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AN ADAPTIVE STEP-SIZE CODE-CONSTRAINED MINIMUM OUTPUT ENERGY RECEIVER FOR NONSTATIONARY CDMA CHANNELS

Peerapol Yuvapoositanon

Department of Electronic Engineering, Mahanakorn University of Technology, Nong-Chok, Bangkok 10530, Thailand
Email: peerapol@mut.ac.th

Jonathon A. Chambers

Centre for Digital Signal Processing Research, King’s College London, Strand, London WC2R 2LS, United Kingdom
Email: jonathon.chambers@kcl.ac.uk

ABSTRACT

The adaptive step-size (AS) code-constrained minimum output energy (CMOE) receiver for nonstationary code-division multiple access (CDMA) channels is proposed. The AS-CMOE algorithm adaptively varies the step-size in order to minimise the CMOE criterion. Admissibility of the proposed method is confirmed via the reformulation of the CMOE criterion as an unconstrained optimisation. The ability of the algorithm to track sudden changes of the channel structure in multipath fading channels is assessed. Sensitivity to the initial values of the step-size and the adaptation rate of the algorithm is also investigated.

1. INTRODUCTION

In order to ensure stability of the minimum output energy (MOE) algorithms of [1, 2] which are based on the stochastic gradient method, the step-sizes must be appropriately chosen. For stationary environments in which channel statistics are assumed static during the adaptation periods, determining an appropriate step-size for an adaptive algorithm is possible [3]. In practice, however, multiple access interference (MAI) users frequently enter and exit the channel. Therefore, the channel is far from being stationary and computation of a pre-determined step-size is difficult.

In [4], the adaptive step-size strategy for tracking time-varying environments within CDMA channels is successfully applied to the MOE detector presented in [1]. However, the MOE detector tends to cancel the desired signal when the spreading waveform has a mismatch [1]. This is because the MOE criterion is not primarily designed to equalise multipath distortion caused by a dispersive channel. In reality, the multipath distortion, the cause of mismatch, must not be neglected especially when high data rate transmission is required [3].

In this paper, we therefore introduce the adaptive step-size CMOE (AS-CMOE) algorithm for CDMA receivers operating in multipath fading channels. The AS-CMOE algorithm adaptively varies the step-size in order to minimise the CMOE criterion. The AS-CMOE algorithm is derived in the same fashion as the AS-MOE algorithm of [4] but with a modification to the constraint in order to operate in multipath channels. The algorithm is blind in the sense that no training data are required. Admissibility of the proposed method is studied by means of the reformulation of the CMOE criterion as an unconstrained optimisation. Simulations confirm the applicability of the algorithms for nonstationary environments in multipath fading CDMA channels. Sensitivity of the algorithms to initial settings of the step-size and the rate of step-size adaptation are also shown. The AS-CMOE receiver is shown to perform at least as well as the AS-MOE receivers in both single-path and multipath fading channels.

2. SIGNAL MODEL

Consider the real signal model of an additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN) K-user synchronous CDMA channel, the baseband received signal is defined as

\[ r(t) = \sum_{i=-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{k=1}^{K} A_k b_k(i) c_k(t - iT) + w(t), \]  

where \( A_k \) represents the received amplitude of the \( k \)th user. The data bits \( b_k(i) \) are independent identically distributed (i.i.d.) and \( b_k(i) \in \{-1,+1\} \). The symbol period is denoted by \( T \). The spreading code \( c_k(t) \) is \( N \)-dimensional and has unit energy property, i.e., \( \|c_k\|^2 = 1 \). To include the effect of the channel, the spreading waveform of the \( k \)th user \( c_k(t) \) can be modified to \( g_k(t) = c_k(t) * h_k(t) \), where \( * \) denotes convolution and \( h_k(t) \) is the channel response of the \( k \)th user which incorporates \( A_k \) and need not be identical for different users. The AWGN \( w(t) \) has power spectral density \( \sigma_w^2 \).

