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Fast Power Allocation In Wireless Multi Channel Systems

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Abstract :

In multi-channel communications, Water-Filling (WF) is a fundamental power allocation mechanism for capacity maximization under a given total transmit power. In this letter, we propose simple and fast WF algorithms for achieving agile power allocation, such that the system can better match the dynamic nature of the wireless channels for a better performance. Our algorithms remove the need of water-level searching. Numerical results show that they can run multiple times faster than the existing ones and can converge to the optimal solution in a few linear calculations.

1.Introduction

OFDM (Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing) and MIMO (Multiple-Input Multiple-Output) have been widely considered as key enabling technologies for achieving the next generation broadband wireless communications. In particular, OFDM supports multi-channels using orthogonal sub-carriers in frequency domain [1], and the single-carrier MIMO broadcast channel can be equivalently parallelized into multi-channels using SVD (Singular Value Decomposition) [2]. Under a given total transmit power constraint, power allocation is a critical task for maximizing the system capacity in those multi-channel wireless systems. In discrete time wireless communication systems, power allocation needs to be carried out in each time slot to match the time-varying nature of the wireless channels. Therefore, it is important to have an agile power allocation algorithm, which can respond fast to the changing environment with low complexity. It is well known that Water-Filling (WF) [3-6] is the fundamental power allocation mechanism that can maximize system capacity over multi-channels. Conventional WF algorithms need to search for a water-level [3-5], which dominates the computational complexity. Besides, they do not consider an upper-bound on the allocated power in each sub-channel, which is generally necessary in engineering practice. In this letter, we propose simple and fast algorithms to compute optimal WF solutions. Both scenarios, with and without an upper-bound on the allocated powers in the subchannels, are considered. Our algorithms require much less computations than the existing ones by removing the water level searching process. They can converge to the optimal solutions multiple times faster.

2.Preliminaries

2.1. Water-Filling Formulation And Optimal Solution

Consider a multi-channel system with N independent subchannels $N = \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$ and a bandwidth B for each. Let γ_n be the SNR (Signal to Noise Ratio) of sub-channel $n \in N$, and PT be the total transmit power. The optimal power allocation $p = \{p_n / n \in N\}$ for maximizing the system capacity can be obtained by solving the following Water-Filling (WF) problem.

$$\max \sum_{n \in N} B \log_2 (1 + \gamma_n p_n) \quad (1)$$

s.t.

$$\sum_{n \in N} p_n \leq P_T; \quad (2)$$

$$p_n \geq 0, \forall n \in N. \quad (3)$$

The optimal solution to the above classic WF problem is

$$p_n = \left[\frac{B}{\ln 2} \times \frac{1}{\mu} - \frac{1}{\gamma_n} \right]_0, \forall n \in N, \quad (4)$$

where $[\bullet]_0 = \max(\bullet, 0)$ and μ is a positive Lagrange multiplier (or water-level). If there is an upper-bound P_{\max} on the power allocated to each sub-channel, we can replace constraint (3) using the following constraint (5).

$$P_{\max} \geq p_n \geq 0, \forall n \in N. \quad (5)$$

$$p_n = \left[\frac{B}{\ln 2} \times \frac{1}{\mu} - \frac{1}{\gamma_n} \right]_{0}^{P_{\max}}, \forall n \in N, \quad (6)$$

In this case, the optimal solution is where the function $[\bullet]_{0}^{P_{\max}}$ confines the range of p_n as per (5). In either one of the above two scenarios, μ is the solution to

$$\sum_{n \in N} p_n = P_T.$$

2.2. Brief Summary Of Existing Algorithms

The existing works [3-5] solve the problem in (1)-(3) by searching for a proper water-level μ before $p = \{p_n | \forall n \in N\}$ can be calculated in (4). To this end, the iterative binary searching technique in [6] can be used. In each iteration, the possible range of μ is halved, and the half that can possibly contain the value of μ is identified by checking the halving point according to the total transmit power constraint (7). When the algorithm converges, the value of μ can be obtained. Another iterative μ searching process [4] uses the following (8)-(9) to find μ , where (8) defines the starting point of μ and (9) is used to update μ in the subsequent iterations.

