

KEITH Q.T. ZHANG



WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS

Principles, Theory and Methodology



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Wireless Communications

In loving memory of my parents

Preface

This book is intended for graduate students and senior undergraduates majoring in wireless communications, but can be also used as a reference book for practicing engineers. Human society is now in an information era, and knowledge has been explosively accumulating, especially in the last three decades. It is, therefore, impossible to embody all new developments in a single textbook. In selecting the contents of this book, we have tried to cover the most representative achievements since C.E. Shannon established his revolutionary foundation for information theory in 1948, with emphasis on the thoughts, philosophy, and methodology behind them. Indeed, the existing knowledge is undoubtedly important. It is the thoughts and methodology that help create new knowledge for the future.

The transportation of information requires energy and channel resources, the latter of which can be further subdivided into frequency resource and spatial resource. The purpose of wireless communications is to fully exploit these resources to implement satisfactory transmission of information over a wireless channel with a desired data rate and a reasonable transceiver complexity. The satisfaction is usually measured in terms of three metrics: reliability, spectral efficiency, and system complexity. The impedance to reliable and spectrally efficient transmission stems from the impairments of a physical channel, which may include additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN), interference, and multipath propagation.

Wireless communication is a legend. In early 1980s, people talked about data rates of 9.6 kbps on telephone lines, but today cellular phones are everywhere with data rates exceeding 100 Mbps on wireless channels. Wireless communication evolves from generation to generation by developing various key technologies, strategies, and principles to handle challenges arising therein.

The first strategy is related to coding and turbo principle. As revealed by Shannon, channel coding is an effective means to implement reliable communications in AWGN. Digital modulation provides a basic data rate for communications. It converts the problem of analog waveform reception to the one of discrete statistical decision, thereby significantly increasing the transmission reliability. However, digital modulation, when used alone, leaves a big gap from the maximum possible rate that can be offered by a physical channel. This gap can be shortened by error-correction encoding. It is, thus, fair to say that without coding there is no modern communications. Through coding, certain algebraic structures are embedded into an information-bearing sequence. Once embedded, such code structures belong not only to the coder/decoder subsystem but also to the entire communications link. Thus, symbol estimation at the receiver end is, in essence, a global optimization problem. Global decoding, though optimal, is computationally prohibitive in practice. A much less complex strategy moving along this way is the *turbo principle*. By combining code structures with other functional blocks of communications for joint processing in an iterative manner, the turbo principle represents a great leap toward the globally optimized symbol estimation. The consequence is a significant improvement in reliability and spectral efficiency.

The second principle is the orthogonality strategy used in interference management. Traditional channel equalization represents a defensive strategy for combating inter-symbol interference (ISI), aiming to minimize the influence of ISI under certain criteria, the details of which are addressed in Chapter 9. In its nature, ISI has a similar generating mechanism as multi-user interference (MUI). The only difference is that the former results from a set of sequentially transmitted symbols that compete for the use of a temporally dispersive channel, whereas the latter stems from sharing the same frequency band by multiple users. Thus, a proactive strategy is to remove the source that generates interference by assigning an orthogonal or approximately

orthogonal subspace to each symbol or each user to avoid their mutual collision. This orthogonality principle is a widely used paradigm in modern wireless communications. The application of this paradigm to a temporally dispersive ISI channel of Toeplitz structure leads to the multi-carrier or the orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM) technique, as detailed in Chapter 10. Using this orthogonality paradigm to multiple-access channels, the resulting schemes are code division multiple access (CDMA), time division multiple access (TDMA), and OFDMA, which are treated in Chapter 12. The orthogonality principle is also successfully applied to adjacent-interference management in cellular systems.

The third principle is multiple strategies for exploiting spatial electromagnetic resources. Mobile communication is characterized by multipath propagation, a phenomenon that causes a significant drop in the system error performance. Therefore, multipath fading is historically treated as a harmful effect, as clearly indicated in the phrase “combating multipath fading.” However, random scattering and random motion that create multipath propagation constitute a two-dimensional random field. Such a random field embodies an abnormal channel capacity, representing a spatially distributive resource for wireless communications. Powerful techniques to exploit such a spatial resource include diversity combining, multi-input multi-output (MIMO) antenna systems, and cooperative relay communications, which are addressed in Chapter 7, Chapter 13, and Chapter 14, respectively.

