

JOINT CHANNEL - PHYSICAL LAYER
NETWORK CODING IN MULTI-WAY WIRELESS
RELAY SYSTEMS

by

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Declaration

I certify that this thesis does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any university; and to the best of my knowledge it does not contain any material which had been previously published by another person except where due reference is made in the text.

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Abstract

During the last two decades or so, physical layer network coding (PNC) has received a considerable attention as it provides superior spectral efficiency over conventional relaying, in wireless relay systems. However, error performance of the network coded relay systems is inferior to that of conventional relaying under poor quality channel conditions. On the other hand, channel coding provides improved error performance over noisy and fading channels. In channel and PNC coded wireless relay systems, a better performance can be achieved by performing channel decoding and network coding at the relay jointly compared to separately. However, the existing joint channel decoding and network coding algorithms cannot achieve a good trade-off between error performance and spectral efficiency when applied in a multi-way wireless relay system. This is mainly due to the fact that the existing algorithms operate the constituent sub-decoders independently. With the advancement of new trends such as Internet of Things (IoT), multi-way wireless relay system has been a popular network topology, hence joint channel decoding and network coding algorithms having very good spectral efficiency-error performance trade-offs are highly desired.

This thesis presents, as the key technical contribution to the existing body of knowledge, a joint channel-physical layer network coding (JCPNC) algorithm for multi-way wireless relay systems, which achieves an improved trade-off between error performance and spectral efficiency. This improved performance is a result of harnessing additional time diversity by exchanging information between constituent sub-decoders. Several

diversity combining schemes are proposed and they are compared with each other. The thesis also presents an improved symbol value selection algorithm for the conventional non-binary symbol-flipping low density parity check decoder which is adopted to produce a low-complexity JCPNC algorithm. Moreover, a novel JCPNC algorithm which can be employed in asymmetric multi-way wireless relay systems, is developed. Finally, the convergence behaviour of the proposed JCPNC algorithm is analyzed using extrinsic information transfer (EXIT) characteristics of the constituent sub-decoders.

The error performance of the proposed algorithms is extensively investigated using computer simulations. The simulation results demonstrate that the proposed JCPNC algorithm and its variants achieve superior spectral efficiency-error performance trade-offs than the existing counterpart JCPNC algorithms.

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Contents

Abstract	i
Acknowledgments	iii
List of Tables	ix
List of Figures	xii
List of Abbreviations	xv
1 Introduction	1
1.1 An Overview of the Wireless Relay Channel	2
1.2 Introduction to Network Coding	3
1.3 Physical Layer Network Coding	7
1.4 Channel Coding	9
1.5 Joint Channel-Network Coding	10
1.6 JCPNC Algorithms for Different Network Topologies	11

1.7	JCPNC Algorithms for Different Channel Coding Types	14
1.8	Theme and Objectives of the Thesis	15
1.9	Outline of the Thesis	16
1.10	Scope and Limitations of the Study	18

2 Proposed Joint Channel-Network Coding Algorithm for Multi-way Relay Systems **19**

2.1	Introduction	19
2.2	System Model	21
2.3	Joint Decoding at the Relay	25
2.3.1	Separating c_b information at the relay	25
2.3.2	Exchanging c_b information between $c_a \oplus c_b$ and $c_b \oplus c_c$ decoders .	27
2.3.3	Re-calculation of Joint Probabilities	30
2.4	Extending the Joint Decoding Algorithm to MPSK Modulated Muti-way Relay Systems	31
2.4.1	New System Model	31
2.4.2	Pair-wise Iterative Joint Decoding at the Relay	33
2.4.3	Improved Iterative Joint Decoding at the Relay	38
2.4.4	Analysis of Computational Complexity	45
2.5	Numerical Results and Discussion	48
2.6	Conclusion	54