The continuous-time received signal \( r(t) \) is sampled to form a length-\( L_f \) received signal vector at the \( n \)th observation, where \( L_f \) is the length of a receiver with tap-weight vector \( f \),

\[ r_n = \sum_{k=1}^{K} r_n^{(k)} + w_n = \sum_{k=1}^{K} G_k b_{k,n} + w_n, \]

where \( r_n^{(k)} \) denotes the received signal of the \( k \)th user, \( G_k \) the combined code-channel response matrix of the \( k \)th user, \( b_{k,n} = (b_{k,n+L_f-1} \ldots b_{k,n})^T \) with \( L_k = \left( L_f + \frac{\sigma_w^2}{\sigma_n^2} \right) \) and \( w_n = (w_{n+L_f-1} \ldots w_{n+L_f})^T \). Note that

\[ C_k = C_k H_k, \]

where the \( L_f \times L_k L_0 \) code matrix \( C_k \)

\[ C_k = \begin{pmatrix} C_k & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots \\ \end{pmatrix}, \]

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where $\mathbf{C}_k$ represents the block of delayed copies of the code sequence of the $k$th user with dimension $L_k \times N + L_k - 1$

$$
\mathbf{C}_k = \begin{pmatrix}
0 & \cdots & c_{k,N-1} & c_{k,0} \\
\vdots & & \vdots & \vdots \\
0 & \cdots & c_{k,N-1} & c_{k,0} \\
\end{pmatrix}
$$

(5)

and $\mathbf{\tilde{C}}_k$ denotes the code matrix $\mathbf{C}_k$ with the first $L_k - 1$ columns truncated. Define the length-$L_k$ channel response vector for the $k$th user, $\mathbf{h}_k = (h_k^{(2)}, \cdots, h_k^{(L_k)})^T$, the $L_k L_k \times L_k$ channel matrix $\mathbf{H}_k$ and the $L_f \times L_k$ combined channel matrix $\mathbf{G}_k$ are defined as

$$
\mathbf{H}_k = \begin{pmatrix}
h_k & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\
0 & h_k & \cdots & 0 \\
\vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\
0 & 0 & \cdots & h_k \\
\end{pmatrix}
$$

and $\mathbf{G}_k = \begin{pmatrix}
g_{k,N-1} & \cdots & g_{k,0} \\
\vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\
g_{k,N-1} & \cdots & g_{k,0} \\
\end{pmatrix}
$$

For brevity, we shall consider the first user as the desired user and drop the subscript $k$ in all variables involving the first user.

3. ADAPTIVE STEP-SIZE CMOE ALGORITHM

We consider the CMOE criterion for the AS-CMOE algorithm

$$
\min J_n \quad \text{s.t.} \quad (d_k^\mu)^T \mathbf{C} = (1, 0, \cdots, 0),
$$

(6)

where $J_n = \mathbb{E}\{ (d_k^\mu)^T r_n \}^2$, $\mathbf{C}$ represents the code-constrained matrix described in (4), $\mu$ is the step-size of the algorithm and $d_k^\mu$ is the tap weight vector of the fixed step-size CMOE algorithm. The update rule for $d_k^\mu$ is given by

$$
d_{k+1}^\mu = d_k^\mu - \mu \Pi_k \mathbf{e}_n r_n^T d_k^\mu, \quad (7)
$$

where $\Pi_k = I - \Pi_C$ and $\Pi_C \triangleq \mathbb{C}(C^T C)^{-1}C^T$. Differentiating $J_n$ in (6) with respect to $\mu$ at time $n$, denoted by $\mu_n$, results in

$$
\frac{\partial J_n}{\partial \mu} = 2\mathbb{E}\{ d_k^\mu r_n^T Y_n \}, \quad Y_n = \mathbf{r}_n d_k^\mu / \mu_n \quad \text{and} \quad d_{k+1}^\mu = \text{the estimate of the tap-weight at time } n. \quad \text{Replacing } \mu \text{ and } d_k^\mu \text{ in (7) with } \mu_n \text{ and } d_{k+1}^\mu, \text{ respectively, we arrive at}
$$

$$
d_{k+1}^\mu = d_n^\mu - \mu_n \mathbf{e}_n r_n^T d_n^\mu, \quad (8)
$$

where $\mu_n$ is updated by

$$
\mu_{n+1} = \mu_n - \alpha \frac{\partial J_n}{\partial \mu_n} \mathbf{r}_n^T Y_n \mathbf{r}_n^{\mu}, \quad (9)
$$

and $[\cdot]^{\mu} +$ denotes the truncation to the limits of the range $[\mu, \mu]$ and $\alpha > 0$ denotes the adaptation rate of $\mu_n$. The update rule of $Y_n$ is given by

$$
Y_{n+1} = Y_n - r_n^T d_n^\mu r_n + \mu_n \mathbf{e}_n r_n^T Y_n \mathbf{r}_n, \
$$

