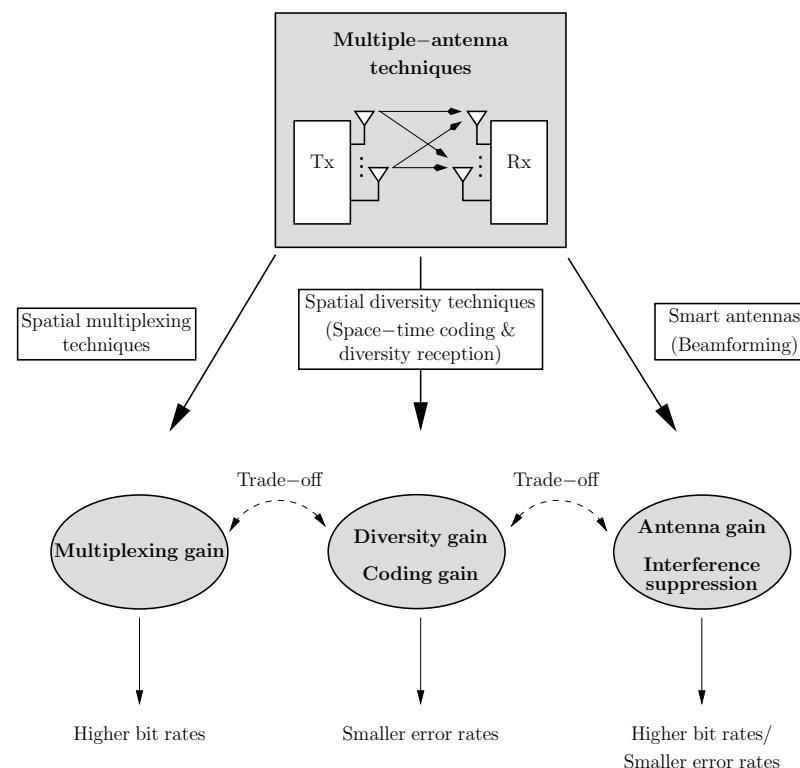


Multiple-Antenna Systems

Jan Mietzner (janm@ece.ubc.ca, Room: Kaiser 4110)

1. Introduction

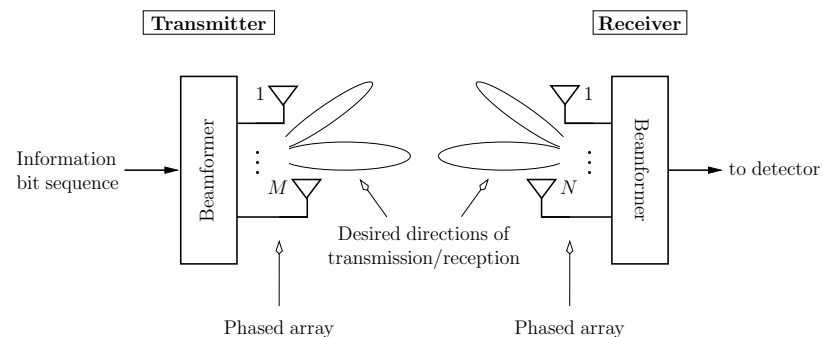
- How is it possible to build (digital) wireless communication systems offering **high data rates** and **small error rates** ?
- **Trade-off** between spectral efficiency (high data rates) and power efficiency (small error rates), given fixed bandwidth & transmission power
- **Example:**
Increase cardinality of modulation scheme \Rightarrow Data rate \uparrow , error rate \uparrow
Decrease rate of channel code \Rightarrow Error rate \downarrow , data rate \downarrow
- Conventional transmitter & receiver techniques operate in **time domain** and/ or in **frequency domain**
- **Idea:**
Utilize **multiple antennas** at the transmitter and/ or the receiver
 - Multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) system
 - Single-input multiple-output (SIMO) system
 - Multiple-input single-output (MISO) system \Rightarrow Exploit **spatial domain** (in addition to time/ frequency domain)
 \Rightarrow **Better** trade-off between spectral efficiency and power efficiency
- **Benefits of multiple antennas:**
 - Increased data rates by means of **spatial multiplexing techniques**
 - Decreased error rates by means of **spatial diversity techniques**
 - Improved signal-to-noise ratios (SNRs)/ signal-to-interference-plus-noise ratios (SINRs) by means of **beamforming techniques**



