

Efficient Spectrum Sharing Between Coexisting OFDM Radar and Downlink Multiuser Communication Systems

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Abstract—This paper investigates the problem of joint subcarrier and power allocation in the coexistence of radar and multi-user communication systems. Specifically, in our research scenario, the base station (BS) provides information transmission services for multiple users while ensuring that its interference to a separate radar system will not affect the radar's normal function. To this end, we propose a subcarrier and power allocation scheme based on orthogonal frequency division multiple access (OFDM). The original problem consisting involving multivariate fractional programming and binary variables is highly non-convex. Due to its complexity, we relax the binary constraint by introducing a penalty term, provided that the optimal solution is not affected. Then, by integrating multiple power variables into one matrix, the original problem is reformulated as a multi-ratio fractional programming (FP) problem, and finally a quadratic transform is employed to make the non-convex problem a sequence of convex problems. The numerical results indicate the performance trade-off between the multi-user communication system and the radar system, and notably that the performance of the communication system is not improved with power increase in the presence of radar interference beyond a certain threshold. This provides a useful insight for the energy-efficient design of the system.

Index Terms—Radar-communication coexistence, sum rate, resource allocation, OFDM.

I. Introduction

Radar-Communication Coexistence (RCC) has become the trend of future wireless system development, as both radar and communication systems develop towards higher frequency bands, larger antenna arrays and miniaturisation, becoming increasingly similar in hardware architectures, channel characteristics and signal processing [?], [?], [?], [?]. Thus, both high quality wireless communication services and reliable radar sensing capabilities are ensured. This motivates the study of resource allocation (RA), especially the spectrum sharing between communication and radar systems [?], [?], [?].

Spectrum sharing requires a judicious allocation to mitigate interference and optimize resource utilization for RCC. Due to the difference in the functional purposes and performance metrics of communication and radar systems, there performance cannot be optimized using a unified utility function. Instead, one should maximize the performance of radar (resp. communication) system, under the constraints of ensuring communication (resp. radar) function and resource budget.

To accomplish the desired objectives, current research methods can be broadly classified into three categories. The first design strategy is a radar-centric design. It achieves coexistence between the two by limiting the interference of the radar system on the coexisting communication system [?], [?]. In a similar vein, communication-

centric approaches have been proposed in several recent studies, which aim for eliminating radar interference through a priori knowledge or receiver design [?], [?], [?]. To this end, the third category involves jointly optimizing the coexisting systems to ensure that both communication and radar performance are satisfactory [?], [?], [?], [?].

In this paper, we consider spectrum sharing between a single base station and a radar system using the OFDM system, where the base station serves multiple communication users simultaneously. We have noticed that in related research on RCC spectrum sharing, either only spectrum resources are optimized or only power is optimized, and the existence of multi-users is often ignored in the case of joint optimization. Unlike previous methods, our algorithm not only focuses on the performance trade-off between radar and communication systems, but also considers the multi-user situation. To this end, we design an effective and practical RA scheme to satisfy the radar system performance while maximizing the total multi-user sum rate. The main contributions of this algorithm are summarized as follows:

- Different from the existing research work on spectrum sharing between radar and communication systems, we focus on resource allocation when multi-user communication system and radar sensing coexist.
- The optimization problem we formulated is highly non-convex due to the inclusion of coupling variables and binary variables. We eliminate the binary variable using a continuous reformulation that yields identical solutions, and then transform the non-convex problem into a sequential convex problem by quadratic transformation.
- The numerical simulation results prove the effectiveness of the algorithm. Interestingly, we observe that under the radar performance constraint and interference, the communication sum rate does not improve as the allocated power grows beyond a certain threshold, this provides useful insights for energy-efficient design in practical applications.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. In Section ??, we describe the system model and the optimization formulation. The subcarrier and power allocation algorithm is described in Section ?. We evaluate the performance of the proposed algorithm by simulations in Section ?. Finally, we conclude the paper in Section ?.

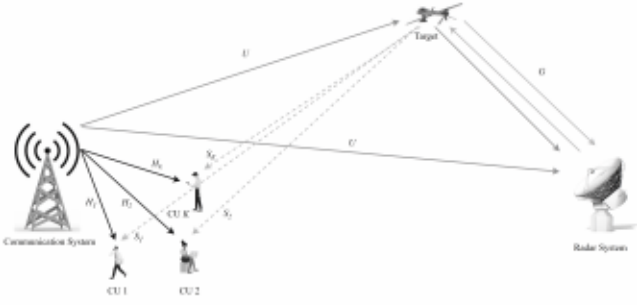


Fig. 1. Diagram for co-existence of OFDM radar and downlink communication systems.