$$\frac{B}{\ln 2} \times \frac{1}{\mu} = \frac{1}{N} \left(P_T + \sum_{n \in N} \frac{1}{\gamma_n} \right); \quad (8)$$

$$\frac{B}{\ln 2} \times \frac{1}{\mu} + \frac{\sigma}{N_{on}} \left(P_T - \sum_{n \in N_{on}} p_n \right) \rightarrow \frac{B}{\ln 2} \times \frac{1}{\mu}. \quad (9)$$

In (9), σ is a predefined step size for μ searching, and N_{on} denotes the set of $N_{on} = |N_{on}|$ sub-channels in the current iteration that have positive powers as per (4). With a similar idea as in [4], the algorithm in [5] sequentially discards sub-channels with small γ_n to determine N_{on} in the final solution, based on which μ and the optimal solution can be calculated. The difference is that the water-level is estimated by sequentially discarding sub-channels instead of using (9).

3. The Proposed Fast Wf Algorithms

We first focus on the classic WF problem in (1)-(3), and then extend the result to the more general scenario where constraint (3) is replaced by (5). A. Observations on WF: For a given positive Δ (assume that $P_T \geq N\Delta$), let $p = \{p_n | \forall n \in N\} = \text{WF}(P_T)$ and $p_- = \{p_{-n} | \forall n \in N\} = \text{WF}(P_T - N\Delta)$ be two WF solutions under the total transmit powers P_T and $P_T - N\Delta$, respectively. We have the following

Lemma 1.

Lemma 1: If $p_n \geq \Delta$ for $\forall n \in N$, then $p_{-n} = p_n - \Delta$ for $\forall n \in N$.

$$\frac{B}{\ln 2} \times \frac{1}{\mu} = p_n + \frac{1}{\gamma_n}, \forall n \in N. \quad (10)$$

Because μ is a constant satisfying (7), we have

$$\frac{B}{\ln 2} \times \frac{1}{\mu} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n \in N} \left(p_n + \frac{1}{\gamma_n} \right) = \frac{1}{N} \left(P_T + \sum_{n \in N} \frac{1}{\gamma_n} \right). \quad (11)$$

Taking (10) into account, this leads to

$$p_n = \frac{1}{N} \left(P_T + \sum_{n \in N} \frac{1}{\gamma_n} \right) - \frac{1}{\gamma_n}, \forall n \in N. \quad (12)$$

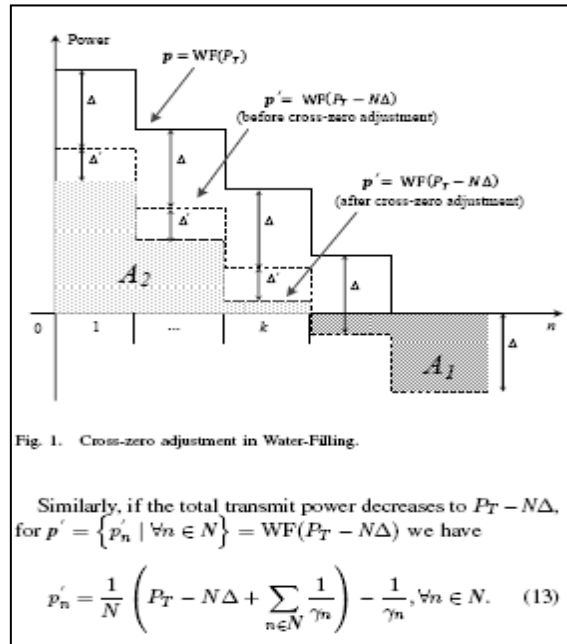


Fig. 1. Cross-zero adjustment in Water-Filling.