2. Basic Principles

2.1 Beamforming Techniques

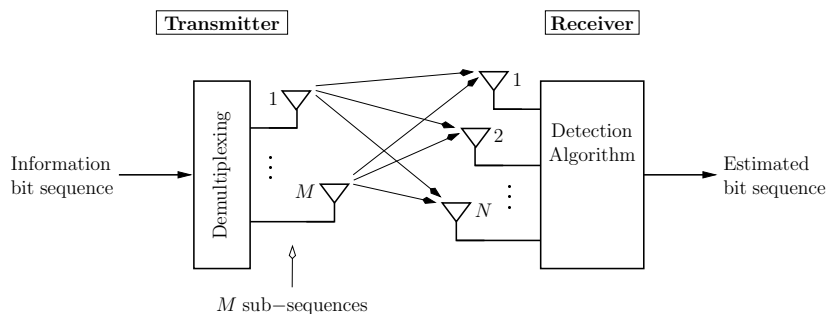
- **Goal:** Improved SNRs or SINRs in multiuser scenarios
- Beamforming can be interpreted as **linear filtering** in the spatial domain
- Consider **antenna array** with N elements and directional antenna pattern receiving a radio-frequency (RF) signal from a certain direction
- Due to antenna array geometry, impinging RF signal reaches antenna elements at **different** times (underlying baseband signal does not change)
 - ⇒ Adjust **phases** of RF signals to achieve constructive superposition
 - ⇒ Corresponds to **steering** of antenna pattern towards desired direction
 - ⇒ Additional **weighting** of RF signals can shape antenna pattern ($N - 1$ degrees of freedom for placing maxima or nulls)
- Principle can also be utilized at the **transmitter** (reciprocity)



- **Improved SNRs:**
 - Focus antenna patterns on desired angles of reception/ transmission, e.g., towards line-of-sight (LoS) or significant scatterers ⇒ **Antenna gain**
- **Improved SINRs:**
 - Steer nulls towards co-channel users ⇒ **Interference suppression**
- Beamforming/ smart antenna techniques thus enable **space-division multiple access (SDMA)**, as an alternative to time-division or frequency-division multiple access (TDMA/ FDMA)
- SNR/ SINR gains can be utilized to **decrease error rates** or to **increase data rates** (by switching to a higher-order modulation scheme)
- In practical systems directions of significant scatterers must be **estimated** (e.g., MUSIC or ESPRIT algorithm); SINR can also be optimized **without** knowing the directions of all co-channel users (Capon beamformer)
- Beamforming techniques are **well established** since the 1960's (origins are in the field of radar technology); however, intensive research for **wireless communication** systems started only in the 1990's
- **Literature:** An exhaustive **overview** on smart antenna techniques for wireless communications can be found in [Godara'97]
- **Final remark:**
 - Beamforming can also be performed in baseband domain, if channel is known at transmitter and receiver (**eigen-beamforming**)

