(\zeta_{k,l}(j)) = E(r(j+l)) - h_{k,l}E(x_k(j)),$$
 (16)

$$Var(\zeta_{k,l}(j)) = Var(r(j+l)) - |h_{k,l}|^2 Var(x_k(j)).$$
 (17)

Step (ii): LLR Generation and Combining

$$e_{ESE}(x_k(j))_l = 2h_{k,l} \cdot \frac{r(j+l) - E(\zeta_{k,l}(j))}{Var(\zeta_{k,l}(j))},$$
 (18)

$$e_{ESE}(x_k(j)) = \sum_{l=0}^{L-1} e_{ESE}(x_k(j))_l.$$
 (19)

Comments:

- It is easy to see the connection between (14)-(17) and
- From(11), each $x_k(j)$ is observed on L successive samples $\{r(j), r(j + 1), ..., r(j + L - 1)\}$. Assume that the distortion terms with respect to $x_k(j)$ in these L samples, i.e., $\{\zeta_{k,0}(j), \zeta_{k,1}(j), \ldots, \zeta_{k,L-1}(j)\}$, are un-

for $x_k(j) = \pm 1$ are the products of the individual a posteriori probabilities generated from $\{r(j), r(j+1),$..., r(j + L - 1). Hence the LLRs for $x_k(j)$ can be directly summed as in (19). This LLR combining (LLRC) technique is similar to the rake operation used in CDMA.

- The overall complexity is approximately L times of that of Algorithm 1.
- From this algorithm, we can see that frame synchronization is not necessary for IDMA, since frame asynchronization has the same effect as multipath delay.

The uncorrelatedness assumption mentioned above is only approximate, but it greatly simplifies the matter. The complexity (per coded bit per user) for Algorithm 2 is O(L). There are other alternative treatments for channels with memory. One is the maximum ratio combining (MRC) technique [8][17], in which $r \equiv \{r(j)\}$ is passed through K MRC filters, each matched to the L tap-coefficients for a particular user. This method involves the calculation of the interference variances after the MRC. The related complexity is quite high (O(LK))if these variances are calculated exactly [17]. The technique used in [8] has a lower cost (O(L)) due to the use of an approximation. We have observed that the method in [8] has similar performance to the LLRC method. A common problem of all the techniques discussed above is that they have poor performance when the rate of C is high [19]. The joint Gaussian (JG) technique [19] provides an efficient solution to this problem, which takes into consideration the correlation among $\{\zeta_{k,0}(j),\zeta_{k,1}(j),\cdots,\zeta_{k,L-1}(j)\}$. This technique demonstrates much better performance when the number of users is very large or when the rate of C is high. The related cost is $O(L^2)$.

D. The ESE Function for More Complex Channels

We now extend our discussion to more complex situations. We will use either superscripts "Re" and "Im" or function notations $Re(\cdot)$ and $Im(\cdot)$ to indicate real and imaginary parts, respectively. Consider quadrature-phase-shift-keying (QPSK) signaling,

$$x_k(j) = x_k^{Re}(j) + ix_k^{Im}(j)$$
 (20)

where $i=\sqrt{-1},\,x_k^{Re}(j)$ and $x_k^{Im}(j)$ are two coded bits from c_k . For convenience, we still call the elements in x_k "chips". Note that in this case, each chip contains two coded bits. We adopt channel model (11) and expand it using complex channel coefficients $\{h_{k,l} = h_{k,l}^{Re} + ih_{k,l}^{Im}\}$ as

(19)
$$r(j) = \sum_{k,l} \left(h_{k,l}^{Re} x_k^{Re} (j-l) - h_{k,l}^{Im} x_k^{Im} (j-l) \right)$$
$$+ i \sum_{k,l} \left(h_{k,l}^{Re} x_k^{Im} (j-l) + h_{k,l}^{Im} x_k^{Re} (j-l) \right) + n(j)$$
(21)

where $\{n(j)\}\$ are samples of a complex AWGN process with variance σ^2 per dimension. Denote by $\overline{h_{k,l}}$ the conjugate of $h_{k,l}$. Recall (12): $r(j+l) = h_{k,l}x_k(j) + \zeta_{k,l}(j)$. The phase shift due to $h_{k,l}$ is cancelled out in $h_{k,l}r(j+l)$, which means that $Im\left(\overline{h_{k,l}}r(j+l)\right)$ is not a function of $x_k^{Re}(j)$. Therefore ACONSTILLATION STATES IN THE CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PR

$$Re\left(\overline{h_{k,l}}r(j+l)\right) = \left|h_{k,l}\right|^2 x_k^{Re}(j) + Re\left(\overline{h_{k,l}}\zeta_{k,l}(j)\right).$$
 (22)

Algorithm 3 below outlines the procedure to estimate $x_k^{Re}(j)$ based on (22).