(10)

and the second equality results from replacing the received signal $r_n$ with its projection upon the complement of the range space spanned by the columns of the code-constrained matrix $\mathbf{C}$. $\Pi_k \mathbf{r}_n$. Equations (8), (9) and (10) constitute the adaptive step-size CMOE (AS-CMOE) algorithm. For the fixed-$\mu$ process, $\mu_n \triangleq \mu$ and (10) becomes $Y_{n+1} = [I - \mu_n \mathbf{r}_n^T \mathbf{r}_n] Y_n + \mu_n \mathbf{e}_n^2 Y_n \Pi_k \mathbf{r}_n - \mu_n \mathbf{e}_n r_n^T \Pi_k \mathbf{r}_n$. Admissibility of using both $Y_n$ and $Y_{n+1}$ in the CMOE criterion (6) is confirmed by the results in Section 4.

4. REFORMULATION OF THE CMOE CRITERION AS AN UNCONSTRAINED OPTIMISATION

We follow [4] in finding an unconstrained version of the code-constrained MOE (CMOE) cost. The CMOE criterion of [2] for the fixed-$\mu$ process is given by

$$
\min J_n \quad \text{s.t.} \quad (d_k^\mu)^T \mathbf{C} = (1, 0, \cdots, 0),
$$

(11)

By solving for any one of the element of $d_k^\mu$, the constrained optimisation problem of (11) can be transformed into an unconstrained one [4]. Resorting to the constraint in (11), the first element of $d_k^\mu$ is given by

$$
d_{k+1}^\mu = 1 \frac{1 - \sum_{j=2}^{L_f} C_{kn,j} d_{kn,j} - \sum_{j=2}^{L_f} (\mathbf{e}_n^T)^T C_{kj} \mathbf{e}_n}{C_{kn,1} + \sum_{j=2}^{L_f} (\mathbf{e}_n^T) C_{kj} \mathbf{e}_n}, \quad (12)
$$

where $C_{kn,j}$ denotes the $i$, $j$th element of $C$ and $C_{kj}^{(l)}$ is the $l$th column vector of $C$, i.e.,

$$
C \triangleq (C^{(1)} \cdots C^{(L_f)})_{n,k} = \begin{pmatrix}
c_{k,n}^{(1)} & \cdots & c_{k,n}^{(L_f)} \\
\vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\
c_{k,n}^{(1)} & \cdots & c_{k,n}^{(L_f)} \\
\end{pmatrix}
$$

(13)

The tap-weight vector of the receiver at time $n$ is also defined as

$$
d_k^\mu = (d_k^\mu, \cdots, d_k^\mu)^T = (d_k^\mu, \cdots, d_k^\mu)^T \mathbf{G}_k^T \mathbf{r}_n \quad \text{and the received signal vector } \mathbf{r}_n = (r_{n,1}, \cdots, r_{n,L_f})^T = (r_{n,1}, r_{n,2})^T \quad \text{where } L_f \text{ is the length of the tap-weight vector.}$