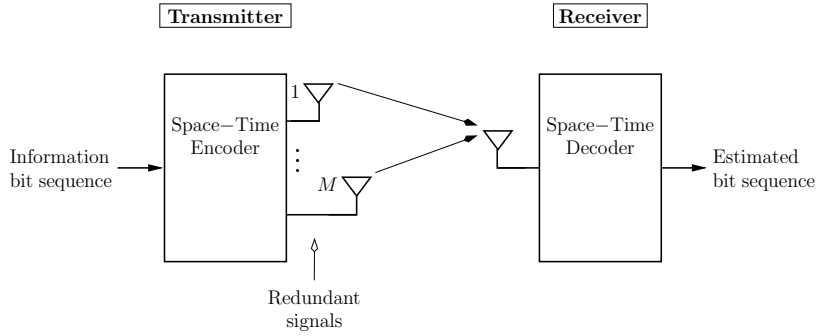
2.2 Spatial Multiplexing Techniques

- **Goal:** Increased data rates compared to single-antenna system
- Capacity of MIMO systems grows **linearly** with $\min\{M, N\}$
- At the **transmitter**, the data sequence is split into M sub-sequences that are transmitted simultaneously using the same frequency band
 ⇒ Data rate increased by factor M (**multiplexing gain**)
- At the **receiver**, the sub-sequences are separated by means of **interference-cancellation** algorithm, e.g., linear zero-forcing (ZF)/ minimum-mean-squared-error (MMSE) detector, maximum-likelihood (ML) detector, successive interference cancellation (SIC) detector, ...
- Typically, channel knowledge required **solely** at the receiver
- For a good error **performance**, typically $N \geq M$ required
- Intensive **research** started at the end of the 1990's
- **Literature:** [Foschini'96]
 (Tutorials can be found in [Gesbert et al.'03], [Paulraj et al.'04])



2.3 Spatial Diversity Techniques

- **Goal:** Decreased error rates compared to single-antenna system
- Send/ receive multiple **redundant** versions of the same data sequence and perform appropriate **combining** (in baseband domain)
 ⇒ If the redundant signals undergo statistically **independent** fading, it is unlikely that all signals simultaneously experience a deep fade
 ⇒ Spatial **diversity gain** (typically, small antenna spacings sufficient)
- **Receive diversity:** SIMO system with N receive antennas and linear combining of the received signals
 - Various **combining strategies**, e.g., equal-gain combining (EGC), selection combining (SC), maximum-ratio combining (MRC), ...
 - Well-established since the 1950's, see [Brennan'59]
- **Transmit diversity:** MISO system with M transmit antennas
 - Appropriate **pre-processing** of transmitted redundant signals to enable **coherent** combining at receiver (space-time encoder/ decoder)
 - **Optionally**, $N > 1$ receive antennas for enhanced performance
 - Typically, channel knowledge required **solely** at the receiver
 - Intensive **research** started at the end of the 1990's
 - Well-known techniques are **Alamouti's scheme** for $M = 2$ transmit antennas [Alamouti'98], **space-time trellis codes** [Tarokh et al.'98], and **orthogonal space-time block codes** [Tarokh et al.'99]
 - An **abundance** of transmitter/ receiver structures has been proposed (some offer additional **coding gain**)
- **Literature:** An exhaustive **overview** of the benefits of spatial diversity in wireless communication systems can be found in [Diggavi et al.'04]



3. Mathematical Details

3.1 System Model

- Consider a **MIMO system** with M transmit and N receive antennas
- **Assumptions:**
 - **Frequency non-selective fading** & square-root Nyquist filters at transmitter and receiver (pulse energy $E_g := 1$)
 \Rightarrow No intersymbol interference (ISI)
 - **Rayleigh fading** (no LoS component), i.e., channel gains are zero-mean complex Gaussian random variables
 - **Block fading**, i.e., channel gains are invariant over complete data block and change randomly from one block to the next
- **Discrete-time channel model:**
 - k : Discrete time index ($1 \leq k \leq N_B$, N_B block length)
 - μ : Transmit antenna index ($1 \leq \mu \leq M$)
 - ν : Receive antenna index ($1 \leq \nu \leq N$)

- **Discrete-time channel model (cont'd):**

- $x_\mu[k]$: Transmitted symbol of transmit antenna μ , time index k ,

$$\mathbb{E}\{x_\mu[k]\} = 0, \quad \mathbb{E}\{|x_\mu[k]|^2\} = \sigma_{x_\mu}^2$$

(Underlying information symbols are denoted as $a[k]$)

