The Effect of Imperfect Channel Knowledge on a MIMO System with Interference

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Abstract—A common model for transmission over wireless links is that of a multiantenna system affected by an additive interfering signal. In some scenarios of interest, such as when the interferer is located close to the transmitter and performs retransmission, interference may be learned by the transmitter, but remain unknown at the receiver. In this case, it is well known that, if transmitter and receiver have perfect channel state information (CSI), then a technique called Dirty Paper Coding (DPC) is able to fully mitigate the interference. This paper studies the impact of imperfect CSI on a multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) system with interference and compares the performance of DPC with that of a scheme where interference is decoded at the receiver, which we refer to as beamforming with joint decoding (BF-JD). Unlike DPC, which models the interference as an “unstructured” random process, BF-JD exploits the fact that the interfering signal is a codeword of the interferer’s codebook. It is demonstrated by analysis and numerical results that BF-JD provides advantages over DPC when CSI is imperfect at the transmitter but perfect at the receiver, whereas this is not true for the case of imperfect CSI at both transmitter and receiver.

Index Terms—MIMO system, structured interference, dirty paper coding, beamforming with joint decoding, imperfect CSI.

I. INTRODUCTION

INTERFERENCE is becoming increasingly the main impediment to wireless communication, especially in urban areas of developed countries. To overcome interference, several approaches are currently being implemented, ranging from interference avoidance schemes to interference cancellation (see, e.g., [1]). Since interference is caused by the transmission of other terminals (e.g., mobiles or base stations), it may be learned by some transmitter in the vicinity of the interferer [2], [3]. For instance, assume that the interferer in Fig. 1 uses a retransmission strategy (HARQ), so that a given interfering packet may get retransmitted in successive time-slots. The transmitter, being close to the interferer, can decode the interferer’s packet from a given (re)transmission. Once decoding is done, in the next time-slots, the transmitter knows the interferer’s codeword and this information can be used for interference management. With respect to the time-slots at hand, the transmitter thus knows the interfering signal “non-causally,” i.e., before it is actually transmitted in the current slot. In this scenario, the problem of designing the optimal transmission strategy is about how the transmitter should better use the interference information.

If the interference is known non-causally at the transmitter, and if transmitter and receiver have perfect channel state information (CSI), then a technique called Dirty Paper Coding (DPC) is well known to be able to fully mitigate the interference [4], [5]. In other words, even though the receiver does not know the interfering signal, perfect interference cancellation is achieved thanks to the knowledge of the interference at the transmitter only. Moreover, it should be emphasized that the decoder in DPC operates on the interferer’s sequence without leveraging the fact that the interferer’s signal is a specific codeword of the interferer’s codebook. Indeed, the decoder in DPC assumes that the interference is a signal with independent identically distributed (i.i.d.) symbols or arbitrary sequences [6], [7]. What this discussion entails is that leveraging the structure of the interferer’s codebook is not necessary with perfect CSI, since optimal (interference-free) performance can be attained by DPC.

In practice, CSI can hardly be considered perfect, especially at the transmitter’s side, where it is usually collected via feedback from the receiver. This paper studies the impact of imperfect CSI on the performance of a multiantenna system with the aim of assessing whether in this case there are any benefits to be accrued by leveraging the structure of the interference at the decoder. To this end, we compare the performance of DPC with that of a scheme where interference is jointly decoded at the receiver along with the desired signal, which we refer to as beamforming with joint decoding (BF-JD). “Beamforming” refers to the fact that the transmitter can allocate some of its power to boost reception of the interferer’s signal at the receiver and hence facilitate decoding. Unlike DPC, BF-JD thus exploits the fact that the interfering signal is a codeword of the interferer’s codebook. It is demonstrated by analysis and numerical results that BF-JD provides advantages over DPC when CSI is imperfect at the transmitter but perfect at the receiver, whereas this is not true for the case of imperfect CSI at both transmitter and receiver.

The analysis in this paper is inspired by [2], where a general channel operating over a discrete alphabet and with perfect CSI was studied to show the advantages of capitalizing over the structure of the interference signal. In related works, the effect of imperfect CSI on the performance of DPC has

Paper approved by D. J. Love, the Editor for MIMO and Adaptive Techniques of the IEEE Communications Society. Manuscript received August 26, 2011; revised January 13, 2012.

The work of J. Kang was supported by the KCC, Korea, under the R&D program supervised by the KCA (KCA-2012-(09913-05003)). The work of O. Simeone was partially supported by U.S. NSF under grant CCF-0914899.

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Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/TCOMM.2012.061412.110567
been studied in [8]–[10] for a multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) system and in [11] for a single-antenna. References [8]–[10] focus on the analysis of ergodic transmission rates, whereas [11] also studies the outage probability for a non-ergodic setting. An information-theoretic analysis of the non-ergodic setting was first reported in [12]. Overall, this body of work concerning imperfect CSI does not model the interfering signal as structured. The aim of this paper is discussing the advantages of leveraging the interference structure over the standard DPC scheme.

The remainder of the study is organized as follows. A MIMO system affected by structured interference is introduced in Sec. II. The achievable rate of DPC and BF-JD are studied in Sec. III in the case of perfect CSI at the transmitter (CSIT) and at the receiver (CSIR). In Sec. IV-B and IV-C, we provide achievable rate bounds for the case of imperfect CSIT but perfect CSIR, and imperfect CSIT and CSIR, respectively. Sec. V provides some numerical examples to obtain insights into the performance comparison of the considered schemes. Finally, Sec. VI presents the main conclusions of this work.