Apart from the aforementioned principles, energy allocation between modulation/coding, over different frequencies, and along spatial beamformers to approach the channel capacity is also very important. The discussion of this issue is scattered over different chapters. Fully understanding the above principles represents a grasp of thoughts behind modern wireless communications, at least at a philosophical level. This is one effort made in this book.

In addition to providing the reader with an overall picture of wireless communications, we also carefully expound its technical details, not only covering a variety of main results and conclusions but also revealing the methodology used for their derivations. The solution to a communication problem is often not unique, but rather allows different formulations. This flexibility is demonstrated in this book, wherever possible, to provide a platform for students to foster their ability of divergent thinking.

Many problems at the end of each chapter are adapted from IEEE Transactions papers, aiming to give students a smooth transition from the course study to frontier research. As an aid to the teacher of the course, a solution manual for all the problems in the book is available from the publisher. The book covers enough topics and materials for two one-semester courses. For example, Chapters 3–7 and Chapter 9 can be used for a course on wireless communications, while Chapter 8 and Chapters 10–15 can be used for a course on advanced topics in wireless communications.

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Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>xvii</i>
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>xix</i>
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Resources for wireless communications	3
1.2 Shannon's theory	3
1.3 Three challenges	4
1.4 Digital modulation versus coding	5
1.5 Philosophy to combat interference	6
1.6 Evolution of processing strategy	7
1.7 Philosophy to exploit two-dimensional random fields	7
1.8 Cellular: Concept, Evolution, and 5G	8
1.9 The structure of this book	10
1.10 Repeatedly used abbreviations and math symbols	10
Problems	12
References	12
2 Mathematical Background	14
2.1 Introduction	14
2.2 Congruence mapping and signal spaces	14
2.3 Estimation methods	19
2.3.1 Maximum likelihood estimation (MLE)	20
2.3.2 Maximum a posteriori estimation	21
2.4 Commonly used distributions in wireless	21
2.4.1 Chi-square distributions	21
2.4.2 Gamma distribution	25
2.4.3 Nakagami distribution	26
2.4.4 Wishart distribution	26
2.5 The calculus of variations	28
2.6 Two inequalities for optimization	29
2.6.1 Inequality for Rayleigh quotient	29
2.6.2 Hadamard inequality	29
2.7 Q-function	30
2.8 The CHF method and its skilful applications	32
2.8.1 Gil-Pelaez's lemma	32
2.8.2 Random variables in denominators	32
2.8.3 Parseval's theorem	33
2.9 Matrix operations and differentiation	33
2.9.1 Decomposition of a special determinant	33

2.9.2	Higher order derivations	33
2.9.3	Kronecker product	34
2.10	Additional reading	34
	Problems	34
	References	35
3	Channel Characterization	37
3.1	Introduction	37
3.2	Large-scale propagation loss	38
3.2.1	Free-space propagation	39
3.2.2	Average large-scale path loss in mobile	40
3.2.3	Okumura's model	40
3.2.4	Hata's model	42
3.2.5	JTC air model	42
3.3	Lognormal shadowing	43
3.4	Multipath characterization for local behavior	44
3.4.1	An equivalent bandwidth	44
3.4.2	Temporal evolution of path coefficients	49
3.4.3	Statistical description of local fluctuation	50
3.4.4	Complex Gaussian distribution	50
3.4.5	Nakagami fading	51
3.4.6	Clarke–Jakes model	52
3.5	Composite model to incorporate multipath and shadowing	53
3.6	Example to illustrate the use of various models	54
3.6.1	Static design	54
3.6.2	Dynamic design	55
3.6.3	Large-scale design	56
3.7	Generation of correlated fading channels	56
3.7.1	Rayleigh fading with given covariance structure	56
3.7.2	Correlated Nakagami fading	57
3.7.3	Complex correlated Nakagami channels	62
3.7.4	Correlated lognormal shadowing	62
3.7.5	Fitting a lognormal sum	64
3.8	Summary	65
3.9	Additional reading	66
	Problems	66
	References	68
4	Digital Modulation	70
4.1	Introduction	70
4.2	Signals and signal space	71
4.3	Optimal MAP and ML receivers	72
4.4	Detection of two arbitrary waveforms	74
4.5	MPSK	77
4.5.1	BPSK	77
4.5.2	QPSK	79
4.5.3	MPSK	81

