

The Road to 5G Wireless Systems: Resource Allocation for NOMA

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Overview - 5G Communication Systems





Figure: Qualcomm's 5G Vision [1].

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Key Technologies for 5G



• There is no single technology which can fulfill all the goals....(good and bad)

Table: Key Technologies for 5G.

Massive MIMO [2, 3]	NOMA [4, 5, 6, 7]	
mmWave Communications	Full Duplex Communications [8, 9]	
Base Station Caching [10]	Mobile Edge Computing	
Cloud-based Radio Access Networks	Visible Light Communication	
Energy Harvesting [11]-[19]	D2D Communication	

Advertisement



Key Technologies for 5G Wireless Systems, Cambridge University Press, Apr. 30 2017



Figure: By Vincent W. S. Wong (Editor), Robert Schober (Editor), **Derrick Wing Kwan Ng** (Editor), Li-Chun Wang (Editor) 5G Emerging Technologies



Core technologies/methods for fulfilling the strengthen quality of service (QoS) requirements:

- Multiple input multiple output (MIMO) [20, 21]
 - Extra degrees of freedom in resource allocation (diversity and multiplexing \Rightarrow high data rate)
 - Artificial noise generation for degrading the channel of eavesdroppers (communication security) [22]
 - Information signal beamforming, zero forcing etc. (communication security)

5G Emerging Technologies



• Massive MIMO: 5G technology candidate

• The use of a very large number of service antennas (e.g., hundreds or thousands) to serve multiple users (each equipped with small number of antennas or even single-antenna) simultaneously



5G Emerging Technologies



- Massive MIMO: Transmitter equipped with hundreds antennas serve multiple (e.g. single antenna) receivers [2, 3, 23]
 - Shift the signal processing burden from the receivers to transmitter
 - Allow simple design and cheap receiver
 - Achieve asymptotically optimal performance by using simple precoding design

Table: List of potential research problems for massive MIMO

Hardware impairment	Precoding design
Pilot contamination	Energy efficiency
FDD vs TDD	Co-located versus Distributed

5G Energy Harvesting



• Ubiquitous and Self-sustainable Networks

- Technologies
 - Conventional energy harvesting (scavenging): Collect energy from natural renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and geothermal heat
 - Advantages: Self- substantiable network
 - Technical challenges (engineering problems): Time varying availability of the energy generated from renewable energy sources ⇒ Perpetual but intermittent energy supply ⇒ Unstable communication service [11, 12]

5G Energy Harvesting



Hybrid powered base station networks



Overview - Energy Harvesting



- "New" energy harvesting technology: RF-based Energy Harvesting/ Wireless powered communications [13]-[19]
 - Collect energy from background radio frequency (RF) electromagnetic (EM) waves from ambient transmitters
 - Major Applications: RFID, body area networks, wireless sensor networks, Machine-to-Machine (M2M) communications, Internet of things (IoT), etc [25, 26].

5G Energy Harvesting





Table: List of potential research problems for massive MIMO

Resource allocation	Protocol design
Model design	Energy efficiency optimization

Overview - NOMA



In 4G communication systems, orthogonal frequency division multiple access (OFDMA):

- A wide band signal is divided into many narrow band subcarriers (e.g. 64→2048) and each subcarrier is assigned to at most one user
- Channel equalization is simplified
- Provide frequency diversity and multiuser diversity



Motivation for NOMA



OFDMA: High flexibility in resource allocation:

The Physical Resource Block (PRB) is the basic unit of allocation.

- 12 subcarriers in frequency (= 180 kHz)
- 1 subframe in time (1ms = 14 OFDM symbols)
- Multiple resource blocks can be allocated to a user in a given subframe
- Total number of RBs depends on the operating bandwidth



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Motivation for NOMA



However, traditional multicarrier orthogonal multiple access (MC-OMA) systems still underutilize the spectral resources

- Subcarriers are allocated exclusively to one user to avoid multiuser interference
- Subcarriers may be assigned exclusively to a user with poor channel quality to ensure fairness
- Orthogonality cannot be always maintained
 - Hardware imperfection
 - Doppler shift

Motivation for NOMA



To overcome the aforementioned shortcomings, non-orthogonal multiple access (NOMA) has been recently proposed

- Multiplexing multiple users on the same frequency resource
- Pairing users enjoying good channel conditions with users suffering from poor channel conditions
- NOMA is enabled by successive interference cancellation (SIC) at receivers

1. Introduction ••• Overview - 5G NOMA

Channel capacity comparison of OMA and NOMA in an AWGN channel



• NOMA achieves larger multi-user capacity compared to OMA.



Figure: Channel capacity comparison of OMA and NOMA in an AWGN channel: (a) uplink AWGN channel; (b) downlink AWGN channel.