**Notation:** A bold face letter denotes a vector or a matrix; \([\cdot]^T, [\cdot]^*, \text{tr}\{\cdot\}\) the transpose, the conjugate transpose, and the trace of a vector or a matrix, respectively; \(|a|\) the 2-norm of a vector \(a\); \(\max\{x, y\}\) and \(\min\{x, y\}\) the maximum and minimum element between \(x\) and \(y\), respectively; \(\mathbb{E}[\cdot]\) an expected value of a vector or a matrix; \(I\) the identity matrix; \(\preceq\) is used in the matrix positive-semidefinite sense; Mutual information and differential entropy are defined in the standard way following [13]; Distribution of random variable \(X\) is denoted as \(p(x)\) and similarly for conditional and joint probabilities; For a matrix \(A\), \((A)_{ij}\) denotes the \((i,j)\)-th element.

## II. System Model

Consider the \(r \times t\) MIMO system affected by an interferer in Fig. 1, where the transmitter has \(t\) antennas, the receiver has \(r\) antennas, and the interferer has \(t_S\) antennas. The received signal at time \(i\) with \(i = 1, \ldots, n\) is

\[
Y(i) = HX(i) + HS(i) + Z(i),
\]

where \(X(i) \in \mathbb{C}^{r \times 1}\) is the transmitted signal, \(S(i) \in \mathbb{C}^{t \times 1}\) is the interference, and \(Z(i) \sim \mathcal{C}\mathcal{N}(0, I)\) is the noise at time \(i\) where \(Z(i) \in \mathbb{C}^{r \times 1}\). The power constraint at the transmitter imposes the condition \(\mathbb{E}[||X(i)||^2] \leq P_X\) for all \(i\). Information about the channel matrices \(H \in \mathbb{C}^{r \times t}\) and \(H_S \in \mathbb{C}^{r \times t_S}\) may not be fully available at the transmitter and the receiver, as detailed in the next sections.

The interfering sequence \(S(i), i = 1, \ldots, n\), is assumed to be uniformly drawn from a codebook of \(2^{nR_S}\) codewords, where \(R_S\) is the interferer’s rate. The codebook is generated randomly such that each letter \(S(i)\) of any codeword is i.i.d. with distribution \(S(i) \sim \mathcal{C}\mathcal{N}(0, K_S)\) for a given covariance matrix \(K_S\). The interferer’s signal satisfies a per-antenna power constraint \(P_S/t_S\) so that \((K_S)_{jj} = P_S/t_S, j = 1, \ldots, t_S\). The interferer’s codeword \(S(i), i = 1, \ldots, n\), is known to the transmitter, so that, when encoding the input sequence \(X(i), i = 1, \ldots, n\), the transmitter can use the information about the interfering sequence. This can be done in different ways as discussed in the rest of the paper.

A rate \(R\), measured in bit per channel use or equivalently bit per second per Hz (bps/Hz), is said to be achievable if a transmission scheme for \(X(i), i = 1, \ldots, n\), exists that is able to drive the probability of error to zero on average with respect to all possible choices of the interferer’s codebook. This is the same criterion adopted in [3] (see also [2], [14]). It is noted that this condition does not ensure that transmission is reliable for all possible choices of the interfering codebook, but it does guarantee that the probability of observing an interfering codebook for which transmission is not reliable is arbitrarily small.

The goal of this paper is to design the transmission scheme for \(X(i)\) based on imperfect knowledge of the CSI \(H = [H, H_S]\) at either or both transmitter and receiver in order to maximize the achievable rate \(R\). The CSI models will be detailed below. For simplicity, we drop the time index \(i\) in the following where it does not create confusion.

## III. Perfect Channel State Information

In this section, we recall the DPC and BF-JD schemes and study their performance for the baseline case of perfect CSI at both the transmitter and the receiver. It is well known that, in this case, DPC is able to obtain the same rate as for a channel without interference (i.e., \(P_S = 0\)) and is thus optimal. Therefore, capitalizing on the structure of the interference through a scheme like BF-JD cannot bring any rate improvement. We will see in the next section that this is not true in the case of imperfect CSI.

### A. DPC

DPC is a particular implementation of the so-called Gel’fand-Pinsker precoding technique [5]. The idea behind such technique is that of “matching” the transmitted signal to the interfering sequence so as to reduce the uncertainty about the latter at the receiver’s side. Using the standard notation in terms of mutual information, the rate achievable with this scheme can be written as [5]

\[
R = \max_{\rho(u; s), \rho(x; u)} I(U; Y) - I(U; S),
\]

where the optimization is subject to the power constraint \(\text{tr}\{K_X\} \leq P_X\) with \(K_X = \mathbb{E}[XX^*]\). The random variable
**U** is matrix-valued and accounts for the use of an auxiliary codebook that is used to match the transmitted signal to the interfering sequence. Note that decoding of DPC codeword inherently treats the interference as an unstructured signal. In fact, the decoder essentially recovers a combination of the transmitted signal **X** and the interference **S** by decoding the auxiliary codeword **U**. Its distribution is ruled by the conditional pmf \( p(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{s}) \), while the transmitted signal **X** is selected as a function \( f(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{s}) \) of the auxiliary variable **U** and the state **S**. It is shown in [5] that the rate (2) is the capacity of any state-dependent channel where the state sequence **S** is i.i.d. and thus unstructured.