- $h_{\nu,\mu}$: Channel gain between μ th transmit & ν th receive antenna,

$$h_{\nu,\mu} \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, \sigma_h^2) \quad (\text{i.i.d.})$$

(Amplitude $|h_{\nu,\mu}|$ is **Rayleigh** distributed)

- $n_\nu[k]$: Additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN) sample at receive antenna ν , time index k ,

$$n_\nu[k] \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, \sigma_n^2) \quad (\text{i.i.d.})$$

- $y_\nu[k]$: Received symbol at receive antenna ν , time index k

- **Matrix-vector model**

- Transmitted vector: $\mathbf{x}[k] := [x_1[k], \dots, x_M[k]]^T$
- Noise vector: $\mathbf{n}[k] := [n_1[k], \dots, n_N[k]]^T$
- Received vector: $\mathbf{y}[k] := [y_1[k], \dots, y_N[k]]^T$
- Channel matrix:

$$\mathbf{H} := \begin{bmatrix} h_{1,1} & \cdots & h_{1,M} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ h_{N,1} & \cdots & h_{N,M} \end{bmatrix}$$

\Rightarrow **System model:**

$$\mathbf{y}[k] = \mathbf{H} \mathbf{x}[k] + \mathbf{n}[k] \quad (1)$$

3.2 Eigen-Beamforming

- Consider a **quadratic** MIMO system with $M = N > 1$ antennas
- Assume that the instantaneous realization of the channel matrix is **perfectly known** both at the transmitter **and** at the receiver
- **Eigenvalue decomposition** of \mathbf{H} :

$$\mathbf{H} := \mathbf{U}\mathbf{\Lambda}\mathbf{U}^H \quad (2)$$

\mathbf{U} : **Unitary** ($N \times N$)-matrix, i.e., $\mathbf{U}^H\mathbf{U} = \mathbf{I}_N$

$\mathbf{\Lambda}$: **Diagonal** ($N \times N$)-matrix containing eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N$ of \mathbf{H} :

$$\mathbf{\Lambda} = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N) = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & \lambda_N \end{bmatrix}$$

- Since \mathbf{H} is perfectly known, transmitter and receiver can **calculate** the matrix \mathbf{U} (e.g., using the Jacobian algorithm [Golub et al.'96, Ch. 8.4])
 - **Eigen-beamforming:**
 - Instead of $\mathbf{x}[k]$, transmitter sends **pre-processed** vector $\mathbf{x}'[k] := \mathbf{U}\mathbf{x}[k]$
 - The received vector $\mathbf{y}'[k]$ is **post-processed** as $\mathbf{U}^H\mathbf{y}'[k] =: \mathbf{y}[k]$
- $$\Rightarrow \mathbf{y}[k] = \mathbf{U}^H\mathbf{y}'[k] = \mathbf{U}^H(\mathbf{H}\mathbf{x}'[k] + \mathbf{n}[k]) = \mathbf{U}^H\mathbf{H}\mathbf{U}\mathbf{x}[k] + \underbrace{\mathbf{U}^H\mathbf{n}[k]}_{=: \bar{\mathbf{n}}[k]}$$
- $$= \mathbf{U}^H\mathbf{U}\mathbf{\Lambda}\mathbf{U}^H\mathbf{U}\mathbf{x}[k] + \bar{\mathbf{n}}[k] = \mathbf{\Lambda}\mathbf{x}[k] + \bar{\mathbf{n}}[k]$$
- $$\Rightarrow y_\nu[k] = \lambda_\nu x_\mu[k] + \bar{n}_\nu[k] \quad \text{for all } \mu, \nu = 1, \dots, N \quad (3)$$
- Thus, assuming full rank ($\lambda_1 \neq 0, \dots, \lambda_N \neq 0$) we have N parallel scalar channels **without** spatial interference (i.e., data rate enhanced by factor N compared to single-antenna system)
 - Noise samples $\bar{n}_\nu[k]$ are **still** i.i.d. $\sim \mathcal{CN}(0, \sigma_n^2)$, due to unitarity of \mathbf{U}