1. Introduction ••• Overview - 5G NOMA

Uplink NOMA



- Transmission latency and signaling cost can be reduced in uplink NOMA
 - Allow multiple uplink users share the same radio resource
 - No scheduling is required
 - The base station performs SIC



System Model





- *K* downlink users, *N*_F subcarriers
- All transceivers are equipped with a single-antenna.
- All downlink users can perform successive interference cancellation (SIC)
- Each subcarrier can be allocated with at most two users.
- Power and subcarriers are available radio resources to be managed.

System Model



Resource allocation design for MC-NOMA systems is more challenging than for traditional MC-OMA systems

- User pairing on each subcarrier is needed
- SIC ordering on each subcarrier is needed (which user perform SIC and which user do not)
- In next section, we will formulate the power and subcarrier allocation design as a mixed-integer non-convex optimization problem

Performance measure



• Study the weighted throughput of user *m* and user *n* on subcarrier *i*

• Assume
$$|h_m^i|^2 \le |h_n^i|^2$$

Weighted throughput of user m and user n on subcarrier i:

$$U_{m,n}^{i}(p_{m}^{i}, p_{n}^{i}, s_{m,n}^{i}) = s_{m,n}^{i} \left[w_{m} \log_{2} \left(1 + \frac{|h_{m}^{i}|^{2} p_{m}^{i}}{|h_{m}^{i}|^{2} p_{n}^{i} + \sigma_{m}^{2}} \right) + w_{n} \log_{2} \left(1 + \frac{|h_{n}^{i}|^{2} p_{n}^{i}}{\sigma_{n}^{2}} \right) \right], \quad (1)$$

where $s_{m,n}^i$ is subcarrier indicator and w_m is the priority of user m.

Successful SIC can be performed, since

$$\log_2(1 + \frac{|h_n^i|^2 p_m^i}{|h_n^i|^2 p_n^i + \sigma_n^2}) \ge \log_2(1 + \frac{|h_m^i|^2 p_m^i}{|h_m^i|^2 p_n^i + \sigma_m^2}).$$
 (2)

Problem Formulation



Problem: Maximization of the weighted system throughput

$$\begin{aligned} \underset{p,s}{\text{maximize}} & \sum_{i=1}^{N_{F}} \sum_{m=1}^{K} \sum_{n=1}^{K} s_{m,n}^{i} \left[w_{m} \log_{2} \left(1 + \frac{|h_{m}^{i}|^{2} p_{m}^{i}}{|h_{m}^{i}|^{2} p_{n}^{i} + \sigma_{m}^{2}} \right) + w_{n} \log_{2} \left(1 + \frac{|h_{n}^{i}|^{2} p_{n}^{i}}{\sigma_{n}^{2}} \right) \right] \\ \text{s.t.} & \text{C1:} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{F}} \sum_{m=1}^{K} \sum_{n=1}^{K} s_{m,n}^{i} (p_{m}^{i} + p_{n}^{i}) \leq P_{\max}, \\ & \text{C2:} s_{m,n}^{i} \in \{0, 1\}, \ \forall i, m, n, \\ & \text{C3:} \sum_{m=1}^{K} \sum_{n=1}^{K} s_{m,n}^{i} \leq 1, \ \forall i, \\ & \text{C4:} p_{m}^{i} \geq 0, \ \forall i, m, , \end{aligned}$$
(3)

Blue color = non-convex objective function Red color = non-convex constraint

Even if the subcarrier allocation is given, NP-hard



- In this section, we apply monotonic optimization to obtain the global optimal solution
- Monotonic optimization can converge to the global optimal solution of non-convex optimization problems by exploiting the monotonicity of the considered problem
 - The objective function is needed to be a increasing function
 - The feasible set is needed to be a normal set (the convex set belongs to normal sets)
 - The global optimal point is attained on the upper boundary
 - Approach the global optimal solution by constructing a sequence of polyblocks