When applied to the system model (1) with full CSI, it can be shown [15, Ch. 10], following [4], that the following choice of optimization variable

\[
\mathbf{U} = \mathbf{X} + WHS, \tag{3}
\]

where **X** is distributed as \( \mathbf{X} \sim \mathcal{CN}(0, K_X) \) and independent of **S**, is optimal if \( \mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times r} \) is selected as follows:

\[
\mathbf{W} = K_XH^*\left(\mathbf{H}K_XH^* + I\right)^{-1}. \tag{4}
\]

In fact, with these choices, rate (2) reduces to the capacity of a channel with no interference

\[
C = \max_{\mathbf{K}_X \succeq 0} \max_{\text{tr}(\mathbf{K}_X) = P_X} \log_2 \left| I + \mathbf{HK}_X\mathbf{H}^* \right|, \tag{5}
\]

and cannot be improved upon. It is noted that with the choice (4), we have that \( \mathbf{W} = \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{HX} + \mathbf{Z}) \) is the minimum mean-squared error (MMSE) estimate of **X** given \( \mathbf{HX} + \mathbf{Z} \) (see [15, Ch. 10]). We also remark that the covariance \( K_X \) that maximizes (5) can be easily found by allocating power to the singular values of the channel matrix **H** via “water-filling” [16].

**B. BF-JD**

We now consider a scheme, referred to as BF-JD, where the decoder attempts joint decoding of the useful signal and of the interferer. Since the transmitter knows the interfering codeword, it can devote part of its power to boost reception of the interference at the receiver via beamforming. Specifically, from [2], [3], the rate that can be achieved with this scheme is

\[
R'_{\text{BF-JD}} = \max_{p(\mathbf{X}|\mathbf{S})} \min \left\{ I(\mathbf{X}; \mathbf{Y}|\mathbf{S}), I(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{S}; \mathbf{Y}) - R_S \right\}. \tag{6}
\]

In (6) the distribution \( p(\mathbf{X}|\mathbf{S}) \) specifies the correlation between the transmitted signal **X** and the interfering signal **S** and thus the amount of resources employed by the transmitter to beamform the interfering signal **S** to the destination in order to facilitate decoding of the interference at the receiver. The two terms in (6) correspond to the two typical ways in which a decoding error can take place, namely decoding **X** erroneously when **S** is decoded correctly and decoding both **X** and **S** erroneously (please see [2], [3] for details). While joint decoding is typically advantageous, in some cases it may entail an unnecessary burden on the decoder, and therefore we also allow the decoder to treat interference as noise, which achieves rate

\[
R''_{\text{BF-JD}} = \max_{p(\mathbf{X}|\mathbf{S})} \min \left\{ I(\mathbf{X}; \mathbf{Y}|\mathbf{S}), I(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{S}; \mathbf{Y}) - R_S \right\}. \tag{7}
\]

following standard information-theoretic considerations. By selecting the best decoder between the joint decoder and the one that treats interference as noise for the given channel conditions and interference rate \( R_S \), rate

\[
R_{\text{BF-JD}} = \max \{ R'_{\text{BF-JD}}, R''_{\text{BF-JD}} \} \tag{8}
\]

is achieved.

Evaluating \( R''_{\text{BF-JD}} \) (7) by using the maximum entropy theorem [13] leads to

\[
R'_{\text{BF-JD}} = \max_{K_X \succeq 0} \log_2 \left| I + \mathbf{H}K_X\mathbf{H}^* \right| \tag{9}
\]

Optimization in (9) can be easily obtained via the water-filling algorithm [16]. Similarly, by the maximum entropy theorem [13], the optimal joint distribution of **X** and **S** that maximizes (6) is jointly complex Gaussian with zero mean and covariance matrix

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
K_X & K_{XS} \\
K_{XS}^* & K_S
\end{bmatrix}, \tag{10}
\]

where \( K_{XS} \) is the cross-correlation matrix between **X** and **S**, which rules the amount of resources used by the transmitter to beamform its signal along the interfering signal. Therefore, the achievable rate (6) becomes, evaluating the mutual information (11). Optimization (11) is non-convex due to the non-concavity of the objective function with respect to \( K_{XS} \). Therefore, its solution requires complex global optimization tools [17]. Due to the complexity of optimization (11), we now obtain an upper bound to the achievable rate (11), which can be evaluated using standard techniques from convex optimization, and is thus easier to calculate. This upper bound, along with lower bounds obtained by evaluating the expression in (11) for given matrices \( K_X \) and \( K_{XS} \), allows one to obtain insight into the performance of BF-JD. Our approach follows [18], where a similar method was proposed to obtain an upper bound on the capacity of the MIMO relay channel. The bound in [18], as ours, allows to replace the cross-covariance matrix \( K_{XS} \) with a scalar parameter \( \rho \).