The argument of (11) is therefore given by

$$
d_{k+1}^\mu = d_{n+1} + (d_{n+1}^\mu)^T \mathbf{r}_n
$$

$$
= d_{n+1}^\mu + \frac{1}{C_{kn,1}} \left( \sum_{j=2}^{L_f} C_{kn,j} d_{kn,j} \right) + \sum_{j=2}^{L_f} (\mathbf{e}_n^T) C_{kj} \mathbf{e}_n
$$

$$
\triangleq J_n - \mathbf{F}_n \mathbf{R}_n, (14)
$$

where $\mathbf{C}^{(l)} = (c_{k,n}^{(1)}, \cdots, c_{k,n}^{(L_f)})^T$, $J_n \triangleq [1 - \sum_{j=2}^{L_f} c_{k,n}^{(l)} c_{k,n}^{(l)}], \quad \mathbf{R}_n \triangleq \mathbf{r}_n - \frac{1}{c_{k,n}^{(l)}} \sum_{j=2}^{L_f} \mathbf{C}^{(l)} \mathbf{r}_n$, and $\mathbf{F}_n \triangleq d_{n+1}^\mu$. An unconstrained optimisation version of (11) is therefore given by

$$
\min d_{n+1} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad (d_{n+1}^\mu)^T \mathbf{C} = (1, 0, \cdots, 0),
$$

(15)

Consider a fixed step-size system,$$
\mathbf{F}_{n+1} = \mathbf{F}_n + \mu \mathbf{R}_n \mathbf{e}_n(\mu),
$$

(16)

where $\mathbf{e}_n(\mu) \triangleq J_n - \mathbf{F}_n \mathbf{R}_n$. The unconstrained optimisation for the fixed step-size system (16) is given by

$$
\min d_{n+1} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad (d_{n+1}^\mu)^T \mathbf{C} = (1, 0, \cdots, 0),
$$

(17)

An unconstrained version of the adaptive step-size CMOE (AS-CMOE) algorithm is given by

$$
\mathbf{F}_{n+1} = \mathbf{F}_n + \mu_n \mathbf{R}_n \mathbf{e}_n(\mu_n),
$$

(18)

$$
\mu_{n+1} = |\mu_n + \alpha \mathbf{R}_n \mathbf{e}_n(\mu_n)|^{\mu},
$$

(19)

$$
Y_{n+1} = [I - \mu \mathbf{R}_n \mathbf{R}_n] Y_n + \mathbf{R}_n \mathbf{e}_n(\mu_n),
$$

(20)

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where \( e_n = y_n - F_n^T r_n \). Note that since the AS-MOE criterion of [4] uses the constraint proposed by Honig et al. [1], the constraint in (11) is therefore modified to \( \langle d_n^p \rangle \tilde{C}_{11} = 1 \). Consequently, the parameters in (14) are modified as follows for the AS-MOE criterion

\[
Y_n \triangleq \frac{E_{c1,n}}{C_{11}}, \quad R_n \triangleq \frac{E_{c1,n} + C_{11}}{C_{11}}, \quad F_n \triangleq \frac{C_{11}}{C_{11}}.
\]

which are identical to those shown in Section IV A of [4].

5. ADMISSIBILITY OF \( Y_n^c \) AND \( Y_n^p \) PROCESSES

For a stationary system with small enough \( \mu \), the meaning of \( Y_n^c \) is interpreted by the approximation of estimation of finite difference errors as [5]. For \( \Delta > 0, \mu + \Delta \leq \mu + \Delta \), define \( \delta F_{n, \Delta}^e = \frac{F_{n+1} - F_n}{\Delta} \). Therefore,

\[
\delta F_{n+1}^e = \delta F_{n}^e - \mu R_n^T r_{n+1}^T \delta F_{n}^e \Delta \quad + R_n(y_n - R_n^T F_n^e \Delta) - \Delta R_n R_n^T (F_n^e \Delta).
\]

Similarly to the study of \( Y_n^c \) for non-blind AS algorithms as shown in Appendix A of [5], it is shown that \( \lim_{\mu \to 0} E \{ (\delta F_{n, \Delta}^e)^2 \} \leq O(1/\mu^2) \) converges uniformly in \( \Delta \) for small enough \( \mu \). Define \( D_{n, \Delta}^e = \delta F_{n, \Delta}^e - Y_n^e \) where \( Y_n^e = \partial F_n^e / \partial \mu |_{\mu = \mu_n} \), therefore

\[
D_{n+1, \Delta}^e = D_{n, \Delta}^e - \mu R_n R_n^T D_{n, \Delta}^e - \Delta R_n R_n^T \delta F_{n, \Delta}^e.
\]