II. System Descriptions and Problem Formulation

A. System Descriptions

As depicted in Fig. ??, we consider a scenario where communication and radar coexist, in which both the communication system and the radar system employ OFDM waveforms with N subcarriers. The BS provides service to K downlink communication users (CUs). The channels are assumed to be stationary over the observation period, and perfect channel state information for both the communication and radar channels is obtained in advance. The radar steers its beam at the potential target area according to the acquired a priori knowledge, so the radar signal does not directly interfere with the CUs, but rather indirectly through target scattering.

For the downlink communication system, CUs not only receive communication signals from the BS, but also receive interference signals from radar system in the same frequency band. In particular, for CU k , the received signal can be represented as

$$\mathbf{y}_k^c = \sum_{n=1}^N f_{n,k} (x_k P_n^c h_{n,k}^2 + x_r P_n^r s_{n,k}^2 + m_k) \quad (1)$$

where $f_{n,k}$ is the subcarrier sharing factor, $f_{n,k} = 1$ indicates that subcarrier n is assigned to CU k and $f_{n,k} = 0$ vice versa. $\mathbf{p}^c = [P_1^c, P_2^c, \dots, P_N^c]^T$ is the transmit power vector for communication system, P_n^c is the power allocated to the subcarrier n . $\mathbf{p}^r = [P_1^r, P_2^r, \dots, P_N^r]^T$ is the transmit power vector for radar system, P_n^r is the power allocated to the subcarrier n . $h_{n,k}$ is the channel gain from the BS to user k on subcarrier n . $s_{n,k}$ is the interference channel gain from the radar transmitter to communication receiver k on subcarrier n . x_k is the symbols transmitted on subcarrier n to CU k . The symbol streams x_k are statistically independent with distribution $\mathcal{CN}(0, 1)$. x_r is the radar symbols transmitted on subcarrier n . The symbol streams x_r are statistically independent with distribution $\mathcal{CN}(0, 1)$. m_k denotes the additive noise of the CU k . It is assumed to be distributed as $\mathcal{CN}(0, \sigma_{c,k}^2)$.

To this point, the achievable data rate of CU k on subcarrier n is given by

$$R_{n,k} = f_{n,k} \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{h_{n,k}^2 P_n^c}{s_{n,k}^2 P_n^r + \sigma_{c,k}^2} \right) \quad (2)$$

So we can get the total rate of CU k ,

$$R_k = \sum_{n=1}^N f_{n,k} \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{h_{n,k}^2 P_n^c}{s_{n,k}^2 P_n^r + \sigma_{c,k}^2} \right) \quad (3)$$

The data at the radar receiver with can be expressed as

$$\mathbf{y}_r = \sum_{n=1}^N (x_r P_n^r g_n^2 + \sum_{k=1}^K f_{n,k} x_k P_n^c u_n^2 + m_r) \quad (4)$$

where g_n is the channel gain of radar system on subcarrier n , u_n is the interference channel gain from the BS to radar receiver on subcarrier n . m_r denotes the additive noise at the radar receiver. It is assumed to be distributed as $\mathcal{CN}(0, \sigma_r^2)$.

To ensure the normal operation of the radar function, we need to ensure that the signal-to-noise ratio (SINR) of the radar receiver is not lower than a certain specified threshold,

$$\text{SINR} = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N g_n^2 P_n^r}{\sum_{n=1}^N (\sum_{k=1}^K u_n^2 f_{n,k} P_n^c + \sigma_r^2)} \geq \mu. \quad (5)$$

To conclude, we have obtained the signal model for the communication system serving multiple users and the signal model for the radar system sensing a single target. Next, we formulated this problem as an optimization problem and then solved for its optimal solution.

B. Optimization Problem Formulation

We choose the sum rate of CUs as the optimization metric, while ensuring that the SINR of the radar system is above a preset threshold and satisfies the power constraint of the system, etc. The optimization problem is formulated as follows:

$$\max \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{n=1}^N f_{n,k} \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{h_{n,k}^2 P_n^c}{s_{n,k}^2 P_n^r + \sigma_{c,k}^2} \right) \quad (6a)$$

$$\text{s.t. } f_{n,k} \in \{0, 1\}, \forall n \in [1, 2, \dots, N], \forall k \in [1, 2, \dots, K] \quad (6b)$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^K f_{n,k} \leq 1, \forall n \in [1, 2, \dots, N] \quad (6c)$$

$$\text{SINR} \geq \mu, \quad (6d)$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{n=1}^N f_{n,k} P_n^c \leq P_c^{\max}, \quad (6e)$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^N P_n^r \leq P_r^{\max}, \quad (6f)$$

$$0 \leq P_n^c \leq P_c, \forall n \in [1, 2, \dots, N] \quad (6g)$$

$$0 \leq P_n^r \leq P_r, \forall n \in [1, 2, \dots, N] \quad (6h)$$

Constraints (??) and (??) ensure that each subcarrier is allocated to at most one CU, Constraint (??) represents the minimum SINR for radar sensing. P_c^{\max} in (??) and P_r^{\max} in (??) are the maximum transmit powers of the communication and radar transmitters, respectively. Constraints (??) and (??) guarantee the transmit powers of communication and radar transmitters cannot go beyond their maximum limits. P_c and P_r represent the peak power constraints of communication subcarriers and radar subcarriers, respectively. It should be highlighted that