**Proposition 1:** The achievable rate (6) can be upper bounded by

\[
R_{\text{BF-JD}}' \leq R_{\text{BF-JD}}'' = \max_{K_X \succeq 0, P_X} \min \left\{ R_A, R_B - R_S \right\}, \tag{12}
\]

where

\[
R_A \triangleq \log_2 \left| I + (1 - \rho^2)\mathbf{H}K_X\mathbf{H}^* \right| \tag{13}
\]

and

\[
R_B \triangleq \inf_{a > 0} \log_2 \left| I + \left(1 + \frac{\rho^2}{a}\right)\mathbf{H}K_X\mathbf{H}^* + (1 + a)\mathbf{S}\mathbf{K}\mathbf{S}^* \right| \tag{14}
\]

\( R''_{\text{BF-JD}} \) is the maximum entropy theorem states that for a fixed covariance matrix, say \( K_Z \), the differential entropy \( h(\mathbf{Z}) \) of a random vector \( \mathbf{Z} \), is maximized by a Gaussian distribution. This is enough to conclude that (7) is equal to (9), since we have that \( I(\mathbf{X}; \mathbf{Y}) = h(\mathbf{Y}) - \log_2 ((\pi e)^{\rho^2} I + H_X K_X S^* S_H) \) from standard calculations and \( \mathbf{Y} \) has covariance matrix \( K_Y = H_X K_X H^* + H_S K_S H_S^* + I \).
This article has been accepted for inclusion in a future issue of this journal. Content is final as presented, with the exception of pagination.

\[ R_{\text{BF-JD}}' = \max_{K_X > 0} \min_{\text{tr}(K_X) = P_X} \left\{ \log_2 \left[ 1 + \mathbf{H} (K_X - K_X S K_S^{-1}) S \mathbf{H}^* \right] \right\}, \]

with an arbitrary positive real number \( \alpha \).

**Proof:** Please refer to Appendix A.

For given \( \rho \), \( R^U_{\text{BF-JD}} \) and \( R^U_{\text{BF-JD}}' \) are concave in \( K_X \) and thus so is the upper bound (12). Therefore, the upper bound (12) can be obtained by performing a line search methods, such as bisection, over the scalar parameter \( \rho \in [0,1] \), where for each \( \rho \), a convex optimization problem is solved.

IV. IMPERFECT CHANNEL STATE INFORMATION

In this section, the effect of imperfect CSI at the transmitter and the receiver on the transmission techniques discussed above is elaborated on.

A. Channel Estimation Error Model

We consider the following model for imperfect CSI. The receiver estimates the channels obtaining the estimates \( \hat{\mathcal{H}}_R = [\hat{\mathcal{H}}_R \mathbf{H}_S R] \) and the transmitter obtains CSI, \( \hat{\mathcal{H}}_T = [\mathbf{H}_T \mathbf{H}_S T] \), e.g., via feedback from the receiver as in a Frequency Division Duplex (FDD) system or via direct estimation as in a TDD system [19]. The actual channel matrices \( \mathcal{H} = [\mathbf{H} \mathbf{H}_S] \) are related to the estimates as

\[ \mathcal{H} = \hat{\mathcal{H}}_R + \mathcal{E}_R = \hat{\mathcal{H}}_T + \mathcal{E}_T, \]

where the CSI errors are \( \mathcal{E}_R = [\mathcal{E}_R \mathbf{E}_R S R] \) and \( \mathcal{E}_T = [\mathbf{E}_T \mathbf{E}_S T] \). Further statistical characterization of the CSI error matrices will be discussed below for two different models.

B. Imperfect CSIT and Perfect CSIR

In this section, we assume that the receiver has perfect CSI while the transmitter has imperfect CSI. In other words, we have from equation (15) that

\[ \mathcal{H} = \hat{\mathcal{H}}_R = \hat{\mathcal{H}}_T + \mathcal{E}_T, \]

where the transmitter CSI \( \hat{\mathcal{H}}_T \) is fixed (deterministic) and the estimation error matrices \( \mathcal{E}_T \) at the transmitter, \( \mathbf{E}_T \) and \( \mathbf{E}_S T \) are independent of each other and have i.i.d. zero-mean complex Gaussian entries with variances \( \sigma^2_{E_T} \) and \( \sigma^2_{E_S T} \), respectively. It is assumed that the receiver is also informed of the transmitter estimate \( \hat{\mathcal{H}}_T \) as it is the case if CSIT is collected via feedback from the receiver. Moreover, the estimation errors vary in an ergodic fashion along the block so as to give operation meaning to the concept of ergodic rates (see, e.g., [15, Ch. 8]). This assumption is implicitly or explicitly adopted in many related works such as [8], [10], [20], [21].

1) DPC: The performance of DPC for the scenario at hand, but with \( \mathbf{H} = \mathbf{H}_S \) in (1) was studied in [8], [9]. Moreover, [22] proposed an implementation of DPC with a general matrix \( \mathbf{W} \) in (3) based on lattice codes also with \( \mathbf{H} = \mathbf{H}_S \). Here we consider the more general model in (1), where \( \mathbf{H} \neq \mathbf{H}_S \). This was also studied in [10], where an iterative algorithm to find a suboptimal matrix \( \mathbf{W} \) in (3) was proposed.