Algorithm 3. Chip-by-Chip Detection in a Complex Multi-Path Channel

Step (i): Estimation of Interference Mean and Variance

$$\mathbf{E}\left(\!r^{Re}(\!j\!)\!\right) \!=\! \sum_{k,l} \left(h_{k,l}^{Re} \mathbf{E}(x_k^{Re}(j\!-\!l)\!) \!-\! h_{k,l}^{Im} \mathbf{E}(x_k^{Im}(j\!-\!l)\!)\right), \quad (23)$$

$$\mathbf{E}\left(\!r^{Im}(j)\!\right) = \!\sum_{k,l} \left(\!h_{k,l}^{Re} \mathbf{E}(x_k^{Im}(j-l)\!) \!+\! h_{k,l}^{Im} \mathbf{E}(x_k^{Re}(j-l)\!)\!\right), \quad (24)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Var}\left(r^{Re}(j)\right) &= \sum_{k,l} \left(h_{k,l}^{Re}\right)^{2} \operatorname{Var}\left(x_{k}^{Re}(j-l)\right) \\ &+ \sum_{k,l} \left(h_{k,l}^{Im}\right)^{2} \operatorname{Var}\left(x_{k}^{Im}(j-l)\right) + \sigma^{2}, \end{aligned} \tag{25}$$

$$\operatorname{Var}\left(r^{Im}(j)\right) = \sum_{k,l} \left(h_{k,l}^{Im}\right)^{2} \operatorname{Var}\left(x_{k}^{Re}(j-l)\right) + \sum_{k,l} \left(h_{k,l}^{Re}\right)^{2} \operatorname{Var}\left(x_{k}^{Im}(j-l)\right) + \sigma^{2}, \quad (26)$$

$$\Psi(j) = \sum_{k,l} h_{k,l}^{Re} h_{k,l}^{Im} \left(\operatorname{Var} \left(x_k^{Re} (j-l) \right) - \operatorname{Var} \left(x_k^{Im} (j-l) \right) \right),$$

$$E(Re(\overline{h_{k,l}}\zeta_{k,l}(j))) = h_{k,l}^{Re}E(r^{Re}(j+l)) + h_{k,l}^{Im}E(r^{Im}(j+l)) - |h_{k,l}|^2E(x_k^{Re}(j)),$$
(28)

$$\operatorname{Var}\left(\operatorname{Re}\left(\overline{h_{k,l}}\zeta_{k,l}(j)\right)\right) = \left(h_{k,l}^{\operatorname{Re}}\right)^{2}\operatorname{Var}\left(r^{\operatorname{Re}}(j+l)\right) + \left(h_{k,l}^{\operatorname{Im}}\right)^{2}\operatorname{Var}\left(r^{\operatorname{Im}}(j+l)\right) + \left(h_{k,l}^{\operatorname{Im}}\right)^{4}\operatorname{Var}\left(x_{k}^{\operatorname{Re}}(j)\right). \tag{29}$$

Step (ii): LLR Generation and Combining

$$e_{ESE}(x_k^{Re}(j))_l$$

$$= 2|h_{k,l}|^2 \cdot \frac{Re(\overline{h_{k,l}}r(j+l)) - \mathbb{E}\left(Re(\overline{h_{k,l}}\zeta_{k,l}(j))\right)}{\operatorname{Var}\left(Re(\overline{h_{k,l}}\zeta_{k,l}(j))\right)}, (30)$$

$$e_{ESE}(x_k^{Re}(j)) = \sum_{l=0}^{L-1} e_{ESE}(x_k^{Re}(j))_l. (31)$$

Comments:

• We obtain (23)–(26) using (21) and obtain (28) as follows (based on (12) and (22)),

$$Re(\overline{h_{k,l}}\zeta_{k,l}(j)) = h_{k,l}^{Re}r^{Re}(j+l) + h_{k,l}^{Im}r^{Im}(j+l) - |h_{k,l}|^2 x_k^{Re}(j).$$
(32)

• It can be verified that $\Psi(j)$ in (27) is the covariance of $r^{Re}(j)$ and $r^{Im}(j)$. It is introduced for cost saving since it is shared by all users, costing L multiplications and L/2 additions per coded bit per user. (Recall that there are

- For the derivation of (29), see the Appendix.
- A similar procedure can be used to estimate $x_k^{Im}(j)$ based on $\{Im(\overline{h_{k,l}}r(j+l)), l=0,\cdots,L-1\}.$
- If the cost related to $\Psi(j)$ is ignored, the complexity of Algorithm 3 per coded bit per user is approximately two times of that of Algorithm 2. It slightly increases by several additions and multiplications when $\Psi(j)$ is considered, but is still O(L).

E. The ESE Function for Channels with Multiple Receive Antennas

The above principles can be easily generalized to channels with multiple receive antennas. The signals from each receive antenna can be treated as those from a set of independent paths. The LLRC technique discussed in Section II.C can be directly applied.

F. The DEC Function

The DECs in Fig. 1 carry out APP decoding using the output of the ESE as the input. With BPSK signaling, their output is the extrinsic LLRs $\{e_{DEC}(x_k(j))\}$ of $\{x_k(j)\}$ defined in (1), which are used to generate the following statistics

$$E(x_k(j)) = \tanh(e_{DEC}(x_k(j))/2), \qquad (33)$$

$$Var(x_k(j)) = 1 - (E(x_k(j)))^2.$$
 (34)

(With QPSK signaling, the DEC outputs are the extrinsic LLRs for $\{x_k^{Re}(j)\}$ and $\{x_k^{Im}(j)\}$.) As discussed above, $\{\mathrm{E}(x_k(j))\}$ and $\{\mathrm{Var}(x_k(j))\}$ will be used in the ESE to update the interference mean and variance in the next iteration. Initially, we set $\mathrm{E}(x_k(j))=0$ and $\mathrm{Var}(x_k(j))=1$ for $\forall k,j$, implying no information from DECs.