- **Transmit power allocation:**

In addition, the transmit power allocated to the parallel channels can be **optimized**, based on the instantaneous SNRs $\frac{|\lambda_\nu|^2 \sigma_{x_\mu}^2}{\sigma_n^2}$ ($\nu = 1, \dots, N$) and a certain optimization criterion

3.3 Spatial Multiplexing

- Consider a **MIMO system** with $N \geq M > 1$ antennas (For $N < M$, the system is inherently rank-deficient)
- Assume that the instantaneous realization of the channel matrix is **known solely** at the receiver
- **Linear ZF detection:** Received vector $\mathbf{y}[k]$ is **post-processed** as

$$\mathbf{z}_{\text{ZF}}[k] := (\mathbf{H}^H\mathbf{H})^{-1}\mathbf{H}^H\mathbf{y}[k] =: \mathbf{H}^+\mathbf{y}[k] \quad (4)$$

(\mathbf{H}^+ : Left-hand pseudo-inverse of \mathbf{H} ; for $M = N$ and full rank use \mathbf{H}^{-1})

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{z}_{\text{ZF}}[k] = \mathbf{H}^+\mathbf{y}[k] = \mathbf{H}^+(\mathbf{H}\mathbf{x}[k] + \mathbf{n}[k]) = \mathbf{x}[k] + \mathbf{H}^+\mathbf{n}[k],$$

i.e., spatial interference **completely removed**; however, variance of the resulting noise samples may be significantly **enhanced**

- **Linear MMSE detection:** (assume $\sigma_{x_1}^2 = \dots = \sigma_{x_M}^2 =: \sigma_x^2$)
Received vector $\mathbf{y}[k]$ is **post-processed** as

$$\mathbf{z}_{\text{MMSE}}[k] := (\mathbf{H}^H\mathbf{H} + \sigma_n^2/\sigma_x^2 \cdot \mathbf{I}_M)^{-1}\mathbf{H}^H\mathbf{y}[k] \quad (5)$$

- Usually **better** performance than ZF detection, since better **trade-off** between spatial interference mitigation & noise enhancement
- For high SNR values ($\sigma_n^2 \rightarrow 0$), both detectors become **equivalent**
- Performance of ZF/ MMSE detection often quite **poor**, unless $N \gg M$

- **ML detection:**

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\text{ML}}[k] := \underset{\tilde{\mathbf{x}}[k]}{\operatorname{argmin}} \|\mathbf{y}[k] - \mathbf{H}\tilde{\mathbf{x}}[k]\|^2 \quad (6)$$

- For example, **brute-force** search over all possible hypotheses $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}[k]$ for the transmitted vector $\mathbf{x}[k]$

⇒ For Q -ary modulation scheme, there are Q^M possibilities

⇒ **Optimal** detection strategy (w.r.t. ML criterion), but very **complex**

- **SIC detection:**

- **Good trade-off** between complexity and performance
- Originally proposed in [Foschini'96] for the well-known **BLAST scheme** ('Bell-Labs Layered Space-Time Architecture')
- **QR decomposition** of \mathbf{H} : (assume $N = M$)

$$\mathbf{H} := \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{R} \quad (7)$$

Q: **Unitary** ($N \times N$)-matrix, i.e., $\mathbf{Q}^H \mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{I}_N$

R: Upper **triangular** ($N \times N$)-matrix:

$$\mathbf{R} = \begin{bmatrix} r_{1,1} & \cdots & r_{1,N} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & r_{N,N} \end{bmatrix}$$

(There are various algorithms for calculating the QR decomposition)