To obtain the performance achievable with DPC, we evaluate the general expression (2) using the channel statistics (16) discussed above and recalling the fact that the receiver knows the CSIT error \( \mathcal{E}_T \) while the transmitter does not. The input variables \( \mathbf{U} \) and \( \mathbf{X} \) in (2) are selected according to DPC scheme described in Section III-A and in particular \( \mathbf{U} \) is selected as in (3) with the estimate \( \hat{\mathbf{H}}_S T \) instead of the actual matrix \( \mathbf{H}_S \). This is because the transmitter is not informed about the channel realization \( \mathbf{H}_S \). Overall, we have (17) where we have defined \( \hat{\mathbf{K}}_U = \hat{\mathbf{K}}_X + \hat{\mathbf{W}}_S \hat{\mathbf{H}}_S \hat{\mathbf{H}}_S^* \mathbf{W}_S^* \), \( \hat{\mathbf{K}}_U = \hat{\mathbf{K}}_X \mathbf{H}_S^* + \hat{\mathbf{W}}_S \hat{\mathbf{H}}_S \hat{\mathbf{H}}_S^* + \hat{\mathbf{I}}_S \hat{\mathbf{K}}_S \hat{\mathbf{H}}_S^* + \hat{\mathbf{W}}_S \hat{\mathbf{K}}_S \hat{\mathbf{H}}_S^* \), and \( \mathbf{W}_S \) and \( \hat{\mathbf{I}}_S \hat{\mathbf{K}}_S \) are the equivalent noise, which is zero-mean with covariance matrix \( (1+\sigma^2_{E_T} P_X + \sigma^2_{E_S T} P_S) \mathbf{I} \) and not Gaussian distributed. Moreover, the equivalent noise \( \mathbf{Z} \) is dependent but uncorrelated with \( \mathbf{X} \) and \( \mathbf{S} \). Therefore, the suboptimal \( \mathbf{W} \) is chosen such that \( \mathbf{W} (\mathbf{H}_T \mathbf{X} + \mathbf{Z}) \) is the linear MMSE estimate of \( \mathbf{X} \) given \( \mathbf{H}_T \mathbf{X} + \mathbf{Z} \), namely

\[ \mathbf{W} = \hat{\mathbf{K}}_X \hat{\mathbf{H}}_T^* \left( \mathbf{H}_T \hat{\mathbf{K}}_X \hat{\mathbf{H}}_T^* + (1+\sigma^2_{E_T} P_X + \sigma^2_{E_S T} P_S) \mathbf{I} \right)^{-1} \]

Note that when there is no estimation error, (19) becomes equivalent to (4). In Section V, the performance with choice (19) will be compared with the algorithm in [10], showing that (19) leads to comparable similar performance.

2) BF-JD: The rate achievable by BF-JD is obtained from (6) using the channel statistics mentioned above and with jointly Gaussian \( \mathbf{X} \) and \( \mathbf{S} \) as done in Section III-B. Using again the maximum entropy theorem, it can be seen that a zero-mean joint Gaussian distribution for \( \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{S} \) with covariance matrix (10) is optimal and thus we obtain

\[ R_{\text{BF-JD}} = \max \{ R_{\text{BF-JD}}', R_{\text{BF-JD}}'' \}, \]

where \( R_{\text{BF-JD}}' \) and \( R_{\text{BF-JD}}'' \) are given by (21) and (22), respectively.

Note that \( \mathcal{H} = \hat{\mathcal{H}}_T + \mathcal{E}_T \). As discussed in Section III-B, optimization (21) is non-trivial due to the non-concavity of the objective function with respect to \( \mathbf{K}_X S \) while optimization of (22) can be obtained via the water-filling algorithm [16]. Similar to Proposition 1, we can obtain an upper bound on (21) as (23). As for Proposition 1, such bound has the advantage
\[ R_{DPC} = \max_{K_X > 0, W : \text{tr}(K_X) = P_X} I(U; Y|\mathcal{E}_T) - I(U; S|\mathcal{E}_T) \]
\[ = \max_{K_X > 0, W : \text{tr}(K_X) = P_X} \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{E}_T} \left[ \log_2 |K_X| |K_Y| - \log_2 \left| \begin{array}{c} K_{U} \\ K_{UY} \end{array} \right| \right]. \]  

(17)

\[ R_{BF-JD}' = \max_{K_X > 0} \min_{\text{tr}(K_X) = P_X} \left\{ \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{E}_T} \left[ \log_2 \left| I + H K_X H^* \right| - R_S \right] \right\}. \]

(21)

\[ R_{BF-JD}' = \max_{K_X > 0} \left\{ \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{E}_T} \left[ \log_2 \left| I + H K_X H^* (H S K_S H_S^* + I)^{-1} \right| \right] \right\}. \]

(22)

\[ R_{BF-JD}' \leq R_{BF-JD}^{UB} = \max_{K_X > 0, p \in [0, 1]} \min_{\text{tr}(K_X) = P_X} \left\{ \inf_{\alpha > 0} \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{E}_T} \left[ \log_2 \left| I + \left(1 + \frac{\sigma^2}{\alpha} \right) H K_X H^* + (1 + \alpha) H S K_S H_S^* \right| - R_S \right] \right\}. \]

(23)

with respect to the exact achievable rate (21) of not requiring optimization over the cross-correlation matrix \(K_{XS}\).

Remark 1: With BF-JD, decoding of \(S\) at the receiver allows the decoder to cancel the interference \(H_S S\) in (18) since the receiver knows the channel \(H_S\). Instead, DPC can only mitigate the effect of the term \(H_S S\) in (18) since the channel matrix \(H_S\) is not fully known at the transmitter. Therefore, we expect BF-JD to outperform DPC in the scenario with perfect CSIR but imperfect CSI. Notice that optimizing \(W\), instead of using the naive choice (19), can generally further improve the performance of DPC [8]–[10]. However, the general conclusion mentioned above remains valid.