4.6	M -ary QAM	85
4.7	Noncoherent scheme—differential MPSK	88
4.7.1	Differential BPSK	88
4.7.2	Differential MPSK	89
4.7.3	Connection to MPSK	89
4.8	MFSK	90
4.8.1	BFSK with coherent detection	90
4.9	Noncoherent MFSK	92
4.10	Bit error probability versus symbol error probability	93
4.10.1	Orthogonal MFSK	93
4.10.2	Square M-QAM	93
4.10.3	Gray-mapped MPSK	94
4.11	Spectral efficiency	96
4.12	Summary of symbol error probability for various schemes	97
4.13	Additional reading	98
	Problems	98
	References	102
5	Minimum Shift Keying	103
5.1	Introduction	103
5.2	MSK	104
5.3	de Buda's approach	105
5.3.1	The basic idea and key equations	105
5.4	Properties of MSK signals	106
5.5	Understanding MSK	108
5.5.1	MSK as FSK	108
5.5.2	MSK as offset PSK	109
5.6	Signal space	109
5.7	MSK power spectrum	110
5.8	Alternative scheme—differential encoder	113
5.9	Transceivers for MSK signals	115
5.10	Gaussian-shaped MSK	116
5.11	Massey's approach to MSK	117
5.11.1	Modulation	117
5.11.2	Receiver structures and error performance	117
5.12	Summary	119
	Problems	119
	References	120
6	Channel Coding	121
6.1	Introduction and philosophical discussion	121
6.2	Preliminary of Galois fields	123
6.2.1	Fields	123
6.2.2	Galois fields	124
6.2.3	The primitive element of $\text{GF}(q)$	124
6.2.4	Construction of $\text{GF}(q)$	124

6.3	Linear block codes	126
6.3.1	Syndrome test	129
6.3.2	Error-correcting capability	132
6.4	Cyclic codes	134
6.4.1	The order of elements: a concept in $GF(q)$	134
6.4.2	Cyclic codes	136
6.4.3	Generator, parity check, and syndrome polynomial	137
6.4.4	Systematic form	138
6.4.5	Syndrome and decoding	140
6.5	Golay code	141
6.6	BCH codes	141
6.6.1	Generating BCH codes	142
6.6.2	Decoding BCH codes	143
6.7	Convolutional codes	146
6.7.1	Examples	146
6.7.2	Code generation	147
6.7.3	Markovian property	148
6.7.4	Decoding with hard-decision Viterbi algorithm	150
6.7.5	Transfer function	152
6.7.6	Choice of convolutional codes	155
6.7.7	Philosophy behind decoding strategies	156
6.7.8	Error performance of convolutional decoding	160
6.8	Trellis-coded modulation	162
6.9	Summary	166
	Problems	166
	References	170
7	Diversity Techniques	171
7.1	Introduction	171
7.2	Idea behind diversity	173
7.3	Structures of various diversity combiners	174
7.3.1	MRC	174
7.3.2	EGC	175
7.3.3	SC	176
7.4	PDFs of output SNR	176
7.4.1	MRC	176
7.4.2	EGC	178
7.4.3	SC	178
7.5	Average SNR comparison for various schemes	179
7.5.1	MRC	179
7.5.2	EGC	180
7.5.3	SC	181
7.6	Methods for error performance analysis	182
7.6.1	The chain rule	182
7.6.2	The CHF method	183
7.7	Error probability of MRC	183