APP decoding is a standard operation [1] and so we will not discuss it in detail. We will only consider a special case of C in Fig. 1 that is formed by serially concatenating a sub-code C_{FEC} (the same for every user) and a length-S repetition code C_{REP} . This scheme is not optimized from performance point of view, as the repetition code is actually a very "poor" code. However, this structure does have the advantage of flexibility regarding rate.

The input data sequence of each user is first encoded by C_{FEC} , generating $\{b_k(i), i=1,2,\ldots\}$. Then each $b_k(i)$ is repeated S times by C_{REP} , producing $\{c_k(j)\}$. For simplicity, we focus on those replicas related to $b_k(1)$, i.e., $\{c_k(j), j=1,2,\ldots,S\}$. The treatment for replicas of $b_k(i)$ with i>1 is similar. The DEC for C carries out the following operations. For simplicity, we assume BPSK modulation.

(i) Obtain the estimate of each $b_k(i)$ based on $\{e_{ESE}(x_k(j))\}$ from the ESE. We assume that $\{e_{ESE}(x_k(j)), \forall j\}$ are un-correlated (which is approximately true due to interleaving). From Fig. 1, we have $c_k(j) = x_k(\pi_k(j))$. Then the soft estimate of $b_k(1)$ can be computed from $\{e_{ESE}(x_k(j))\}$ as [17]

$$L(b_k(1)) = \sum_{j=1}^{S} \log \left(\frac{p(r(\pi_k(j))|x_k(\pi_k(j)) = +1)}{p(r(\pi_k(j))|x_k(\pi_k(j)) = -1)} \right)$$
$$= \sum_{j=1}^{S} e_{ESE}(x_k(\pi_k(j))). \tag{35}$$

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- (ii) Perform standard APP decoding for C_{FEC} using $\{L(b_k(i))\}$ as the input, and generate the *a posteriori* LLRs $\{L_{APP}(b_k(i))\}$ for $\{b_k(i)\}$.
- (iii) Recall that $c_k(j) = b_k(1)$ for j = 1, ..., S. We compute [17]

$$e_{DEC}(x_k(\pi_k(j))) = e_{DEC}(c_k(j))$$

= $L_{APP}(b_k(1)) - e_{ESE}(x_k(\pi_k(j))),$
 $j = 1, ..., S.$ (36)

The subtraction above ensures that $e_{DEC}(x_k(\pi_k(j)))$ is extrinsic [1].

Alternatively, we can use an approximation of (36),

$$e_{DEC}(x_k(\pi_k(j))) \approx L_{APP}(b_k(1)), j = 1, \dots, S.$$
 (37)

In this way, all the replicas of $b_k(i)$ have the same feedback from the DEC, so the memory usage can be greatly reduced (since we only need to store $\{L_{APP}(b_k(i))\}$ instead of $\{e_{DEC}(x_k(j))\}$). Eqn. (37) may lead to certain performance loss compared with (36). See Fig. 3(a) in Section IV below.

G. The Cost of the Overall Receiver

The DEC cost of a cascade C_{FEC}/C_{REP} structure studied in Section II.F is dominated by the APP decoding cost for C_{FEC} , as the additional cost involved in (35) and (36) are usually marginal. In particular, suppose that a turbo type code is used as C_{FEC} . Then even a single-user detector would involve iterative processing with APP decoding. In this case, the extra cost for the multi-user detector described above is mainly related to the ESE, which, as we have seen, is very modest. The overall complexity of the multiuser detector can be roughly comparable to that of a single-user one. (The exact ratio depends on the cost ratio between the ESE and APP decoding.)

III. PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

The performance analysis for a conventional CDMA multiuser detection scheme requires the knowledge of the correlation characteristics among signature sequences. It can be a quite complicated issue and sophisticated large random matrix theory has been used in the past to tackle the problem [9][10][26].

IDMA does not involve signature sequences, which greatly simplifies the problem. In the following, we will derive a simple and efficient performance assessment technique. The method is semi-analytical since some of the functions involved (related to the FEC codes) are pre-calculated by simulation (similar to [14][15]). We will only discuss Algorithms 1 and 3, as Algorithm 2 is a special case of Algorithm 3. The resultant performance assessment method is useful in many applications. For example, in searching for optimized transmission power levels, repeated system performance evaluation is involved. A fast performance assessment technique

A. Performance Assessment for Algorithm 1

Approximate $Var(\zeta_k(j))$ in (9) by its sample mean

$$\operatorname{Var}(\zeta_k(j)) \approx V_{\zeta_k} \equiv \sum_{k' \neq k} |h_{k'}|^2 V_{x_{k'}} + \sigma^2$$
 (38)

where

$$V_{x_k} \equiv \frac{1}{J} \times \sum_{j=1}^{J} \operatorname{Var}(x_k(j)) . \tag{39}$$