Similarly, if the total transmit power decreases to $P_T - N\Delta$, for $p' = \{p'_n \mid \forall n \in N\} = WF(P_T - N\Delta)$ we have

$$p'_n = \frac{1}{N} \left(P_T - N\Delta + \sum_{n \in N} \frac{1}{\gamma_n} \right) - \frac{1}{\gamma_n}, \forall n \in N. \quad (13)$$

Figure 1

Proof: Since $p_n \geq \Delta$ for $\forall n \in N$, from (4) we have From (12)-(13), we have $p_n = p_n - \Delta$ for $\forall n \in N$. Lemma 1 shows that if the total transmit power P_T is decreased by $N\Delta$, then the transmit power in each sub-channel will decrease by the same amount of Δ . However, Lemma 1 is only for a special case where $p_n \geq \Delta$ is assumed for $\forall n \in N$, which cannot be ensured in the general case with a given Δ . Fig. 1 shows an example. The horizontal axis denotes the sub-channel index and the vertical axis denotes the allocated power in each sub-channel. Let $p = WF(P_T)$ be denoted by the solid curve in Fig. 1. Without loss of generality, we assume that the power values allocated to the sub-channels are decreasingly ordered as n increases. If the total transmit power is decreased from P_T to $P_T - N\Delta$, without considering the infeasibility of negative powers in some sub-channels, Lemma 1 can be extended such that the power value in each sub-channel will be decreased by the same amount of Δ (see the dashed curve in Fig. 1). This may lead to negative powers in some sub-channels, as illustrated by those after the k th sub-channel in Fig. 1. In practice, those negative transmit powers (denoted by the shaded area A_1) should be set to zero according to (4). Meanwhile, those positive transmit powers on the dashed curve should be further decreased accordingly as a compensation to keep the total transmit power $P_T - N\Delta$ unchanged. We define this process as cross-zero adjustment. Lemma 2: If $p_n \geq \Delta + \Delta_-$ for $n \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ and $p_n < \Delta$ for $n \in \{k+1, \dots, N\}$, then p_n

$p_n = p_n - \Delta - \Delta_-$ for $n \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ and $p_n = 0$ for $n \in \{k+1, \dots, N\}$. Proof: If $[\cdot]_0 = \max(\cdot, 0)$ in (4) is not considered, equation (4) is equivalent to (10). When the total transmit power is decreased from P_T to $P_T - N\Delta$, with similar analysis as in

Lemma 1, we can see that $p_n = pn - \Delta$ should hold (in a pure mathematical sense) for $\forall n \in N$, though

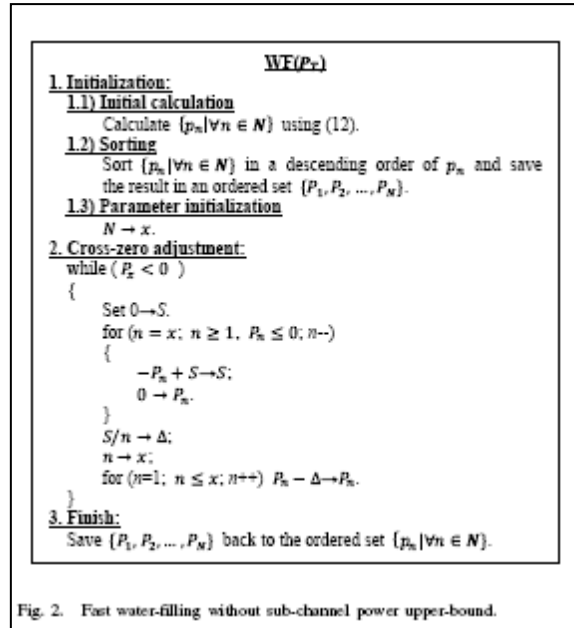


Figure 2

Assume $p_n \geq \Delta$ for $n \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ and $p_n < \Delta$ for $n \in \{k+1, \dots, N\}$. Define

$$\Delta' = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{n=k+1}^N (\Delta - p_n). \quad (14)$$

We have the following Lemma 2 for cross-zero adjustment.

