# **Frequency-Domain Multi-Stage Soft Interference Cancellation for DS-CDMA Uplink Signal Transmission**

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**SUMMARY** It is well-known that, in DS-CDMA downlink signal transmission, frequency-domain equalization (FDE) based on minimum mean square error (MMSE) criterion can replace rake combining to achieve much improved bit error rate (BER) performance in severe frequency-selective fading channel. However, in uplink signal transmission, as each user's signal goes through a different channel, a severe multi-user interference (MUI) is produced and the uplink BER performance severely de-grades compared to the downlink. When a small spreading factor is used, the uplink BER performance further degrades due to inter-chip interference (ICI). In this paper, we propose a frequency-domain multi-stage soft interference cancellation scheme for the DS-CDMA uplink and the achievable BER performance is evaluated by computer simulation. The BER performance comparison of the proposed cancellation technique and the multi-user detection (MUD) is also presented.

*key words:* DS-CDMA, frequency-domain equalization (FDE), MUI cancellation, multi-user detection (MUD)

# 1. Introduction

Wideband direct sequence code division multiple access (DS-CDMA) with coherent rake combining has been adopted in the 3rd generation mobile communication systems for data transmissions rates up to a few Mbps transmissions [1]. In the next generation mobile communication systems, however, much higher speed data transmission (e.g., close to 1 Gbps) is required. For such high-speed data transmission, the channel becomes severely frequencyselective [2] and the transmission performance significantly degrades due to a large inter-path interference (IPI) even if coherent rake combining is used. Recently, orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM) and multi-carrier (MC)-CDMA [3]–[5] have been attracting much attention. OFDM uses many low rate orthogonal subcarriers for parallel transmission and applies frequency-domain equalization (FDE) to overcome the frequency-selective channel. MC-CDMA is a combination of OFDM and CDMA, and spreads the data modulated symbol over a number of subcarriers (frequency-domain spreading) to achieve the frequencydiversity gain. However, OFDM and MC-CDMA signals have large peak-to-average power ratio (PAPR). This is a serious problem for the uplink (mobile-to-base) signal transmission since a linear transmit power amplifier with large peak power is required at a mobile station (MS). On the

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other hand, DS-CDMA does not have such a PAPR problem in general. However, when rake combining is used for the reception of DS-CDMA signals, the transmission performance significantly degrades due to severe IPI. Therefore, a proper equalization technique instead of rake combining is necessary to improve the DS-CDMA transmission performance.

Recently, it was shown [6]-[8] that the use of FDE based on minimum mean square error (MMSE) criterion can significantly improve the bit error rate (BER) performance of DS-CDMA downlink and give similar performance to MC-CDMA. However, in the uplink, each user's signal goes through a different channel and thus, the orthogonality between users is lost; the uplink BER performance severely degrades due to multi-user interference (MUI) [9]-[13] even if FDE is applied. Furthermore, when a small spreading factor is used, the BER performance degrades due to inter-chip interference (ICI) [8]. Many works on the MUI and ICI cancellation are found, e.g., [11], [14]. In [14], MUI cancellation is repeated together with time-domain equalization and decoding. In [11], MUI cancellation and inter-symbol interference (ISI) cancellation are carried out separately; parallel interference cancellation (PIC) is used to cancel MUI and frequency-domain decision-feedback equalization (DFE) is used to cancel ISI.

In this paper, we propose a frequency-domain multistage soft PIC (FD-MS-SPIC) scheme and a frequencydomain multi-stage soft successive interference cancellation (FD-MS-SSIC) scheme to simultaneously suppress both MUI and ICI. The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. The DS-CDMA uplink signal transmission is presented in Sect. 2. The FD-MS-SPIC and SSIC are described in Sect. 3. In Sect. 4, the MMSE weight and cancellation weight are derived. Section 5 presents the computer simulation results for the uplink BER performance in a frequencyselective Rayleigh fading channel. The paper is concluded in Sect. 6.

# 2. DS-CDMA Uplink Signal Transmission

The DS-CDMA uplink transmitter/receiver structure is illustrated in Fig. 1. Throughout the paper, the chip-spaced discrete-time signal representation is used.

We assume that U users are transmitting their signals to the base station (BS). We consider the transmission of one block of  $N_c$  chips, where  $N_c$  denotes the block length for fast Fourier transform (FFT). At the *u*th user MS transmit-

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Fig. 1 Uplink transmitter/receiver structure.

ter,  $u=0\sim(U-1)$ , a binary data sequence is transformed into data-modulated symbol sequence  $d^u(n)$ ,  $n=0\sim(N_c/SF-1)$ , and then spread by multiplying it with a user-specific long pseudo noise (PN) sequence  $c^u(t)$ , where SF is the spreading factor. The resultant DS-CDMA signal  $s^u(t)$ ,  $t=0\sim(N_c-1)$ , can be expressed using the equivalent baseband representation as

$$s^{u}(t) = \sqrt{\frac{2E_{c}}{T_{c}}} d^{u} \left( \left\lfloor \frac{t}{SF} \right\rfloor \right) \cdot c^{u}(t), \tag{1}$$

where  $E_c$  and  $T_c$  represent the chip energy and the chip length, respectively and  $\lfloor x \rfloor$  represents the largest integer smaller than or equal to x. A user-specific random chip interleaver is used in order to reduce the negative effect of error propagation due to decision feedback used for the interference replica generation. The last  $N_g$  chips of  $s^u(t)$  are copied and inserted as a cyclic-prefix into the guard interval (GI) at the beginning of the block [8].