(<u>Notes:</u> $Var(x_k(j))$ is the variance of a particular $x_k(j)$ obtained from a feedback $e_{DEC}(x_k(j))$ using (34). V_{x_k} and V_{ζ_k} are averages of $\{Var(x_k(j)), \, \forall j\}$ and $\{Var(\zeta_k(j)), \, \forall j\}$ respectively, which can be different for different k due to the unequal fading coefficients for different users.) Substituting (38) into (10), we have

$$e_{ESE}(x_k(j)) = \frac{2h_k}{V_{\zeta_k}} \left(h_k x_k(j) + \zeta_k(j) - \mathbb{E}(\zeta_k(j)) \right).$$
 (40)

In our study, we observed that (40) leads to slightly poorer performance compared with (10), since $\mathrm{Var}(\zeta_k(j))$ carries more information about $\zeta_k(j)$ (for a particular j) than V_{ζ_k} . Thus, replacing (10) by (40) is a pessimistic approximation. However, this replacement greatly simplifies the analysis issue. Similar techniques have been used in [9][26] for CDMA receiver analysis.

In (40), $h_k x_k(j)$ and $\zeta_k(j) - \mathrm{E}(\zeta_k(j))$ represent signal and distortion components, respectively. Since $x_k(j) = \pm 1$, signal power $\mathrm{E}(|h_k x_k(j)|^2) = |h_k|^2$. We approximate the average noise power after soft cancellation (for a fixed k) by its sample mean,

$$E(|\zeta_k(j) - E(\zeta_k(j))|^2) \approx V_{\zeta_k}. \tag{41}$$

The coefficient $2h_k/V_{\zeta_k}$ in (40) is a constant factor that does not affect the SNR. The average SNR of $e_{ESE}(x_k(j))$ over j, denoted by snr_k , is thus given by

$$snr_{k} = \frac{\mathbf{E}\left(\left|h_{k}x_{k}(j)\right|^{2}\right)}{V_{\zeta_{k}}} = \frac{\left|h_{k}\right|^{2}}{\sum_{k'}\left|h_{k'}\right|^{2}V_{x_{k'}} - \left|h_{k}\right|^{2}V_{x_{k}} + \sigma^{2}}.$$

We assume that $\{e_{ESE}(x_k(j)), \forall j\}$ can be approximately treated as LLRs of $\{x_k(j), \forall j\}$ generated from the observations of an AWGN channel with SNR equal to snr_k . This implies that the distortion components among $\{e_{ESE}(x_k(j)), \forall j\}$ are uncorrelated, which is approximately true when the frame length $J \to \infty$. Recall that $Var(x_k(j))$ in (34) is calculated based on $e_{DEC}(x_k(j))$, so V_{x_k} in (39) is a function of snr_k , i.e.,

$$V_{x_k} = f(snr_k). (43)$$

In general, there is no closed form expression for $f(\cdot)$, but it can be easily obtained by the Monte Carlo method. This only involves simulating a single-user APP decoder for C in an AWGN channel with specified SNRs. We assume that all users use the same FEC code, so $f(\cdot)$ is the same for all users. Similarly, we can define the BER performance for the

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$$BER = g(snr_k) (44)$$

which can also be obtained by simulation. Combining (42) and (43), we have

$$snr_{k_{new}} = \frac{|h_k|^2}{\sum_{k'} |h_{k'}|^2 f(snr_{k'_{old}}) - |h_k|^2 f(snr_{k_{old}}) + \sigma^2}$$
(45)

where snr_{k_new} and snr_{k_old} are, respectively, snr_k values after and before one iteration. At the start, we initialize $f(snr_{k_old}) = 1$ for all k, implying no feedback from the DECs. Repeating (45), we can track the SNR evolution for the iterative process. During the final iteration, we can estimate the BER performance of all users using (44): BER = $g(snr_{k-final})$, $k = 1, 2, \cdots$

B. Performance Assessment for Algorithm 3

We now consider Algorithm 3. With QPSK signaling, each $x_k(j)$ contains two coded bits in the real and imaginary parts respectively, and V_{x_k} in (39) is modified as

$$V_{x_k} \equiv \frac{1}{2J} \times \sum_{j=1}^{J} \left(\operatorname{Var}(x_k^{Re}(j)) + \operatorname{Var}(x_k^{Im}(j)) \right) . \tag{46}$$

Similar to (38), we adopt the following approximation

$$\operatorname{Var}(x_k^{Re}(j)) \approx \operatorname{Var}(x_k^{Im}(j)) \approx V_{x_k}.$$
 (47)

Substitute (47) into (23) - (29). Then (30) can be modified as

$$e_{ESE}(x_k^{Re}(j))_l$$

$$= 2\frac{|h_{k,l}|^2}{V_{\zeta_{k,l}}} \left(|h_{k,l}|^2 x_k^{Re}(j) + Re\left(\overline{h_{k,l}}\zeta_{k,l}(j)\right) - E\left(Re\left(\overline{h_{k,l}}\zeta_{k,l}(j)\right)\right) \right)$$

$$(48)$$

where (after replacing $Var(x_k^{Re}(j))$ and $Var(x_k^{Im}(j))$ by V_{x_k} in (25) - (29),

$$V_{\zeta_{k,l}} = |h_{k,l}|^2 \sum_{k',l'} |h_{k',l'}|^2 V_{x_{k'}} - |h_{k,l}|^4 V_{x_k} + |h_{k,l}|^2 \sigma^2.$$
 (49)