7.7.1	Error performance in nondiversity Rayleigh fading	183
7.7.2	MRC in i.i.d. Rayleigh fading	185
7.7.3	MRC in correlated Rayleigh fading	187
7.7.4	P_e for generic channels	188
7.8	Error probability of EGC	189
7.8.1	Closed-form solution to order-3 EGC	189
7.8.2	General EGC error performance	191
7.8.3	Diversity order of EGC	192
7.9	Average error performance of SC in Rayleigh fading	193
7.9.1	Pure SC	193
7.9.2	Generalized SC	195
7.10	Performance of diversity MDPSK systems	196
7.10.1	Nondiversity MDPSK in Rayleigh fading	196
7.10.2	Remarks on use of the chain rule	199
7.10.3	Linear prediction to fit the chain rule	199
7.10.4	Alternative approach for diversity MDPSK	200
7.11	Noncoherent MFSK with diversity reception	201
7.12	Summary	203
	Problems	204
	References	206
8	Processing Strategies for Wireless Systems	209
8.1	Communication problem	209
8.2	Traditional strategy	210
8.3	Paradigm of orthogonality	211
8.4	Turbo processing principle	211
	Problems	213
	References	213
9	Channel Equalization	214
9.1	Introduction	214
9.2	Pulse shaping for ISI-free transmission	215
9.3	ISI and equalization strategies	216
9.4	Zero-forcing equalizer	217
9.4.1	Orthogonal projection	217
9.4.2	ZFE	219
9.4.3	Equivalent discrete ZFE receiver	221
9.5	MMSE linear equalizer	225
9.6	Decision-feedback equalizer (DFE)	227
9.7	SNR comparison and error performance	229
9.8	An example	230
9.9	Spectral factorization	233
9.10	Summary	234
	Problems	234
	References	236

10	Channel Decomposition Techniques	238
10.1	Introduction	238
10.2	Channel matrix of ISI channels	239
10.3	Idea of channel decomposition	239
10.4	QR-decomposition-based Tomlinson–Harashima equalizer	240
10.5	The GMD equalizer	242
10.6	OFDM for time-invariant channel	243
10.6.1	Channel SVD	243
10.6.2	OFDM: a multicarrier modulation technique	244
10.6.3	PAPR and statistical behavior of OFDM	246
10.6.4	Combating PAPR	247
10.7	Cyclic prefix and circulant channel matrix	248
10.8	OFDM receiver	251
10.9	Channel estimation	251
10.10	Coded OFDM	252
10.11	Additional reading	252
	Problems	252
	References	254
11	Turbo Codes and Turbo Principle	257
11.1	Introduction and philosophical discussion	257
11.1.1	Generation of random-like long codes	258
11.1.2	The turbo principle	259
11.2	Two-device mechanism for iteration	259
11.3	Turbo codes	261
11.3.1	A turbo encoder	261
11.3.2	RSC versus NRC	261
11.3.3	Turbo codes with two constituent RSC encoders	264
11.4	BCJR algorithm	266
11.5	Turbo decoding	270
11.6	Illustration of turbo-code performance	270
11.7	Extrinsic information transfer (EXIT) charts	272
11.8	Convergence and fixed points	276
11.9	Statistics of LLRs	277
11.9.1	Mean and variance of LLRs	277
11.9.2	Mean and variance of hard decision	277
11.10	Turbo equalization	278
11.11	Turbo CDMA	281
11.12	Turbo IDMA	283
11.13	Summary	283
	Problems	284
	References	287
12	Multiple-Access Channels	289
12.1	Introduction	289
12.2	Typical MA schemes	291