• Rewrite the weighted throughput in an equivalent form

$$\begin{split} U_{m,n}^{i}(p_{m}^{i}, p_{n}^{i}, s_{m,n}^{i}) \\ &= w_{m} \log_{2} \left(1 + \frac{s_{m,n}^{i} H_{m}^{i} p_{m}^{i}}{s_{m,n}^{i} H_{m}^{i} p_{n}^{i} + 1} \right) + w_{n} \log_{2}(1 + s_{m,n}^{i} H_{n}^{i} p_{n}^{i}) \\ &= w_{m} \log_{2} \left(1 + \frac{H_{m}^{i} \tilde{p}_{m,n,m}^{i}}{H_{m}^{i} \tilde{p}_{m,n,n}^{i} + 1} \right) + w_{n} \log_{2}(1 + H_{n}^{i} \tilde{p}_{m,n,n}^{i}) \\ &= \log_{2}(u_{m,n}^{i})^{w_{m}} + \log_{2}(v_{m,n}^{i})^{w_{n}}, \end{split}$$
(4)
where $H_{m}^{i} = \frac{|h_{m}^{i}|^{2}}{\sigma_{m}^{2}}, u_{m,n}^{i} = 1 + \frac{H_{m}^{i} \tilde{p}_{m,n,n}^{i} + 1}{H_{m}^{i} \tilde{p}_{m,n,n}^{i} + 1}, v_{m,n}^{i} = 1 + H_{n}^{i} \tilde{p}_{m,n,n}^{i}, \\ \text{and } \tilde{p}_{m,n,m}^{i} = s_{m,n}^{i} p_{m}^{i}. \end{split}$



• Then, we define $f_{d}(\tilde{\mathbf{p}}) = \begin{cases} 1 + H_{m}^{i}(\tilde{p}_{m,n,m}^{i} + \tilde{p}_{m,n,n}^{i}), & d = \Delta, \\ 1 + H_{n}^{i}\tilde{p}_{m,n,n}^{i}, & d = D/2 + \Delta, \end{cases}$ $g_{d}(\tilde{\mathbf{p}}) = \begin{cases} 1 + H_{m}^{i}\tilde{p}_{m,n,n}^{i}, & d = \Delta, \\ 1, & d = D/2 + \Delta, \end{cases}$ (6)

where $\Delta = (i-1)K^2 + (m-1)K + n$ and $D = 2N_FK^2$.

We further define

$$\mathbf{z} = [z_1, \dots, z_D]^T = [u_{1,1}^1, \dots, u_{K,K}^{N_F}, v_{1,1}^1, \dots, v_{K,K}^{N_F}]^T.$$
(7)



• Now, the original problem can be written as a standard monotonic optimization problem as:

Problem: Maximization of the weighted system throughput



where the feasible set $\ensuremath{\mathbb{X}}$ is given by

$$\mathcal{L} = \left\{ \mathbf{z} \mid 1 \leq z_d \leq rac{f_d(ilde{\mathbf{p}})}{g_d(ilde{\mathbf{p}})}, ilde{\mathbf{p}} \in \mathscr{P}, \mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{S}, orall d
ight\},$$

where \mathcal{P} and S are the feasible sets spanned by constraints C1, C3, and C4.



 The equivalent monotonic optimization problem in (8) can be solved optimally via outer polyblock approximation algorithm.



Figure: Illustration of the outer polyblock approximation algorithm for D = 2. The red star is the optimal point on the boundary of the feasible set \mathcal{Z} .



- The proposed monotonic optimization based resource allocation algorithm achieves the globally optimal solution. However, the computational complexity grows exponentially with $D = 2N_{\rm F}K^2$.
- In next section, we propose a suboptimal algorithm to reduce complexity while achieving a close-to-optimal performance.



- The product term $\tilde{p}_{m,n,m}^i = s_{m,n}^i p_m^i$ is an obstacle for efficient algorithm design.
- We adopt the big-M formulation to decompose the product terms. In particular, we impose the following additional constraints:

C5:
$$\tilde{p}_{m,n,m}^{l} \leq P_{\max}s_{m,n}^{l}, \forall m, n, i,$$

C6: $\tilde{p}_{m,n,m}^{i} \leq p_{m}^{i}, \forall m, n, i,$
C7: $\tilde{p}_{m,n,m}^{i} \geq p_{m}^{i} - (1 - s_{m,n}^{i})P_{\max}, \forall m, n, i, \text{ and}$
C8: $\tilde{p}_{m,n,m}^{i} \geq 0, \forall m, n, i.$



• Then, we rewrite the non-convex integer constraint C2: $s_{m,n}^i \in \{0, 1\}$ in its equivalent form:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{C2a:} \ &\sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{F}}} \sum_{m=1}^{K} \sum_{n=1}^{K} s_{m,n}^{i} - \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{F}}} \sum_{m=1}^{K} \sum_{n=1}^{K} (s_{m,n}^{i})^{2} \leq 0 \quad \text{and} \\ \text{C2b:} \ &0 \leq s_{m,n}^{i} \leq 1, \ \forall m, n, i. \end{aligned}$$

• However, the constraint C2a is still a non-convex constraint.



 In order to handle the non-convex constraint C2a, we incorporate it as an additive penalty function term into the objective function :



where $\eta \gg 1$ is a large constant which acts as a penalty factor to penalize the objective function for any $s_{m,n}^i$ that is not equal to 0 or 1.