Similar to (41), we approximate the average noise power after soft cancellation by $V_{\zeta_{k,l}}$, i.e.,

$$\mathbb{E}\left(\left|Re\left(\overline{h_{k,l}}\zeta_{k,l}(j)\right) - \mathbb{E}\left(Re\left(\overline{h_{k,l}}\zeta_{k,l}(j)\right)\right)\right|^{2}\right) \approx V_{\zeta_{k,l}}. \quad (50)$$

Then the average SNR for $e_{ESE}(x_k^{Re}(j))_l$, denoted by $snr_{k,l}$, is given by

$$snr_{k,l} = \frac{E\left(\left|h_{k,l}\right|^{2} x_{k}^{Re}(j)\right)^{2}}{V_{\zeta_{k,l}}}$$

$$= \frac{\left|h_{k,l}\right|^{2}}{\sum \left|h_{k',l'}\right|^{2} V_{x_{k'}} - \left|h_{k,l}\right|^{2} V_{x_{k}} + \sigma^{2}}.$$
 (51)

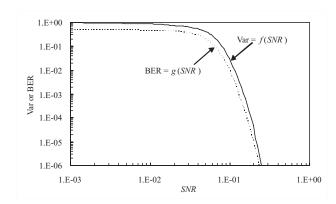


Fig. 2. The variance (solid line) and BER (dashed line) as functions of the SNR of a single-user APP decoder.

Substituting (48) into (31), we have

$$e_{ESE}(x_k^{Re}(j)) = 2\sum_{l} \frac{|h_{k,l}|^2}{V_{\zeta_{k,l}}} \times \left(|h_{k,l}|^2 x_k^{Re}(j) + Re\left(\overline{h_{k,l}}\zeta_{k,l}(j)\right) - \mathbb{E}\left(Re\left(\overline{h_{k,l}}\zeta_{k,l}(j)\right)\right)\right). \tag{52}$$

We view $|h_{k,l}|^2 x_k^{Re}(j)$ and $Re(\overline{h_{k,l}}\zeta_{k,l}(j)) - \mathbb{E}(Re(\overline{h_{k,l}}\zeta_{k,l}(j)))$ in (52) as signal and distortion components, respectively. Their SNRs are given by $|h_{k,l}|^2/V_{\zeta_{k,l}}$. Thus, besides a scaling factor of 2, (52) can be regarded as a MRC of L independent distorted signals $\{|h_{k,l}|^2 x_k^{Re}(j) + Re(\overline{h_{k,l}}\zeta_{k,l}(j)) E\left(Re\left(\overline{h_{k,l}}\zeta_{k,l}(j)\right)\right),\ l=0,\cdots,L-1\}.$ Following the discussion in [29] on MRC, the average SNR for $e_{ESE}(x_k^{Re}(j))$, denoted by snr_k , is simply

$$snr_k = \sum_{l} snr_{k,l}.$$
 (53)

Similarly, it can be verified that the average SNR of $e_{ESE}(x_k^{Im}(j))$ over j has the same expression as (52). Combining (52) and (43), we have (for either $e_{ESE}(x_k^{Re}(j))$ or $e_{ESE}(x_k^{Im}(j)))$

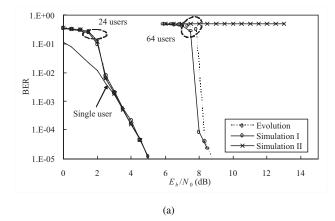
$$sn\eta_{k_{new}} = \sum_{l} \frac{|h_{k,l}|^2}{\sum_{k',l'} |h_{k',l'}|^2 f(sn\eta_{k'_{old}}) - |h_{k,l}|^2 f(sn\eta_{k_{old}}) + \sigma^2}.$$
(54)

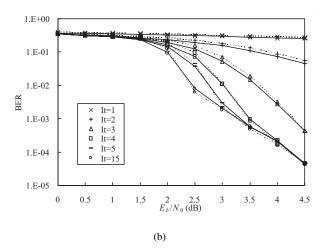
It is interesting to note the similarity between (45) and (54).

IV. NUMERICAL RESULTS

Let $N_{\rm info}$ be the number of information bits in a frame, K the number of simultaneous users in the system, L the number of taps in an ISI channel, $N_{\rm r}$ the number of receive antennas, It the number of iterations, R_C the rate of each user, and $K \times R_C$ the system throughput that is a measurement of the overall bandwidth efficiency. QPSK signaling is always assumed.