C. Imperfect CSIT and CSIR

In this section, we consider the case where we have imperfect CSI at encoder and decoder. Specifically, in (15) we assume that both transmitter and receiver have the same channel estimates \(\hat{H}_R = \hat{H}_T\) which we denote as \(\hat{H}\). Matrices \(\hat{H}\) are fixed (deterministic). As per (15), the channel estimation errors at the transmitter and the receiver are the same and we denote \(\mathcal{E}_R = \mathcal{E}_T = \mathcal{E}\), so that

\[ \hat{H} = \hat{H} + \mathcal{E}. \]  

(24)

Similar to the previous section, the CSI error matrices \(E\) and \(E_S\) are assumed to have i.i.d. zero-mean complex Gaussian entries with variances \(\sigma^2_E\) and \(\sigma^2_{E_S}\), respectively. Moreover, errors are assumed to vary in an ergodic fashion. Note that the received signal can be written as

\[ Y = \hat{H} X + \hat{H}_S S + \hat{Z}, \]

(25)

where \(\hat{Z} = EX + E_S S + \hat{Z}\) is the equivalent noise, which is zero-mean with covariance matrix \((1 + \sigma^2_E P_X + \sigma^2_{E_S} P_S) I\).

As it was with (18), \(\hat{Z}\) is not Gaussian, and is dependent but uncorrelated with \(X\) and \(S\).

1) DPC: An achievable rate via DPC is given as follows.

\[ \text{Proposition 2: The following rate is achievable with DPC} \]

\[ R_{DPC} = \max_{K_X > 0} \min_{\text{tr}(K_X) = P_X} \left\{ \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{E}_T} \left[ \log_2 \left| I + \frac{1}{(1 + \sigma^2_E P_X + \sigma^2_{E_S} P_S)} H K_X H^* \right| \right] \right\}. \]

(26)

Proof: Since the noise \(\hat{Z}\) in (25) is not Gaussian, the proof requires special care. Lemma 1 in [23] shows that, while \(\hat{Z}\) is not Gaussian or independent of \(X\) and \(S\), the same rate is achievable when \(\hat{Z}\) is Gaussian and independent of \(X\) and \(S\) but for a single-antenna channel. In our work, we extend this result to a MIMO channel. Details of the proof are available in Appendix B.

The covariance \(K_X\) that maximizes (26) can be easily found by water-filling technique in [16].

2) BF-JD: The following proposition gives an achievable rate via BF-JD.

\[ \text{Proposition 3: The rate achievable by BF-JD is lower bounded by} \]

\[ R_{BF-JD}' \geq \max\{R_{BF-JD}', R_{BF-JD}^{UB}\}, \]

(27)

where

\[ R_{BF-JD}' = \max_{K_X > 0} \min_{\text{tr}(K_X) = P_X} \left\{ R_A^{LB}, R_B^{LB} - R_S \right\} \]

(28)

and \(R_{BF-JD}^{UB}\) in (29). In (28), we have

\[ R_{BF-JD}^{LB} = \log_2 \left| K_X - K_X S K_S^{-1} K_X^* S \right| - \log_2 |K_L| \]

(30)

with

\[ K_L = K_X - K_X S K_S^{-1} K_X^* S + A K_X Y S B^* \]


\[ A = (K_{XY} S K_S^{-1} K_{YS}^* S^{-1} K_{YS}^{-1} K_J Y S - 1) \]

\[ B = (K_{XS} - K_X S K_S^{-1} K_S^{-1} K_{YS}^{-1} K_J Y S - 1) \]

\[ K_{UY} = H K_X H^* + H K_X S H_S + H S K_S H^* + H S K_S H_S^* + H S K_S H_S^* \]

\[ + (1 + \sigma^2_E P_X + \sigma^2_{E_S} P_S) I \]

\[ K_X Y = H K_X H^* + H K_X S H_S + H S K_S H^* + H S K_S H_S^* \]

\[ + (1 + \sigma^2_E P_X + \sigma^2_{E_S} P_S) I \]

\[ K_{XS} = H K_X S H_S + H S K_S H^* + H S K_S H_S^* \]

\[ + (1 + \sigma^2_E P_X + \sigma^2_{E_S} P_S) I \]
and
\[ R_B^{\text{IB}} = \log_2 |K_S| - \log_2 |K_S - K_{YS} K_{Y^{-1}} K_{YS}| + R_A^{\text{IB}}. \] (31)

Proof: Since the noise \( \hat{Z} \) in (25) is not Gaussian, the proof is non-trivial. Our approach is to extend the technique in [20], where a lower bound of mutual information with channel estimation error is derived for a single-antenna system, to the fading MIMO system with interference (1). Details of the proof are available in Appendix C.

Calculating (28) is non-trivial since the maximization over \( K_X \) and \( K_{XS} \) is non-convex. Finding upper or lower bounds to deal with this is left as an open problem.

Remark 2: With imperfect CSIT and CSIR, both DPC and BF-JD can only attempt to cancel the interference term \( H_S S \). In particular, BF-JD is able to do so only when the rate \( R_S \) is small enough so that the interference is decodable. Therefore, it is expected that DPC outperforms BF-JD unless the rate \( R_S \) is small enough so that BF-JD is also able to effectively mitigate the interference.

V. NUMERICAL RESULTS

In this section, we present simulation results for the achievable rates of DPC and BF-JD. We consider a system with \( t = r = 2 \) and we fix \( K_S = 0.5I \) for simplicity.

A. Perfect CSI

In Fig. 2, we compare the rate (5) achievable by DPC and the bounds (12) on the performance of BF-JD for the case where CSI is perfect at both the transmitter and the receiver and \( R_S = 2 \) bps/Hz. We also fix \( K_X = P_X/tI \) and \( K_{XS} = 0 \) in (11) for simplicity. This choice is known to be optimal for high SNR and does not affect significantly the performance comparison among different strategies. As discussed in Section III, it is observed that exploiting interference (BF-JD technique) is generally suboptimal with the perfect CSIT and CSIR.