- Received vector $\mathbf{y}[k]$ is first **post-processed** as $\mathbf{z}_{\text{SIC}}[k] := \mathbf{Q}^H \mathbf{y}[k]$
- ⇒ $\mathbf{z}_{\text{SIC}}[k] := \mathbf{Q}^H \mathbf{y}[k] = \mathbf{Q}^H (\mathbf{H}\mathbf{x}[k] + \mathbf{n}[k]) = \mathbf{R}\mathbf{x}[k] + \tilde{\mathbf{n}}[k]$ (8)
- Symbol $x_N[k]$ is not affected by spatial interference and can **directly** be detected
- Assuming that the detection of $x_N[k]$ was correct, the influence of $\hat{x}_N[k]$ can be **subtracted** from the $(N-1)$ th row of (8); then symbol $x_{N-1}[k]$ can **directly** be detected, and so on ...

3.4 Receive Diversity

- Consider a **SIMO system** with N receive antennas
- Assume that the instantaneous realization of the $(N \times 1)$ -channel matrix is **perfectly known** at the receiver
- **Received sample** at receive antenna ν , time index k :

$$y_\nu[k] = h_{\nu,1} x_1[k] + n_\nu[k]$$

- $h_{\nu,1} \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, \sigma_h^2) \Rightarrow$ Amplitude $|h_{\nu,1}| =: \alpha_\nu$ **Rayleigh** distributed

$$p(\alpha_\nu) = \frac{2\alpha_\nu}{\sigma_h^2} \exp\left(-\frac{\alpha_\nu^2}{\sigma_h^2}\right) \quad (\alpha_\nu \geq 0), \quad (9)$$

- Instantaneous SNR $\frac{|h_{\nu,1}|^2 \sigma_{x_1}^2}{\sigma_n^2} =: \gamma_\nu$ **Chi-square** (χ^2) distributed

$$p(\gamma_\nu) = \frac{1}{\bar{\gamma}} \exp\left(-\frac{\gamma_\nu}{\bar{\gamma}}\right) \quad (\gamma_\nu \geq 0), \quad (10)$$

where $\bar{\gamma} := \frac{\sigma_h^2 \sigma_{x_1}^2}{\sigma_n^2} \Rightarrow$ **Large** probability of **small** instantaneous SNRs

- **Idea:** Combine received samples $y_1[k], \dots, y_N[k]$ to obtain more favorable SNR distribution at combiner output (γ_{comb})

- **Equal-gain combining (EGC):** Add up all samples

$$z_{\text{comb}}[k] := \sum_{\nu=1}^N y_\nu[k] = \underbrace{\left(\sum_{\nu=1}^N h_{\nu,1}\right)}_{=: h'_{\text{comb}}} x_1[k] + \underbrace{\sum_{\nu=1}^N n_\nu[k]}_{=: n_{\text{comb}}[k]}$$

⇒ $h_{\text{comb}} \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, N\sigma_h^2)$, $n_{\text{comb}}[k] \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, N\sigma_n^2)$, i.e., **no gain!**

⇒ **Do it coherently** ($h_{\nu,1} := \alpha_\nu e^{j\phi_\nu}$)

$$z'_{\text{comb}}[k] := \sum_{\nu=1}^N e^{-j\phi_\nu} y_\nu[k] = \underbrace{\left(\sum_{\nu=1}^N \alpha_\nu\right)}_{=: h'_{\text{comb}}} x_1[k] + \underbrace{\sum_{\nu=1}^N e^{-j\phi_\nu} n_\nu[k]}_{=: n'_{\text{comb}}[k]}$$

Combiner-output SNR: $\gamma_{\text{comb}} = (\sum_\nu \alpha_\nu)^2 \sigma_{x_1}^2 / (N\sigma_n^2)$

– **Selection combining (SC):** Select branch with largest instant. SNR

Combiner-output SNR: $\gamma_{\text{comb}} = \max_{\nu} \{\alpha_{\nu}^2\} \sigma_{x_1}^2 / \sigma_n^2 = \max_{\nu} \{\gamma_{\nu}\}$