First we consider constructing C using a common rate $-\frac{1}{2}$ (23, 35)₈ convolutional code followed by (i.e., in serial con- $=\frac{1}{\sum_{i}|h_{k',l'}|^2 V_{x_{k'}}-|h_{k,l}|^2 V_{x_k}+\sigma^2}.$ (51) catenation with) a length-8 repetition code $(R_C=\frac{1}{2}\times\frac{1}{8}=\frac{1}{16})$. Authorized licensed/ds/ limited to: Harbin Institute of Technology. Downloaded on Santapetition 2.60 to the province of the contract of th





Comparison between the evolution and simulation results of a convolutionally coded IDMA system in AWGN channels. $N_{\rm info}$ = 1024 and $N_{\rm r}$ = 1. (a) For different numbers of simultaneous users K. It = 15 and 50 for K = 24 and 64, respectively. Simulation I and II denote the simulation results based on (36) and (37), respectively. (b) For different numbers of iterations (It) and K = 24. Dashed lines represent evolution results and solid lines represent simulation results (using (36) in DECs).

except that all of the users use the same sequence. The resultant codeword is then multiplied by a mask sequence with alternant signs, i.e., $[+1, -1, +1, -1, \dots]$. The purpose of the masking operation is to balance the numbers of +1 and -1, so as to maximize randomness among the transmitted sequences of different users1. Two independent chip interleavers are employed by each user to produce the in-phase and quadrature parts of the transmitted sequence.

Fig. 2 shows the curves of $f(\cdot)$ in (43) and $g(\cdot)$ in (44) obtained by Monte Carlo simulations for the concatenation of the convolutional code and the repetition code in an AWGN channel.

Fig. 3 compares the SNR evolution and simulation results of the above system in an AWGN channel with different numbers of users (Fig. 3(a)) and different numbers of iterations (Fig. 3(b)). The single-user performance is also included for reference. We compare three methods, namely, the semi-

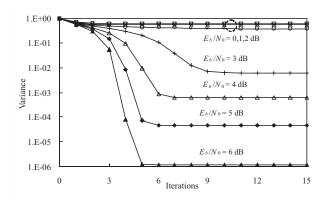


Fig. 4. Convergence property of V_{x_k} in the evolution procedure over AWGN channels at different \bar{E}_b/N_0 . $N_{\rm info}=1024$, $N_{\rm r}=1$, K=24, and equal power allocation is adopted.

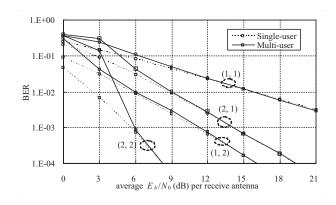


Fig. 5. Performance of a convolutionally coded IDMA system in quasi-static multipath Rayleigh fading channels. The (L, N_r) pair is marked in the figure. K = 48 for one receive antenna and K = 96 for two receive antennas. $N_{\rm info}$ = 128 and It = 10.

analytical SNR evolution approach discussed in Section III and the simulation methods using either (36) or (37) in DECs. For K = 24, equal power levels are assigned to all users, and for K= 64, un-equal power levels are used. The relative power ratios between different users are as follows (normalized power level \times user number): 1×32, 2.4883×16, 4.2999×2, 5.1598×14. These power levels are obtained using the power allocation method developed in [28]. The simulation results (using (36) in DECs) and evolution results are quite close for different K (Fig. 3(a)) and for different numbers of iterations (Fig. 3(b)), which confirms the viability of the semi-analytical method. The low-cost method based on (37) can achieve performance close to that of (36) at K = 24, but the performance difference between the two methods becomes apparent when K is large (i.e., K = 64). Also note that for K = 64, the bandwidth efficiency is four information bits per chip, which is very high compared with the results for CDMA reported in the literature [2]-[10].

Fig. 4 illustrates the convergence speed of the above system during the evolution procedure over AWGN channels. We use V_{x_k} in (39) as a measure of convergence. We consider different E_b/N_0 values, K=24 and equal power allocation, so V_{x_k} is is example like of sea and a minited the result of the consideration of the consideration of the constant of t

¹Consider an extreme example that half of the users send all "+1" and the other half send all "-1". Without masking operations, the received symbols will be all zeros and the signals from different users cannot be separated. This situation can be avoided using mask sequences. If each transmitted sequence has a balanced number of "+1" and "-1", the probability of the above event

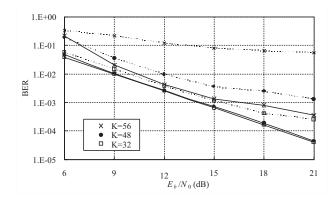


Fig. 6. Performance comparison between IDMA and CDMA systems in quasi-static Rayleigh fading multipath channels with different numbers of users. L=2, $N_{\rm r}=1$, $N_{\rm info}=128$ and It=10. The dashed lines are for CDMA systems and the solid lines are for IDMA systems.

 V_{x_k} increases with E_b/N_0 . At $E_b/N_0 \ge 5$ dB, convergence can be achieved within 6 iterations. This observation agrees with Fig. 3(b).

Fig. 5 shows the performance of Algorithm 3 applied to the above system in quasi-static Rayleigh fading multipath channels with different numbers of channel taps and receive antennas. The corresponding single-user performance is also included for reference. It is observed that the system can achieve $K \times R_C = 3$ bits/chip for K = 48 using one receive antenna and $K \times R_C = 6$ bits/chip for K = 96 using two receive antennas with performance close to the single-user performance at BER = 10^{-4} . Such throughputs are rather high, recalling that with TDMA we may require a 128-QAM trellis coded modulation scheme to achieve similar throughput and performance.