B. Imperfect CSI

We consider now the case of imperfect CSIT and perfect CSIR. We set the error variances as \( \sigma^2 = \sigma_{E_1}^2 = \sigma_{E_2}^2 \), and compare the rate (17) for DPC and (20) for BF-JD. For a reference, we also plot the capacity of a channel with zero interference, which is given by \( R_{\text{no-interf}} = \max_{K_X \geq 0; \text{tr}(K_X) = P_X} \mathbb{E}_{e_1} \left[ \log_2 |I + H K_X H^*| \right] \). All rates are averaged over the distribution of the channel estimates \( \hat{H}_T \) and \( \hat{H}_{S,T} \) which are assumed to have i.i.d. zero-mean complex Gaussian entries with variance \( 1 - \sigma^2 \). For simplicity, we choose \( K_X = P_X/tI \) for all the techniques to be compared. Instead, matrix \( K_{XS} \) for BF-JD is obtained via global optimization tools (exhaustive search).

Fig. 3 compares the rates of DPC and BF-JD for varying error variance, while Fig. 4 presents the same comparison versus the interferer’s rate \( R_S \). It is seen that, unlike in the perfect CSI case, exploiting the codebook information via BF-JD provides advantages over a large range of values of estimation errors \( \sigma^2 \), especially if the secondary rate \( R_S \) is small enough, for the reason outlined in Remark 1. In particular, it is seen that for small interferer’s rates \( R_S \), BF-JD is able to achieve the upper bound of no interference. Instead, for large \( \sigma^2 \), the rate of BF-JD is outperformed by DPC especially when the interferer’s rate \( R_S \) is large enough. Moreover, our simulations show that optimizing \( \hat{W} \) following the algorithm in [10] does not change the main conclusions above, while improving somewhat the DPC rate shown here with the MMSE solution (19).

We now consider the case of imperfect CSIR and CSIT
in Fig. 5 where the achievable rates are plotted versus the estimation error variance \( \sigma^2 \). As above, rates are averaged over channel estimates \( \hat{H} \) and \( \hat{H}_S \) which have i.i.d. zero-mean complex Gaussian entries with variance \( 1 - \sigma^2 \). As a reference, we plot the rate achievable in case the interfering term that is known at the transmitter and receiver, namely \( H_S S \), is absent. This is given by \( R_{\text{no-interf}} = \max_{\mathbf{K}_X \geq 0: \text{tr}(\mathbf{K}_X) = P_X} \log_2 |I + \mathbf{H} \mathbf{K}_X \hat{H}^* ((1 + \sigma^2 P_X)I)^{-1}| \).

Also, \( \mathbf{K}_X = P_X / I \) is assumed in all the techniques for simplicity. As we noticed in Remark 2, BF-JD has performance similar to DPC as \( R_S \) decreases. However, for \( R_S \) large enough, BF-JD is outperformed by DPC since the latter can perfectly cancel \( \hat{H}_S S \) while this is true for BF-JD only if decoding of the interference is successful.

VI. CONCLUSION

Mitigating interference is becoming an increasingly critical task in wireless systems. Interference mitigation can benefit from side information available at the involved terminals and may take different forms. In this paper, we have studied a MIMO system affected by a multiantenna interferer, where the transmitter is informed about the interferer’s codeword. The key design issue is whether the decoder should attempt decoding of the interference or rather the encoder should precede over the interference by using DPC strategies and the decoder treats the interference as unstructured. While with perfect CSI, DPC strategies are known to be optimal, we have shown that with imperfect CSI this is not the case, especially in the common case where the CSI is perfect at the receiver but imperfect at the transmitter.

VII. APPENDIX A: PROOF OF PROPOSITION 1

We upper bound the two terms in (11) as follows. For the first term, we have

\[
\log_2 |I + \mathbf{H} (\mathbf{K}_X - \mathbf{K}_X S \mathbf{K}_S^{-1} \mathbf{K}'_X S) \mathbf{H}'^*| \\
= \log_2 |I + \mathbf{H} \mathbf{K}_X^{1/2} (I - \mathbf{A} \mathbf{A}^*) \mathbf{K}_X^{1/2} \mathbf{H}'| \\
\leq \log_2 |I + (1 - \rho^2) \mathbf{H} \mathbf{K}_X \mathbf{H}'|,
\]

where \( \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{K}_X^{-1/2} \mathbf{K}_X S \mathbf{K}_S^{-1/2} \) and \( \rho \in [0, 1] \) is a correlation coefficient. Note that (a) is a consequence of the inequality \( \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A} \mathbf{A}^* \leq (1 - \rho^2) \mathbf{I} \) for some \( 0 \leq \rho \leq 1 \) (where \( \leq \) represents the inequality with respect to the cone of semi-positive definite matrices), which in turn follows from the fact that \( \mathbf{0} \preceq \mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A} \mathbf{A}^* \preceq \mathbf{I} \) and from the continuity of matrix \( \mathbf{A} \) in the vector space (see [18] for details). Moreover, for the second term in (11) we have (33) where (b) is from Lemma 3.2 in [18].