12.3	User space of multiple-access	292
12.3.1	User spaces for TDMA	293
12.3.2	User space for CDMA	294
12.3.3	User space for MC-CDMA	294
12.3.4	MC-DS-CDMA	295
12.3.5	User space for OFDMA	296
12.3.6	Unified framework for orthogonal multiaccess schemes	297
12.4	Capacity of multiple-access channels	298
12.4.1	Flat fading	299
12.4.2	Frequency-selective fading	300
12.5	Achievable MI by various MA schemes	301
12.5.1	AWGN channel	301
12.5.2	Flat-fading MA channels	304
12.6	CDMA-IS-95	306
12.6.1	Forward link	306
12.6.2	Reverse link	308
12.7	Processing gain of spreading spectrum	310
12.8	IS-95 downlink receiver and performance	310
12.9	IS-95 uplink receiver and performance	317
12.10	3GPP-LTE uplink	318
12.11	m -Sequences	321
12.11.1	PN sequences of a shorter period	322
12.11.2	Conditions for m -sequence generators	322
12.11.3	Properties of m -sequence	323
12.11.4	Ways to generate PN sequences	324
12.12	Walsh sequences	327
12.13	CAZAC sequences for LTE-A	327
12.14	Nonorthogonal MA schemes	329
12.15	Summary	330
	Problems	330
	References	334
13	Wireless MIMO Systems	337
13.1	Introduction	337
13.2	Signal model and mutual information	338
13.3	Capacity with CSIT	339
13.4	Ergodic capacity without CSIT	340
13.4.1	i.i.d. MIMO Rayleigh channels	341
13.4.2	Ergodic capacity for correlated MIMO channels	341
13.5	Capacity: asymptotic results	344
13.5.1	Asymptotic capacity with large MIMO	344
13.5.2	Large SNR approximation	345
13.6	Optimal transceivers with CSIT	346
13.6.1	Optimal eigenbeam transceiver	347
13.6.2	Distributions of the largest eigenvalue	348
13.6.3	Average symbol-error probability	350

13.6.4	Average mutual information of MIMO-MRC	350
13.6.5	Average symbol-error probability	351
13.7	Receivers without CSIT	352
13.8	Optimal receiver	352
13.9	Zero-forcing MIMO receiver	353
13.10	MMSE receiver	355
13.11	VBLAST	357
13.11.1	Alternative VBLAST based on QR decomposition	358
13.12	Space–time block codes	359
13.13	Alamouti codes	359
13.13.1	One receive antenna	359
13.13.2	Two receive antennas	360
13.14	General space–time codes	362
13.14.1	Exact pairwise error probability	363
13.15	Information lossless space–time codes	365
13.16	Multiplexing gain versus diversity gain	365
13.16.1	Two frameworks	366
13.16.2	Derivation of the DMT	367
13.16.3	Available DFs for diversity	368
13.17	Summary	370
	Problems	370
	References	374
14	Cooperative Communications	377
14.1	A historical review	377
14.2	Relaying	378
14.3	Cooperative communications	379
14.3.1	Cooperation protocols	380
14.3.2	Diversity analysis	382
14.3.3	Resource allocation	384
14.4	Multiple-relay cooperation	385
14.4.1	Multi-relay over frequency-selective channels	386
14.4.2	Optimal matrix structure	389
14.4.3	Power allocation	390
14.5	Two-way relaying	395
14.5.1	Average power constraints	397
14.5.2	Instantaneous power constraint	399
14.6	Multi-cell MIMO	400
14.7	Summary	401
	Problems	401
	References	402
15	Cognitive Radio	405
15.1	Introduction	405
15.2	Spectrum sensing for spectrum holes	406

15.3	Matched filter versus energy detector	407
15.3.1	Matched-filter detection	407
15.3.2	Energy detection	408
15.4	Detection of random primary signals	410
15.4.1	Energy-based detection	411
15.4.2	Maximum likelihood ratio test	412
15.4.3	Eigenvalue ratio test	413
15.5	Detection without exact knowledge of σ_n^2	414
15.5.1	LRT with $\hat{\sigma}_n^2$	414
15.5.2	LRT without noise-level reference	415
15.6	Cooperative spectrum sensing	416
15.7	Standardization of CR networks	418
15.8	Experimentation and commercialization of CR systems	418
	Problems	419
	References	420
	Index	423