$p_{k+1}, p_{k+2}, \dots, p_N$ are negative by assuming $p_n < \Delta$ for $n \in \{k+1, \dots, N\}$. If $[\bullet]_0 = \max(\bullet, 0)$ in (4) is considered, the set of negative powers $p_{k+1}, p_{k+2}, \dots, p_N$ should be set to zero. To keep the total transmit power $PT - N\Delta$ unchanged, those positive powers p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k must be decreased for a total amount of $\sum_{n=k+1}^N (\Delta - p_n)$ as a compensation. From Lemma 1, each $p_n, n \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ should be decreased further for an amount of Δ' as formulated in (14). Consequently, we have $p_n = pn - \Delta - \Delta' \geq 0$ for $n \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ and $p_n = 0$ for $n \in \{k+1, \dots, N\}$. Since we assume $p_n \geq \Delta + \Delta'$ for $n \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ in Lemma 2, we have $p_n = pn - \Delta - \Delta' \geq 0$ for $n \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ after the cross-zero adjustment. Generally, this may not be the case, and some $p_n, n \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ may become negative when Δ is subtracted. So, the cross-zero adjustment should be an iterative process until all allocated powers become nonnegative.

B. Fast WF Algorithms Without μ Searching

Based on the above analysis, we can propose a fast waterfilling algorithm without μ searching for solving the WF problem in (1)-(3), as in Fig. 2. Fig. 3 gives another algorithm which replaces constraint (3) using (5) to impose an upper-bound P_{max} on the allocated power in each sub-channel. The algorithm in Fig. 3 is a direct extension of that in Fig. 2.