TABLE I
Simulation Parameters

Parameters	Values
Number of subcarriers	128
Carrier frequency	2.4 GHz
Cell radius	800 m
noise variance $\sigma_{c,k}^2$	-105 dB
noise variance σ_r^2	-105 dB
Maximum transmit power P_c^{\max}	50 dBm
Maximum transmit power P_r^{\max}	45 dBm
Maximum subcarrier power P_c	30 dBm
Maximum subcarrier power P_r	30 dBm
Shadowing distribution	Log-normal
Shadowing standard deviation	8 dB
Pathloss model	WINNER II [?]

each SINR term, we obtain the following reformulation

$$\max_{\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{Y}} Q(\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{Y}) \quad (21a)$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad (??).(??) - (??) \quad (21b)$$

where

$$Q(\mathbf{P}, \mathbf{Y}) = \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{n=1}^N \log_2 \left(1 + 2y_{n,k} \sqrt{\alpha_{n,k} \mathbf{P} \mathbf{v}_n} - y_{n,k}^2 \left(\beta_{n,k} \mathbf{P} \mathbf{v}_n + \eta \sum_{i \neq k}^K \alpha_{n,i} \mathbf{P} \mathbf{v}_n + 1 \right) \right), \quad (22)$$

where $y_{n,k} = [\mathbf{Y}]_{n,k}$ is the auxiliary variable introduced by the quadratic transform for each CU k on subcarrier n .

We update $y_{n,k}$ and \mathbf{P} in an iterative fashion. The optimal y_k for fixed \mathbf{P} is

$$y_{n,k}^* = \frac{\sqrt{\alpha_{n,k}^T \mathbf{P} \mathbf{v}_n}}{\beta_{n,k}^T \mathbf{P} \mathbf{v}_n + \eta \sum_{i \neq k}^K \alpha_{n,i}^T \mathbf{P} \mathbf{v}_n + 1} \quad (23)$$

Then, finding the optimal \mathbf{P} for fixed $y_{n,k}$ is a convex problem and can be solved by off-the-shelf convex optimization solvers.

Algorithm 1: Joint Design Algorithm

Input: $h_{n,k}$, $s_{n,k}$, u_n , g_n , η , m_k , m_r , \mathbf{p}^c , \mathbf{p}^r .
Output: Communication power \mathbf{p}^c , Radar power \mathbf{p}^r .
Initialization: Initialize \mathbf{p}^c , \mathbf{p}^r and η to feasible values.
Repeat
1. Solve Problem (??).
2. Update \mathbf{P} by solving the reformulated convex optimization problem (??) for fixed $y_{n,k}$.
until convergence.

IV. Simulations Results

We consider a scenario where one BS serves 5 CUs are randomly distributed within the cell. The main simulation parameters are listed in table I.

Fig. ?? shows the sum rate (in bits per channel use, bpcu) versus radar SINR when $P_c^{\max} = [40, 42, 44, 46, 48]$ dBm and $P_c = P_r = 30$ dBm. According to the results

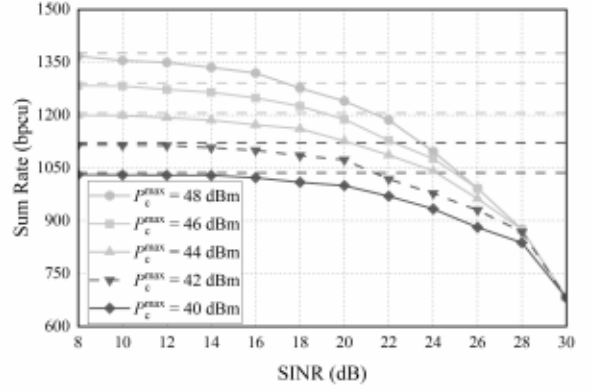


Fig. 2. Sum rate versus SINR under different values of P_c^{\max}

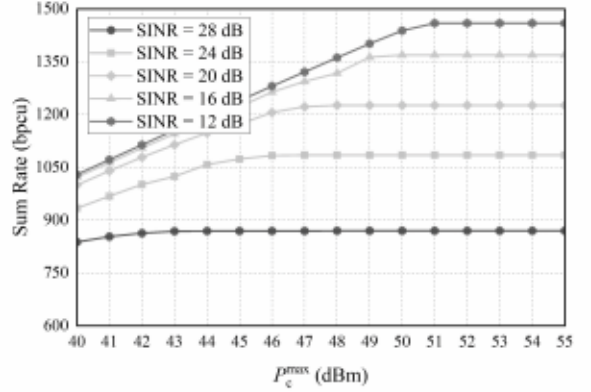


Fig. 3. Sum rate versus the maximum power of the communication system with different radar SINR constraints.