– **Maximum-ratio combining (MRC):**

$$z_{\text{comb}}[k] := \sum_{\nu=1}^N h_{\nu,1}^* y_{\nu}[k] = \underbrace{\left(\sum_{\nu=1}^N |h_{\nu,1}|^2 \right)}_{=: h_{\text{comb}}} x_1[k] + \underbrace{\sum_{\nu=1}^N h_{\nu,1}^* n_{\nu}[k]}_{=: n_{\text{comb}}[k]}$$

Combiner-output SNR: $\gamma_{\text{comb}} = (\sum_{\nu} |h_{\nu,1}|^2) \sigma_{x_1}^2 / \sigma_n^2 = \sum_{\nu} \gamma_{\nu}$

⇒ **Maximizes** combiner-output SNR; **optimal** w.r.t. ML criterion

• **Symbol error rates (SERs) with MRC:** (without derivation ;-)

$\bar{\gamma}$: Average SNR **per** receive branch

– Binary Phase-Shift Keying (BPSK) [Proakis'01, Ch. 14]

$$\text{SER}(\bar{\gamma}) = \frac{1}{2^N} \left(1 - \sqrt{\frac{\bar{\gamma}}{1+\bar{\gamma}}} \right)^N \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \binom{N-1+i}{i} \frac{1}{2^i} \left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{\bar{\gamma}}{1+\bar{\gamma}}} \right)^i \quad (11)$$

– Q -ary Phase-Shift Keying (Q -PSK) [Simon et al.'00]

$$\text{SER}(\bar{\gamma}) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\frac{(Q-1)\pi}{Q}} \left(\frac{\sin^2 \varphi}{\sin^2 \varphi + \bar{\gamma} \sin^2(\pi/Q)} \right)^N d\varphi \quad (12)$$

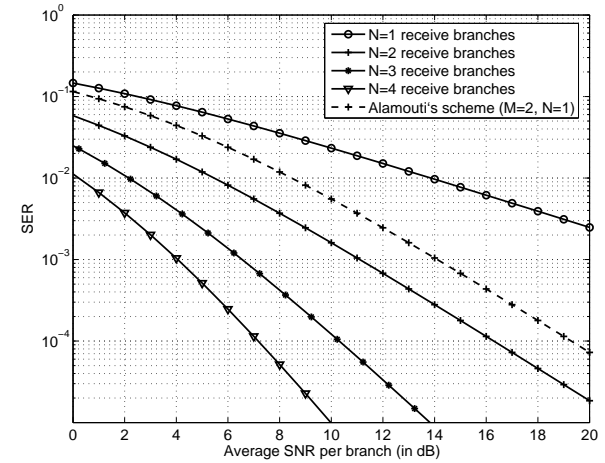
– Q -ary Amplitude-Shift Keying (Q -ASK) [Simon et al.'00]

$$\text{SER}(\bar{\gamma}) = \frac{2(Q-1)}{Q\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \left(\frac{(Q^2-1) \sin^2 \varphi}{(Q^2-1) \sin^2 \varphi + 3\bar{\gamma}} \right)^N d\varphi \quad (13)$$

– Q -ary Quadrature-Amplitude Modulation (Q -QAM) [Simon et al.'00]

$$\begin{aligned} \text{SER}(\bar{\gamma}) &= \frac{4}{\pi} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{Q}} \right) \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \left(\frac{2(Q-1) \sin^2 \varphi}{2(Q-1) \sin^2 \varphi + 3\bar{\gamma}} \right)^N d\varphi \\ &\quad - \frac{4}{\pi} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{Q}} \right)^2 \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{4}} \left(\frac{2(Q-1) \sin^2 \varphi}{2(Q-1) \sin^2 \varphi + 3\bar{\gamma}} \right)^N d\varphi \quad (14) \end{aligned}$$

Example: BPSK, $N = 1, \dots, 4$ receive branches



Asymptotic slope (i.e., $\bar{\gamma} \rightarrow \infty$) of the curves is $-N$ ('diversity order N ')