3	Low-Complexity Joint Channel-Network Coding Algorithm for Multi-Way Relay Systems	59
3.1	Introduction	59
3.2	System Model	61
3.3	Low-complexity Joint Decoding at the Relay	62
3.3.1	Initialization	63
3.3.2	Modified Bit-flipping Algorithm	64
3.3.3	Information Exchange Between Decoders	66
3.3.4	Finalization	68
3.4	Computational Complexity Analysis	68
3.5	Improved Low-complexity Joint Channel Network Coding Algorithms for Multi-Way Relay Systems	70
3.5.1	Introduction	71
3.5.2	System Model	72
3.5.3	Non-binary LDPC Decoding	73
3.5.4	Proposed Symbol-value Selection	77
3.5.5	Computational Complexity	79
3.6	Simulation Results and Discussion	83
3.7	Conclusion	88
4	Joint Channel-Network Coding in Unequally Error Protected Multi-way Wireless Relay Systems	91

4.1	Introduction	91
4.2	System Model	93
4.3	Throughput Enhancement	96
4.4	Iterative Joint Decoding at the Relay	97
4.4.1	Initialization	97
4.4.2	Iterative Decoding	98
4.4.3	Finalization	101
4.5	Extending the Unequal Error Protection Scheme to $\mathcal{M} > 3$	101
4.5.1	Throughput	102
4.5.2	Scaled Joint Decoder Algorithm	103
4.6	Numerical Results and Discussion	103
4.7	Conclusion	105
5	EXIT Analysis of the JCPNC Algorithm	110
5.1	Introduction	110
5.2	System Model	111
5.3	Log Domain Joint Decoder	112
5.3.1	Initialization	113
5.3.2	Variable Node Decoder	115
5.3.3	Check Node Decoder	115
5.3.4	Finalization	117
5.4	EXIT Analyzis for the JCPNC	117

5.4.1	J_V Function	118
5.4.2	VND EXIT Curve	119
5.4.3	CND EXIT Curve	120
5.5	Example EXIT Analysis for the JCPNC Algorithm	121
5.6	EXIT Analyzis for the JCPNC in Multi-way Relay Systems	127
5.7	Conclusion	131
6	Conclusion and Suggestions for Further Work	133
6.1	Conclusion	133
6.2	Further Work	136
	Bibliography	138

List of Tables

1.1	Physical layer network coding symbol mapping	8
1.2	JCPNC algorithms for different channel codes	13
1.3	JCPNC algorithms for different network topologies	14
1.4	JCPNC algorithms for different channel coding types	15
2.1	PNC symbol mapping for BPSK modulation	27
2.2	Per iteration, number of mathematical operations involved under different information exchange schemes	47
2.3	Percentage number of times the algorithm converges at different number of iterations for 255×175 LDPC code with QPSK modulation	57
2.4	Per iteration, number of mathematical operations involved under different information exchange schemes in 255×175 binary LDPC code with QPSK modulation	58
3.1	Combined transmitted signal constellation	63
3.2	Comparison of computational complexity	69

3.3	Number of real operations for the symbol flipping algorithm	80
3.4	Number of real operations for the symbol flipping algorithm for 204×102 , GF(4) LDPC code.	82
3.5	Number of real operations for the symbol flipping algorithm for 63×37 , GF(16) LDPC code.	82
3.6	Number of real operations for the symbol flipping algorithm for 1023×781 , GF(16) LDPC code.	83
4.1	Spectral efficiency for different code rates	104
5.1	Mean and variance values for LLR	115
5.2	$\lambda(\cdot)$ and $\nu(\cdot)$ functions	119
5.3	EXIT trajectory for $E_b/N_0 = 2dB$ when $h_A = 0.3$ and $h_B = 0.5$	123
5.4	EXIT trajectory for $E_b/N_0 = 7dB$ when $h_A = 0.3$ and $h_B = 0.5$	124
5.5	EXIT trajectory for $E_b/N_0 = 3dB$ when $h_A = 0.9$ and $h_B = 1.1$	125
5.6	EXIT trajectory for $E_b/N_0 = 5dB$ when $h_A = 0.9$ and $h_B = 1.1$	126
5.7	EXIT trajectory of the BC decoder for $E_b/N_0 = 5dB$ with information exchange	129
5.8	EXIT trajectory of the AB decoder for $E_b/N_0 = 7dB$ with information exchange	129
5.9	EXIT trajectory of the BC decoder for $E_b/N_0 = 4dB$ with information exchange	130