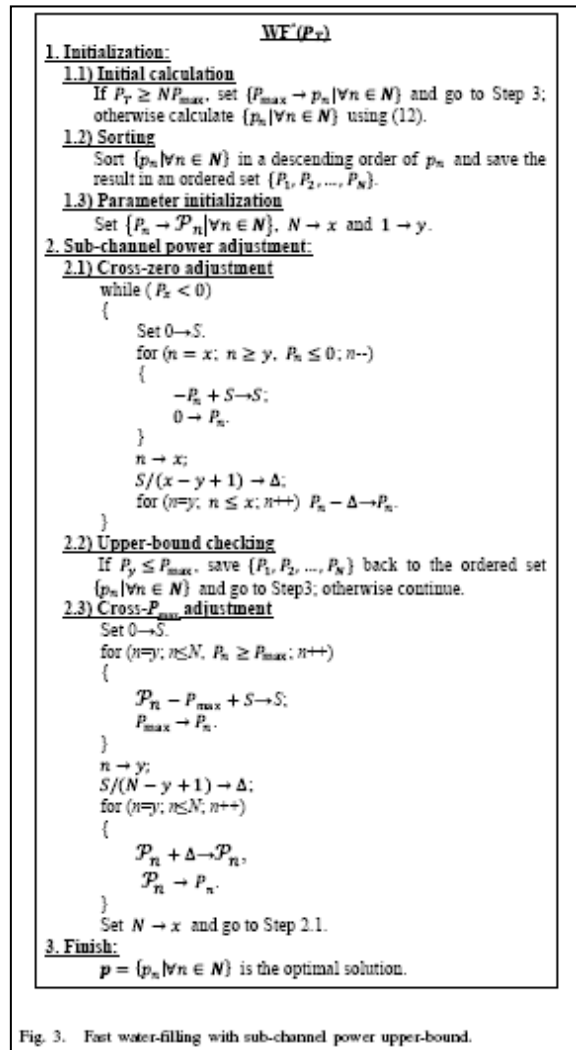


Figure 3

4. Numerical Results

Simulations are run in MATLAB 7.11 on a 2.66 GHz computer with 4 GB memory. γ_n s are i.i.d chi-square random variables with a degree of freedom of one. Define spectrum efficiency as the capacity in unit bandwidth. Fig. 4 shows that the WF in Fig. 2 achieves the same spectrum efficiency as those in [4-6]. For the WF* in Fig. 3, similar results can be obtained. Figs. 5-6 compare the running time of our water-filling algorithms with others, where PT is set to 2N for each N. Fig. 5 shows that the WF in Fig. 2 runs 4-5 times faster than [4], 3-22 times faster than [5] and 5-7 times faster than WF with binary μ searching [6]. Since the upper-bound considered in [4-5], in Fig. 6 our proposed WF* in Fig. 3 is only compared with the binary μ searching based algorithm, where it runs about 6 times faster. considered in [4-5], in Fig. 6 our proposed WF* in Fig. 3 is only compared with the binary μ searching based algorithm, where it runs about 6 times faster.

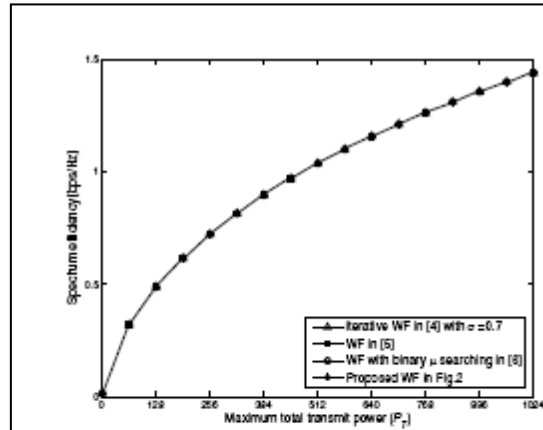


Fig. 4. Spectrum efficiency of the WF in Fig.2 ($N=512$).

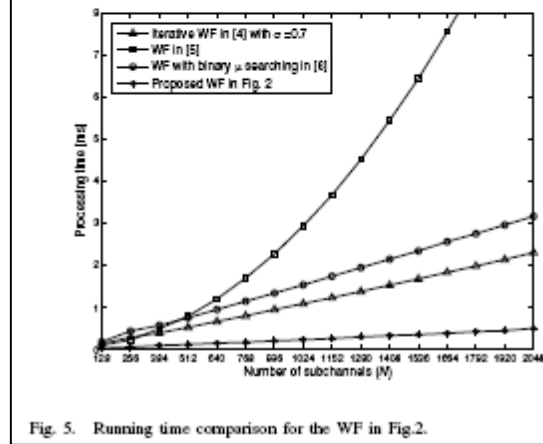


Fig. 5. Running time comparison for the WF in Fig.2.

Figure 4 & Figure 5

5. Conclusion

We proposed simple and fast Water-Filling algorithms to find the optimal power allocation for capacity maximization in multi-channel wireless communications. Both scenarios, with and without an upper-bound on the allocated power in each sub-channel, are considered. Our algorithms remove the need for Lagrange multiplier or water-level searching. They can run multiple times faster than the existing ones and converge to the optimal solutions in a few linear calculations.

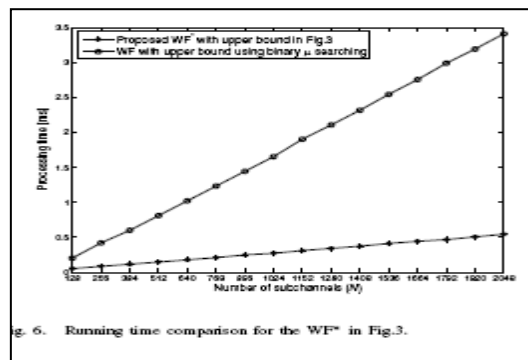


Fig. 6. Running time comparison for the WF* in Fig.3.

Figure 6

6. References

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