• Problem (9) is still non-convex due to its objective function



Now, we rewrite problem (9) as

$$\begin{array}{ll} \underset{\tilde{\mathbf{p}},\mathbf{s}}{\text{minimize}} & F(\tilde{\mathbf{p}}) - G(\tilde{\mathbf{p}}) + \eta(H(\mathbf{s}) - M(\mathbf{s})) \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathsf{C1},\mathsf{C2b},\mathsf{C3-C8}, \end{array} \tag{10}$$

where

$$F(\tilde{\mathbf{p}}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\rm F}} \sum_{m=1}^{K} \sum_{n=1}^{K} -w_m \log_2(1 + H_m^i(\tilde{p}_{m,n,m}^i + \tilde{p}_{m,n,n}^i)) - w_n \log_2(1 + H_n^i \tilde{p}_{m,n,n}^i),$$

$$G(\tilde{\mathbf{p}}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\rm F}} \sum_{m=1}^{K} \sum_{n=1}^{K} -w_m \log_2(1 + H_m^i \tilde{p}_{m,n,n}^i),$$

$$H(\mathbf{s}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\rm F}} \sum_{m=1}^{K} \sum_{n=1}^{K} s_{m,n}^i, \text{ and } M(\mathbf{s}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\rm F}} \sum_{m=1}^{K} \sum_{n=1}^{K} (s_{m,n}^i)^2.$$



- The $F(\tilde{\mathbf{p}})$, $G(\tilde{\mathbf{p}})$, $H(\mathbf{s})$, and $M(\mathbf{s})$ are convex functions and the problem in (10) belongs to the class of difference of convex (d.c.) function programming.
- As a result, we can apply successive convex approximation to obtain a local optimal solution.
- For any feasible point $\tilde{\mathbf{p}}^{(k)}$ and $\mathbf{s}^{(k)}$, we have the following inequalities

$$G(\mathbf{\tilde{p}}) \geq G(\mathbf{\tilde{p}}^{(k)}) +
abla_{\mathbf{\tilde{p}}} G(\mathbf{\tilde{p}}^{(k)})^T (\mathbf{\tilde{p}} - \mathbf{\tilde{p}}^{(k)})$$
 and (11)

$$M(\mathbf{s}) \geq M(\mathbf{s}^{(k)}) + \nabla_{\mathbf{s}} M(\mathbf{s}^{(k)})^T (\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{s}^{(k)}).$$
 (12)



Therefore, for any given p
^(k) and s^(k), we can obtain an upper bound for (10) by solving the following convex optimization problem:

Suboptimal	resource	allocation	problem:	

minimize _{p,s}	$F(\mathbf{\tilde{p}}) - G(\mathbf{\tilde{p}}^{(k)}) - \nabla_{\mathbf{\tilde{p}}} G(\mathbf{\tilde{p}}^{(k)})^T (\mathbf{\tilde{p}} - \mathbf{\tilde{p}}^{(k)})$	
	$+\eta (H(\mathbf{s}) - M(\mathbf{s}^{(k)}) - \nabla_{\mathbf{s}} M(\mathbf{s}^{(k)})^T (\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{s}^{(k)}))$	
s.t.	C1, C2b, C3-C8,	(13)

- The optimization problem in (13) is convex and can be solved efficiently by standard convex program solver such as CVX.
- Then, we employ an iterative algorithm to tighten the upper bound.

Results – Simulation Parameters



Table: System parameters

Carrier center frequency and system bandwidth	2.5 GHz and 5 MHz	
The number of subcarriers, $N_{ m F}$	64	
The bandwidth of each subcarrier	78 kHz	
User noise power, σ_m^2	-125 dBm	
BS antenna gain	10 dBi	

- Baseline scheme 1: suboptimal power and subcarrier allocation scheme in [1]
- Baseline scheme 2: random subcarrier allocation scheme
- Baseline scheme 3: traditional MC-OMA scheme





Figure: Average system throughput versus the maximum transmit power at base station.

Results - Average system throughput versus number of users





Figure: Average system throughput versus the number of users.

Conclusions



- The resource allocation algorithm for MC-NOMA systems was formulated with the objective to maximize the weighted system throughput
- The proposed problem is solved optimally by using monotonic optimization method
- The low-complexity suboptimal scheme is proposed to achieve close-to-optimal performance
- Simulation results unveiled a significant improvement in system performance compared to conventional MC-OMA system.

Future Work



- Employ NOMA transmission scheme in full-duplex (FD) systems to further improve system throughput.
- Investigate MISO-NOMA system where the BS is equipped with multiple antennas.
- Study resource allocation design for MC-NOMA system where multiplex arbitrary number of users on each subcarrier.
- Study robust resource allocation design for NOMA systems where the channel gains are imperfectly known.
- Study resource allocation design for uplink NOMA systems.



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Q&A

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