It is also interesting to compare the performance of IDMA and CDMA using the same detection algorithm. Fig. 6 shows such comparisons for different numbers of users in a quasistatic Rayleigh fading multipath channel with L=2 and N_r = 1. The main difference between IDMA and CDMA is the chip-level interleaving for the former and bit-level interleaving for the latter. For IDMA, the same parameters as those in Fig. 5 are used. For CDMA, a rate-1/2 (23, 35)₈ convolutional code is employed followed by two independent length-8 spreading sequences in the real and imaginary parts for each user. At the receiver, the detection principle discussed in Section II is used for both systems². As we can see, the performance advantage of IDMA increases with the number of users. This observation can be explained intuitively as follows. In multipath channels, adjacent chips from each user interfere each other, so their ESE outputs are heavily correlated (see (30) and (31)). According to the detection principle discussed in Section II, the ESE's outputs are used as the inputs in each DEC following the procedures listed in Steps (i) \sim (iii) in Section II.F. One basic assumption in Step (i) is that

 $^2 \text{For CDMA}$ systems, a spreading sequence over $\{+1, -1\}$ is used in place of the repetition code in IDMA, and (35) and (36) are modified as follows, $L(b_k(1)) = \sum\limits_{j=1}^S \pm e_{ESE}(x_k(\pi_k(j)))$ and $e_{DEC}(x_k(\pi_k(j))) = \pm L_{APP}(b_k(1)) - e_{ESE}(x_k(\pi_k(j)))$, where "±" correspond to the signs

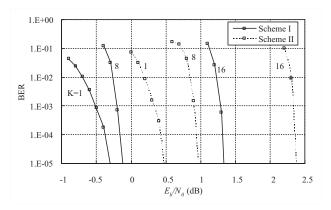


Fig. 7. Performance of IDMA systems based on the turbo-Hadamard code [31] and turbo code over AWGN channels. $N_{\rm r}$ = 1, It = 30, $N_{\rm info}$ = 4095 for Scheme I and $N_{\rm info}$ = 4096 for Scheme II.

the LLRs involved in (35) are uncorrelated. In CDMA, this approximation is not correct since chips spread from the same $b_k(i)$ are transmitted consecutively, so the corresponding LLRs are heavily correlated. In IDMA, however, this assumption is more valid. After random chip-level interleaving, the replicas of each $b_k(i)$ are dispersed randomly, so the corresponding LLRs become less correlated. Note that the MMSE method proposed in [4] can be used to treat the correlation problem in CDMA, but the complexity involved is quite high.

Next we consider using a more sophisticated low-rate code to improve power efficiency. With higher power efficiency, the transmission power of each user can be reduced, which is beneficial to cellular systems [30]. We adopt a turbo-Hadamard code [31] constructed by concatenating 3 convolutional-Hadamard codes in parallel, each generated from a length-32 Hadamard code and a convolutional code with polynomial G(x) = 1/(1+x). The information bits in all component codes except one are punctured. A random puncturing operation on parity bits is also adopted to make $R_C = 1/16$.

Fig. 7 illustrates the performance of an IDMA system based on the turbo-Hadamard code (Scheme I) in AWGN channels. From Fig. 7, performance of BER = 10^{-5} is observed at $E_b/N_0 \approx 1.4$ dB with K=16, which corresponds to $K\times R_C=1$ bit/chip. This is only about 1.4 dB away from the corresponding Shannon limit, which is $E_b/N_0=0$ dB for a throughput of 1 bit/chip, the same as that for a single-user AWGN channel [12].

For comparison, we have also included in Fig. 7 the performance of an IDMA system based on a standard turbo code (Scheme II), in which C is constructed using a rate-1/3 $(1, 35/23)_8$ turbo code followed by a length-6 repetition code. Puncturing is applied to make $R_C = 1/16$. The advantage of using a low-rate code is clearly seen from Fig. 7. With K = 16, Scheme I demonstrates about 1dB performance advantage over Scheme II, due to the higher coding gain offered by the turbo-Hadamard code. The decoding costs of Schemes I and II are quite similar.

V. CONCLUSIONS

 $\pm L_{APP}(b_k(1)) - e_{ESE}^{j=1}(x_k(\pi_k(j)))$, where " \pm " correspond to the signs where " \pm " correspond to the signs of the approximately likely as a limited to: Harbin Institute of Technology. Downloaded yn January 29,300 for the presented several simple detection algorithms for the approximately likely as a limited to: Harbin Institute of Technology. Downloaded yn January 29,300 for the presented several simple detection algorithms for the approximately likely as a limited to: Harbin Institute of Technology. Downloaded yn January 29,300 for the presented several simple detection algorithms for the approximately likely as a limited to: Harbin Institute of Technology. Downloaded yn January 29,300 for the presented several simple detection algorithms for the approximately likely as a limited to: Harbin Institute of Technology. Downloaded yn January 29,300 for the presented several simple detection algorithms for the presented several simple detection algorithms for the present of the present

to track the SNR evolution for these algorithms, based on which the performance of IDMA systems can be accurately predicted. The benefits of the IDMA scheme are substantial as seen from Figs. 3 to 7. These include low-cost MUD for systems with large numbers of users, robustness and diversity in multipath environments, very high spectral efficiency and near limit performance.