By using the above estimate for \( E \{ (\delta F_{n, \Delta}^e)^2 \} \) and following the same derivation as in Appendix A of [5], it can be shown that \( \lim_{\mu \to 0} E \{ (D_{n, \Delta}^e)^2 \} = O(1/\mu)O(1/\mu) \). This means that for the stationary system and small enough \( \mu \), \( \lim_{\mu \to 0} E \{ (Y_n^e - Y_n^c - \frac{F_{n+1}^e - F_n^e}{\Delta})^2 \} = 0 \). Therefore, \( Y_n^e \) can be interpreted as a mean square derivative [5], i.e., as \( \Delta \to 0 \),

\[
E \{ f(F_{n+1}^e) - f(F_n^e) \} \to E \{ f(F_n^e) Y_n^e \},
\]

where \( f(\cdot) \) is a differentiable function [5] and \( f'(\cdot) \) is the derivative of \( f(\cdot) \) with respect to \( F \). Define \( f(F_n^e) = [Y_n^e - F_n^e R_n^T]^T \), it is shown that [5]

\[
E \{ f(F_n^e) Y_n^e \} = \frac{\partial E \{ f(F_n^e) \} }{\partial \mu}.
\]

By using the relationship (14) and the results from Section 4, \( f(F_n^e) \triangleq \tilde{F}(d_n) \).

\[
E \{ f(d_n) Y_n^e \} = \frac{\partial E \{ f(d_n) \} }{\partial \mu}.
\]

Hence, the admissibility of \( Y_n^e \), and also \( Y_n^c \), as a mean square derivative for the AS-CMOE algorithm is therefore validated.

6. SIMULATIONS

We considered a synchronous CDMA system with spreading gain 31. Gold sequences were used to generate the spreading codes for all users. The background noise was zero mean AWGN with SNR = 20 dB referenced to the desired (first) user. Six equal-power 20 dB MAI users were in the channel at time zero. At time \( n = 500 \), another four 30 dB MAI users were added to the channel. At time \( n = 1000 \), two of the 20 dB MAI users and three of the 30 dB MAI users exited the channel. Averaged signal-to-interference plus noise (SINR) was used as a performance measure and all SINR plots were averaged over 100 Monte-Carlo runs. The performances of the AS-MOE [4] receiver and the proposed AS-CMOE receiver are compared in single-path and multipath fading scenarios. The lengths of both receivers were chosen to be \( 2N

For the case of the single-path channel, the SINR plots are shown in Fig. 1 a). Both AS algorithms perform almost identical in the case of a non-near-far, single-path stationary channel. As four near-far MAI users enter the channel at time \( n = 500 \), both AS-MOE and AS-CMOE are able to track the channel variation with noticeable degradation in SINR level. In the multipath case, five-ray multipath fading channels were assumed for all users where the probability of the location of the delay of the last four rays were uniformly distributed over \([0, 2\pi] \) with standard deviation 0.3. The SINR performances of both receivers in the multipath channel are shown in Fig. 1 b). It is apparent that the performance of the AS-MOE receiver is highly dependent upon the multipath dispersion. The AS-MOE receiver still attains a degraded SINR level even when some users exit the channel at time \( n = 1000 \). For AS-CMOE, the additional constraint prevents signal cancellation. The SINR performance confirms the ability of the AS-CMOE to operate in multipath channels.

Fig. 2 a)-b) show respectively three trajectories of different initialised step-sizes of the AS-CMOE algorithm for single-path and multipath channels. For the single-path channel in Fig. 2 a), the trajectories are driven up to the peak and gradually decrease to a small value. A decrease in the value of the step-size is associated with an increase of the SINR of the AS-CMOE receiver as shown in Fig. 1 b). After \( n = 1000 \), all trajectories stay at the same level. In Fig. 2 b), the trajectories of AS-CMOE for the five-ray multipath channel are shown. At \( n = 500 \), sudden changes in the trajectories for both algorithms are less noticeable as compared to those shown in Fig. 2 a). With the 100-fold variation in \( \mu_0 = \{10^{-3}, 10^{-4}, 10^{-5}\} \), all trajectories of the step-sizes for AS-CMOE in Fig. 2 a)-b) show an approximately identical behaviour in convergence even after the occurrence of the sudden changes in the channel. It is noticed that the algorithm converges slightly faster at large initial setting of step-sizes. A similar result has also been observed for the adaptive step-size LMS algorithm shown in [6].