5.10 EXIT trajectory of the AB decoder for $E_b/N_0 = 4dB$ with information
exchange 130

List of Figures

1.1	A wireless relay system	2
1.2	Bidirectional relaying between nodes A and B with a single relay	4
1.3	Network coding in a bidirectional relay system	5
1.4	Conventional relaying in the butterfly relay network	6
1.5	Network coding in the butterfly relay network	7
2.1	Three-way relay system (a) MAC phase of A & B transfer (b) MAC phase of B & C transfer (c) Broadcast phase of A & B transfer (d) Broadcast phase of B & C transfer	22
2.2	Proposed joint channel decoder-network encoder	26
2.3	Comparison of decoder BER performance for 255×175 LDPC code.	49
2.4	Comparison of decoder BER performance for 1057×813 LDPC code.	50
2.5	BER performance of the proposed algorithm for 255×175 binary LDPC code with QPSK modulation.	51

2.6	BER performance of the proposed algorithm for 1057×813 binary LDPC code with 8-PSK modulation.	52
2.7	BER performance of the proposed algorithm for 255×175 binary LDPC code with 16-PSK modulation.	53
2.8	BER performance of the proposed algorithm for 204×102 GF(4) LDPC code with QPSK modulation.	54
2.9	BER performance of the proposed algorithm for 255×175 binary LDPC code under different modulation orders.	55
2.10	FER performance of the proposed algorithm for 255×175 binary LDPC code with QPSK modulation.	56
2.11	Comparison of decoder BER performance for 255×175 LDPC code for 5, 10 and 20 decoding iterations.	57
2.12	BER performance of the proposed algorithm for 255×175 binary LDPC code with QPSK modulation after 1, 3 and 10 decoder iterations.	58
3.1	Information exchange	67
3.2	Histogram for the average number of iterations per decoded codeword for 255×175 LDPC code.	70
3.3	System model	73
3.4	Comparison of decoder BER performance for 204×102 , GF(4) LDPC code.	84
3.5	Comparison of decoder BER performance for 63×37 , GF(16) LDPC code.	85

3.6	Comparison of decoder BER performance for 1023×781 , GF(16) LDPC code.	86
3.7	Comparison of decoder BER performance for 255×175 LDPC code.	88
3.8	Comparison of decoder BER performance for 1023×781 LDPC code.	89
4.1	Asymmetric information exchange	95
4.2	Proposed decoder arrangement	99
4.3	Spectral efficiency for different code rates	104
4.4	BER performance for 63×37 LDPC code	106
4.5	BER performance for 255×175 LDPC code	107
4.6	Convergence of the proposed decoder algorithm	108
4.7	BER performance for a four-way relay system	109
5.1	Two-way relay system (I) MAC phase of A & B transfer (II) Broadcast phase of A & B transfer	111
5.2	Iterative decoder	114
5.3	BER performance of the individual AB and BC decoders for 255×175 binary LDPC code	127
5.4	BER performance of the joint decoder for 255×175 binary LDPC code	131

List of Abbreviations

ALLR	average log-likelihood ratio
AP	average probability
AWGN	additive white Gaussian noise
BAP	bit-wise average probability
BBP	bit-wise best probability
BER	bit error rate
BF	bit flipping
BP	belief propagation
BPS	best probability selection
BPSK	binary phase shift keying
BWSP	bit-wise weighted sum probability
CND	check node decoder
EXIT	extrinsic information transfer
FER	frame error rate
FG-LDPC	finite geometry-low density parity check
GF	Galois field
IoT	internet of things
JCPNC	joint channel-physical layer network coding
JCNC	joint channel-network coding
LDPC	low density parity check codes
LLR	log-likelihood ratio
MAC	medium access control
MIMO	multiple input-multiple output

MPSK	M-ary phase shift keying
MVA	multiple-vote symbol flipping algorithm
MVPSF	multiple-vote parallel symbol flipping
NOMA	non-orthogonal multiple access
PNC	physical layer network coding
PSF	parallel symbol flipping
QAM	quadrature amplitude modulation
QPSK	quadrature phase shift keying
RA	repeat accumulate
RBA	reliability-based symbol value selection algorithm
SNR	signal power to noise power ratio
UAV	unmanned aerial vehicle
VND	variable node decoder
WSN	wireless sensor network
WSP	weighted sum probability