3.5 Transmit Diversity

- Consider a **MISO** system with M transmit antennas
- Assume that the instantaneous realization of the $(1 \times M)$ -channel matrix is **perfectly known** at the receiver, but **not** at the transmitter
- **Transmit Diversity:** Suitable **pre-processing** of transmitted data sequence required to allow for **coherent** combining at the receiver
 - **Example:** Send **identical** signals over all transmit antennas
⇒ **No diversity gain!** (corresponds to EGC without co-phasing)
 - **Instead:** Perform appropriate two-dimensional mapping/ encoding in **time** and **space** (i.e., over the transmit antennas)

- **Example:** Alamouti's scheme for $M=2$ transmit antennas

($N=1$ receive antennas considered; can be extended to $N>1$)

- **Space-time mapping:** Information symbols to be transmitted are processed in pairs $[a[k], a[k+1]]$; at time index k , symbol $a[k]$ is transmitted via the first antenna and symbol $a[k+1]$ via the second antenna; at time index $k+1$, symbol $-a^*[k+1]$ is transmitted via the first antenna and symbol $a^*[k]$ via the second antenna

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{array}{cc} \left[\begin{array}{cc} a[k] & a[k+1] \\ -a^*[k+1] & a^*[k] \end{array} \right] & \begin{array}{l} \longleftarrow \text{time index } k \\ \longleftarrow \text{time index } k+1 \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{cc} \uparrow & \uparrow \\ \text{antenna 1} & \text{antenna 2} \end{array} & \end{array} \quad (15)$$

(In terms of prior system model: $\mathbf{A} =: [\mathbf{x}^T[k], \mathbf{x}^T[k+1]]^T$)

- **Received samples** (time index $k, k+1$):

$$\begin{aligned} y_1[k] &= h_{1,1} a[k] + h_{1,2} a[k+1] + n_1[k] \\ y_1[k+1] &= -h_{1,1} a^*[k+1] + h_{1,2} a^*[k] + n_1[k+1] \end{aligned}$$

- **Equivalent matrix-vector model** (by taking the $(\cdot)^*$ of $y_1[k+1]$)

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} y_1[k] \\ y_1^*[k+1] \end{bmatrix}}_{=: \mathbf{y}_{\text{eq}}[k]} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} h_{1,1} & h_{1,2} \\ h_{1,2}^* & -h_{1,1}^* \end{bmatrix}}_{=: \mathbf{H}_{\text{eq}}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} a[k] \\ a[k+1] \end{bmatrix}}_{=: \mathbf{a}[k]} + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} n_1[k] \\ n_1^*[k+1] \end{bmatrix}}_{=: \mathbf{n}_{\text{eq}}[k]}$$

- **Detection step at the receiver:**

\mathbf{H}_{eq} is always **orthogonal** (!), while $\mathbf{H}_{\text{eq}}^H \mathbf{H}_{\text{eq}} = (|h_{1,1}|^2 + |h_{1,2}|^2) \mathbf{I}_2$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \mathbf{z}_{\text{comb}}[k] &:= \mathbf{H}_{\text{eq}}^H \mathbf{y}_{\text{eq}}[k] = \mathbf{H}_{\text{eq}}^H \mathbf{H}_{\text{eq}} \mathbf{a}[k] + \underbrace{\mathbf{H}_{\text{eq}}^H \mathbf{n}_{\text{eq}}[k]}_{=: \mathbf{n}'_{\text{eq}}[k]} \\ &= (|h_{1,1}|^2 + |h_{1,2}|^2) \mathbf{a}[k] + \mathbf{n}'_{\text{eq}}[k] \end{aligned}$$

\Rightarrow Two **parallel** scalar channels for the symbols $a[k]$ and $a[k+1]$
(no spatial interference)

\Rightarrow Corresponds to **MRC** with $M=1$ transmit and $N=2$ receive antennas;
however, using the same average transmit power, Alamouti's scheme
exhibits a **3 dB loss** compared to MRC

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