In conclusion, we have explained the feasibility and advantages of the interleaver-based multiple access scheme together with an accurate and effective performance prediction technique. We expect that the basic principles can be extended to other applications, such as space-time codes and ultra wideband (UWB) systems.

VI. APPENDIX. THE DERIVATION OF EQN. (29)

Based on (22), the left hand side (LHS) of (29) can be divided into two parts as

$$\operatorname{Var}\left(Re\left(\overline{h_{k,l}}\zeta_{k,l}^{L}(j)\right)\right) \\
= \operatorname{Var}\left(Re\left(\overline{h_{k,l}}r(j+l)\right)\right) - |h_{k,l}|^{4} \operatorname{Var}\left(x_{k}^{Re}(j)\right). \quad (55)$$

$$\operatorname{Re}\left(\overline{h_{k,l}}r(j+l)\right) \\
= h_{k,l}^{Re}r^{Re}(j+l) + h_{k,l}^{Im}r^{Im}(j+l)$$

$$= h_{k,l}^{Re}\left(\sum_{k',l'}\left(h_{k',l'}^{Re}x_{k'}^{Re}(j+l-l') - h_{k',l}^{Im}x_{k'}^{Im}(j+l-l')\right)\right)$$

$$+ h_{k,l}^{Im}\left(\sum_{k',l'}\left(h_{k',l}^{Im}x_{k'}^{Re}(j+l-l') + h_{k',l}^{Re}x_{k'}^{Im}(j+l-l')\right)\right)$$

$$+ \operatorname{Re}\left(\overline{h_{k,l}}n(j+l)\right)$$

$$= \sum_{k',l'}\left(h_{k,l}^{Re}h_{k',l'}^{Re} + h_{k,l}^{Im}h_{k',l'}^{Im}\right)x_{k'}^{Re}(j+l-l')$$

$$+ \sum_{k',l'}\left(-h_{k,l}^{Re}h_{k',l'}^{Im} + h_{k,l}^{Im}h_{k',l'}^{Re}\right)x_{k'}^{Im}(j+l-l')$$

$$+ \operatorname{Re}\left(\overline{h_{k,l}}n(j+l)\right), \quad (56)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \operatorname{Var}\left(Re\left(\overline{h_{k,l}}r(j+l)\right)\right) \\ &= \sum_{k',l'} \left(h_{k,l}^{Re}h_{k',l'}^{Re} + h_{k,l}^{Im}h_{k',l'}^{Im}\right)^{2} \operatorname{Var}\left(x_{k'}^{Re}(j+l-l')\right) \\ &+ \sum_{k',l'} \left(-h_{k,l}^{Re}h_{k',l'}^{Im} + h_{k,l}^{Im}h_{k',l'}^{Re}\right)^{2} \operatorname{Var}\left(x_{k'}^{Im}(j+l-l')\right) \\ &+ |h_{k,l}|^{2} \sigma^{2} \\ &= \left(h_{k,l}^{Re}\right)^{2} \sum_{k',l'} \left(\left(h_{k',l'}^{Re}\right)^{2} \operatorname{Var}\left(x_{k'}^{Re}(j+l-l')\right) \\ &+ \left(h_{k',l'}^{Im}\right)^{2} \operatorname{Var}\left(x_{k'}^{Im}(j+l-l')\right) \right) \\ &+ \left(h_{k,l}^{Im}\right)^{2} \sum_{k',l'} \left(\left(h_{k',l'}^{Im}\right)^{2} \operatorname{Var}\left(x_{k'}^{Re}(j+l-l')\right) \right) \\ &+ \left(h_{k,l}^{Re}\right)^{2} \operatorname{Var}\left(x_{k'}^{Im}(j+l-l')\right) \\ &+ 2h_{k,l}^{Re}h_{k,l}^{Im} \sum_{k',l'} h_{k',l'}^{Re}h_{k',l'}^{Im}\left(\operatorname{Var}\left(x_{k'}^{Re}(j+l-l')\right) \right) \\ &- \operatorname{Var}\left(x_{k''}^{Im}(j+l-l')\right) \right) \end{aligned}$$

Substituting (25), (26) and (27) into (57) gives

$$\operatorname{Var}\left(\operatorname{Re}\left(\overline{h_{k,l}}r(j+l)\right)\right) = \left(h_{k,l}^{\operatorname{Re}}\right)^{2}\operatorname{Var}\left(r^{\operatorname{Re}}(j+l)\right) + \left(h_{k,l}^{\operatorname{Im}}\right)^{2}\operatorname{Var}\left(r^{\operatorname{Im}}(j+l)\right) + 2h_{k,l}^{\operatorname{Re}}h_{k,l}^{\operatorname{Im}}\Psi(j+l).$$
(58)

Finally, (29) results from substituting (58) into (55).

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 $+\left(\left(h_{R}^{Re}\right)^{2}+\left(h_{L}^{Im}\right)^{2}\right)\sigma^{2}$ Authorized licensed use limited to: Harbin Institute of Technology. Downloaded on Jamuary 29,2024 at 03:07:08 UTC from IEEE Xplore. Restrictions apply.

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