In order to test the effect of \( \alpha \) upon the algorithm, we considered the performance of AS-CMOE in a dynamic environment where different user groups switched between three user groups according to a Markov chain. The dynamic environment was set similarly to that of [4] with minor modification. The power of the first user was set such that its SNR is 20 dB and the MAI user groups were designated as follows. User group 1 consisted of 17 MAI users transmitting at 20 dB and two MAI users transmitting at 30 dB. User group 2 consisted of 29 MAI users transmitting at 30 dB. Finally, user group 3 consisted of eight MAI users transmitting at 20 dB and one MAI user transmitting at 30 dB. The MAI structure was constructed according to a Markov chain \([x_n]\) with
Fig. 1. The averaged SINR in dB for AS-MOE [4] and AS-CMOE receivers in a) single-path and b) multipath channels. Both the AS-MOE and AS-CMOE receivers show comparable performance in tracking variations of the single-path channel. For the multipath channel, AS-MOE fails to operate whereas AS-CMOE performs well and robustness to mismatch is shown.

Fig. 2. The trajectories of step-sizes for the AS-CMOE receiver in a) the single-path b) the five-ray multipath channels when initial step-sizes are (i) $1 \times 10^{-5}$ for $\varphi$; (ii) $1 \times 10^{-4}$ for $\varphi$ and (iii) $1 \times 10^{-3}$ for $\varphi$. The trajectories of the step-size show an approximately identical behaviour. All trajectories of the step-size for the AS-CMOE receiver behave similarly after $n = 500$ and stay at the same level after $n = 1000$. transition probability matrix $P = \begin{pmatrix} 0.998 & 0.01 & 0.01 \\ 0.01 & 0.998 & 0.01 \\ 0.01 & 0.01 & 0.998 \end{pmatrix}$ and state space $\{(1, 0, 0)^T, (0, 1, 0)^T, (0, 0, 1)^T\}$. The Markov chain $z[n]$ designates the MAI user group which affects the desired user detection at the nth symbol. The switching between the three MAI user groups occurred at every 500 symbols. Single-path fading channels were used for both the desired user and all the MAI users for all user groups. At different adaptation rate $\alpha$ settings, Fig. 3 shows the different trajectories of the step-size $p[n]$ of AS-CMOE. The initialisation of step-size $p[0]$ was set at $10^{-6}$ and the adaptation rates at $\alpha = \{2 \times 10^{-8}, 1 \times 10^{-7}, 5 \times 10^{-7}\}$. Each plot was averaged over 50 different runs for $8 \times 10^4$ symbols. From the plots, the trajectories of the step-sizes converge to an approximately similar level despite a 25-fold difference in adaptation rate setting. The step-sizes converge to some small levels but will not go to zero. Although unique global convergence has not yet been proven, the consistency in convergence of different adaptation rates suggests the insensitivity of adaptation rate $\alpha$ of AS-CMOE.

Fig. 3. The trajectories of step-sizes of AS-CMOE in Markovian user population with different settings of adaptation rate ($\alpha$). The AS-CMOE algorithm is shown to be relatively insensitive to variation of adaptation rate settings.

7. CONCLUSION
In this paper, the AS-CMOE receiver is introduced. The performance of the algorithm for nonstationary environments within single-path and multipath fading channels is examined. The algorithm works well in tracking the abrupt changes due to interfering users entering and exiting the channels. AS-CMOE performs closely to AS-MOE of [4] in the single-path channel. However, as the AS-MOE receiver fails to operate in the multipath channel, AS-CMOE performs well in tracking abrupt changes and its robustness to mismatch is shown. The insensitivity to the initialisation points of step-size and adaptation rate of AS-CMOE are also investigated. Simulation results suggest the relative insensitivity to variation of both initial step-size and adaptation rate settings of the AS-CMOE algorithm.

8. REFERENCES