VIII. APPENDIX B: PROOF OF PROPOSITION 2

Recall from (25), \( \hat{Z} \) has of zero mean and covariance matrix \( (1 + \sigma^2 P_X + \sigma^2 P_S) I \). As explained in Section IV-C, it is not Gaussian and is uncorrelated, but statistically dependent on \( X \) and \( S \). Let the singular value decomposition (SVD) of matrix \( \mathbf{H} \) be \( \mathbf{H} = \mathbf{U} \Sigma \mathbf{V}^* \), where \( \mathbf{U} \) is \( r \times p \), \( \mathbf{V} \) is \( t \times p \), and \( \Sigma \) is diagonal \( p \times p \) where \( p \) is the rank of matrix \( \mathbf{H} \). To convert the MIMO channel \( \mathbf{H} \) into \( p \)-parallel single-antenna channels, the transmitter chooses \( \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{V} \hat{X} \) where \( \hat{X} \) is \( p \times 1 \) vector of transmitted signals and the receiver multiplies \( \mathbf{U}^* \) to the received signal as

\[
\hat{Y} = \mathbf{U}^* (\Sigma \mathbf{V}^* \hat{V} \hat{X} + \hat{H}_S S + \hat{Z}) \\
= \Sigma \hat{X} + \mathbf{U}^* \hat{H}_S S + \mathbf{U}^* \hat{Z}.
\]

Therefore, each element of \( \hat{Y} = [\hat{Y}_1, \hat{Y}_2, \ldots, \hat{Y}_p] \) is

\[
\hat{Y}_i = \bar{H}_i \hat{X}_i + \hat{H}_{S_i} S_i + Z_i,
\]

where \( \bar{H}_i = (\Sigma)_{ii} \), \( \hat{H}_{S_i} = \mathbf{U}^*_i \hat{H}_S \), \( \hat{Z}_i = \mathbf{U}^*_i \hat{Z} \), and \( \mathbf{U}_i \) is the \( i \)-th column of \( \mathbf{U} \) for \( i = 1, \ldots, p \). Since the model
where (a) is from the fact conditioning reduces entropy and by choosing Setting (30); and (b) follows from the maximum entropy theorem.

\( h \) where \( (35) \) is a single-antenna channel, from Lemma 1 in [23], the rate \( \log_2 \left( 1 + \frac{h^2 P_i}{1 + |Z_i|^2} \right) \) is achievable on each subchannel \( i \) where \( P_i \) is the power allocated to \( X_i \), which has to satisfy \( \sum_{i=1}^p P_i \leq P_X \). Hence, we have that the rate in (26) is achievable.

**IX. APPENDIX C: PROOF OF PROPOSITION 3**

We bound the two terms in (6) and system model (25). Starting with the first, we have

\[
I(X;Y|S) = h(X|S) - h(Y|X,S),
\]

where \( h(X|S) = \log_2 \left( (\pi e)^r \left| K_{X|S} \right| \right) \) with \( K_{X|S} = K_X - K_{XS} K_{S}^{-1} K_{X^S} \) and, similar to (20), we have

\[
h(X|Y,S) = h(X - AY - BS|Y,S) \leq h(X - AY - BS) \leq \log_2 \left( (\pi e)^r \left| KL \right| \right),
\]

where (a) is from the fact conditioning reduces entropy and \( A, B \in \mathbb{C}^{r \times r} \) are given matrices, and \( KL = K_X - K_{XY} A^* - K_{XS} B^* - AK_{XYS}^* - BK_{XS}^* - AK_{YS}^* + BK_{YS}^* + AK_{XYS}^* + BK_{YS}^* \). Setting \( C = [A B] \) and \( Y = [Y S]^T \), (37) can be minimized by choosing \( C \) as \( C = K_{XY} K_{Y}^{-1} \) where \( K_{XY} \) and \( K_Y \) are the covariance matrices of the corresponding vectors defined above, namely \( K_{XY} = [K_X K_Y K_S] \) and

\[
K_Y = \begin{bmatrix} K_Y & K_{YS} & K_{S} \end{bmatrix}.
\]

In fact, this way, vector \( (AY + BS) \) is the linear MMSE estimate of \( X \) in terms of \( Y \) and \( S \). From the matrix inversion lemma [24], \( A \) and \( B \) can be found as

\[
A = (K_{XY} - K_{XS} K_{S}^{-1} K_{YS})(K_Y - K_{YS} K_{S}^{-1} K_{YS})^{-1}
\]

and \( B = (K_{XS} - K_{XY} K_{Y} K_{YS})(K_S - K_{YS} K_{YS})^{-1} \).

Overall, we can bound the first term in (6) as

\[
I(X;Y|S) \geq \log_2 \left| K_{X|S} \right| - \log_2 \left| KL \right| = R_{LB}^A.
\]

For the second term in (6), we proceed as follows,

\[
I(X,S;Y) = h(Y) - h(Y|X,S) = h(Y) - h(Y|S) + I(X;Y|S) = h(S) - h(S|Y) + R_{LB}^A,
\]

where \( h(S) = \log_2 \left( (\pi e)^r \left| KS \right| \right) \) is upper bounded as \( h(S|Y) \leq \log_2 \left( (\pi e)^r \left| KS|Y| \right| \right) \) where \( KS|Y| = KS - K_{YS}^* K_{YS}^{-1} K_{YS} \) and \( I(X,Y|S) \) satisfies (36). Therefore, we obtain

\[
I(X,S;Y) \geq \log_2 \left| KS \right| - \log_2 \left| KS - K_{YS}^* K_{YS}^{-1} K_{YS} \right| + R_{LB}^A
\]

which concludes the proof.

**REFERENCES**


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