shown in Fig. ??, the proposed algorithm is a nonlinear decreasing function of radar SINR. The reason for such a result is that the transmitted signal of the radar system will interfere with the communication system, and as the minimum SINR required by the radar system increases, the interference to the communication system will become more serious. The dotted line in the figure shows the communication rate in the absence of radar interference. It can be seen that when there is no radar interference, the sum rate is higher than the sum rate when the radar interference is present with same total communication power. On the other hand, when the radar SINR becomes large, the total communication power has little effect on the total rate, and they tend to be the same.

Fig. ?? shows the sum rate versus the total communication power when $\text{SINR} = [12, 16, 20, 24, 28]$ dB and $P_r^{\max} = 45$ dBm. We observe that the sum rate increases as the total communication power increases under different SINR constraints. However, an interesting result is that although the total communication power is increasing, the sum rate converges to a constant beyond a certain power threshold. The larger the radar SINR is, the lower the threshold will be. This indicates that radar SINR constraints prevents the sum rate from increasing unboundedly as the total power increases. This result implies that the power of the communication system should be reasonably allocated under given radar SINR

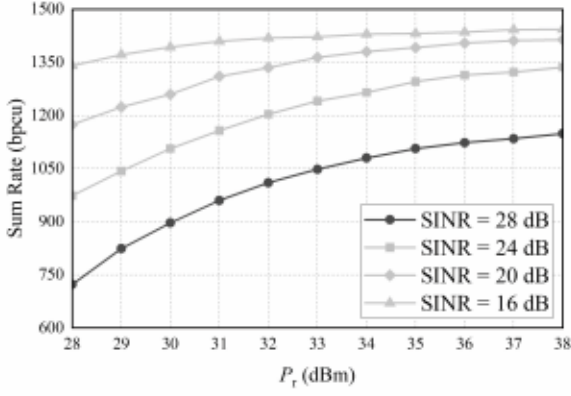


Fig. 4. Sum rate versus the maximum power of single radar subcarrier with different radar SINR constraints.

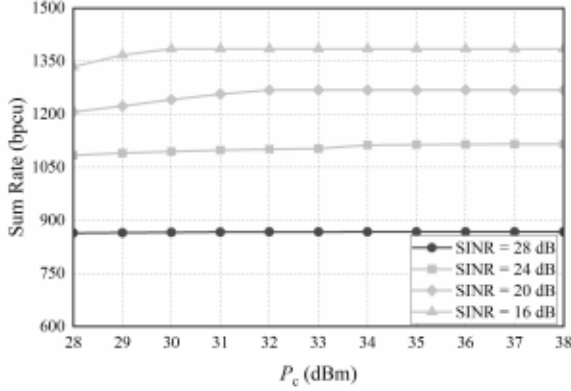


Fig. 5. Sum rate versus the maximum power of single communication subcarrier with different radar SINR constraints.

constraints to achieve power parsimony.

Fig. ?? shows the sum rate versus the maximum per-subcarrier radar power P_r when $P_c^{\max} = 50$ dBm and $P_c = 30$ dBm. Fig. ?? indicates that the maximum power of single radar subcarrier is positively correlated with the achievable sum rate of communication system, which is the case under different SINR constraints. The conclusion that can be drawn is that the smaller the constraint on radar SINR, the weaker the impact of the change in maximum power of single radar subcarrier on the sum rate.

In contrast to Fig. ??, Fig. ?? shows the impact of changing the maximum transmit power of a single communication subcarrier on the sum rate while keeping the remaining variables fixed. Overall, the change in the maximum transmission power of a single communication subcarrier has less impact on the sum rate compared to the impact of changing the maximum transmission power of a single radar subcarrier.

V. Conclusions

In this paper, we have investigated the power allocation problem in the spectrum coexistence of radar and communication systems, where we jointly allocate the communication transmission power and radar transmission power to maximize the sum rate of CUs under the constraint of radar sensing performance. Through proper reformulation, the problem containing binary variables is

transformed into an equivalent optimization problem with only continuous-valued variables, and then the computationally tedious alternating optimization is replaced by an FP optimization in vector form. Simulation results exhibit the effectiveness of the algorithm and show the trade-off between communication rate and radar SINR. Especially, the interesting result that the sum rate does not increase with the total power beyond certain thresholds can be useful for the design of energy-efficient RCC systems.