*U* users' transmitted signals go through different fading channels and are received at the BS receiver. Assuming that each user's fading channel has *L* independent propagation paths with chip-spaced distinct time delays  $\{\tau_l^u; l = 0 \sim (L - 1)\}$ , the impulse response  $h^u(t)$  of the *u*th user's channel can be expressed as [15]

$$h^{u}(t) = \sum_{l=0}^{L-1} h^{u}_{l} \delta(t - \tau^{u}_{l}),$$
<sup>(2)</sup>

where  $h_l^u$  is the *l*th path gain with  $\sum_{l=0}^{L-1} E[|h_l^u|^2] = 1$  (*E*[.] is the ensemble mean). In this paper, we assume that the users' transmit timings are asynchronous but they are kept within the GI and we also assume perfect chip timing.

The received signal r(t) can be expressed as

$$r(t) = \sum_{u=0}^{U-1} \sum_{l=0}^{L-1} h_l^u s(t - \tau_l^u) + \eta(t),$$
(3)

where  $\eta(t)$  represents the zero-mean noise process having variance  $2N_0/T_c$  with  $N_0$  representing the single-sided power spectrum density of the additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN). Here, we have assumed block fading, where path gains remain constant over the time interval of  $t = -N_g \sim$  $(N_c - 1)$ . After the removal of the GI, the received signal is decomposed into  $N_c$  frequency components {R(k);  $k = 0 \sim (N_c - 1)$ } by applying  $N_c$ -point FFT. R(k) is given by

$$R(k) = \sum_{t=0}^{N_c-1} r(t) \exp\left(-j2\pi k \frac{t}{N_c}\right)$$
  
=  $\sum_{u=0}^{U-1} H^u(k) S^u(k) + \Pi(k),$  (4)

where  $S^{u}(k)$  is the *k*th frequency component of  $s^{u}(t)$  and  $H^{u}(k)$  and  $\Pi(k)$  are respectively the channel gain and the noise component at the *k*th frequency due to the AWGN.  $S^{u}(k)$ ,  $H^{u}(k)$  and  $\Pi(k)$  are given by

$$\begin{cases} S^{u}(k) = \sum_{t=0}^{N_{c}-1} s^{u}(t) \exp\left(-j2\pi k \frac{t}{N_{c}}\right) \\ H^{u}(k) = \sum_{l=0}^{L-1} h_{l}^{u} \exp\left(-j2\pi k \frac{\tau_{l}^{u}}{N_{c}}\right) \\ \Pi(k) = \sum_{t=0}^{N_{c}-1} \eta(t) \exp\left(-j2\pi k \frac{t}{N_{c}}\right) \end{cases}$$
(5)

Then, FD-MS-SPIC or SSIC is performed to obtain a sequence of decision variables for data demodulation.

## 3. FD-MS-SPIC and SSIC

The operation principle is described first for FD-MS-SPIC and then for FD-MS-SSIC. We assume quadrature-phase shift keying (QPSK) data modulation. The cancellation structure at the *i*th stage is illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3 for FD-MS-SPIC and SSIC, respectively.

#### 3.1 FD-MS-SPIC

First, the *u*th user's signal replica  $\{\bar{S}_{i-1}^{u}(k); k = 0 \sim N_c - 1\}$  in the frequency-domain is generated. The replica generation for the *u*th user is illustrated in Fig. 4. The decision variable for the *n*th symbol  $d^{u}(n)$  obtained after the (i - 1)th stage is denoted by  $\tilde{d}_{i-1}^{u}(n)$ . The soft symbol replica  $\bar{d}_{i-1}^{u}(n)$  of the *u*th user is generated by using the decision variable  $\tilde{d}_{i-1}^{u}(n)$ .

The log-likelihood ratio (LLR)  $\lambda_m^u(n)$  of the *m*th bit  $b_{m,n}^u$  in the *n*th symbol  $d^u(n)$  is computed using the decision variable  $\tilde{d}_{i-1}^u(n)$ , where  $m=0\sim\log_2 M - 1$  with *M* being the modulation level. Approximating the residual interference (MUI+ICI) plus noise as a zero-mean complex Gaussian noise variable with variance  $2\hat{\sigma}_{i-1}^2$  (see Sect. 4.3), the LLR for  $b_{m,n}^u$  is given by [16]

$$\lambda_{m}^{u}(n) = \ln\left(\frac{p(b_{m,n}^{u} = 1)}{p(b_{m,n}^{u} = 0)}\right)$$

$$\approx \ln\frac{\exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\hat{\sigma}_{i-1}^{2}} \left| \tilde{d}_{i-1}^{u}(n) - \sqrt{\frac{2E_{c}}{T_{c}}} A_{i-1}^{u} d^{u} \right|^{2} \right)}{\exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\hat{\sigma}_{i-1}^{2}} \left| \tilde{d}_{i-1}^{u}(n) - \sqrt{\frac{2E_{c}}{T_{c}}} A_{i-1}^{u} d^{u} \right|^{2} \right)},$$

$$\approx \ln\left(\frac{1}{2\hat{\sigma}_{i-1}^{2}} \left| \tilde{d}_{i-1}^{u}(n) - \sqrt{\frac{2E_{c}}{T_{c}}} A_{i-1}^{u} d^{u} \right|^{2} \right),$$

$$\exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\hat{\sigma}_{i-1}^{2}} \left| \tilde{d}_{i-1}^{u}(n) - \sqrt{\frac{2E_{c}}{T_{c}}} A_{i-1}^{u} d^{u} \right|^{2} \right),$$
(6)



Joint MMSE-FDE and SPIC

Despreading

Fig. 2 FD-MS-SPIC structure for the *u*th user's signal detection at the *i*th stage.

Joint MMSE-FDE/SSIC and despreading for uth user



Joint MMSE-FDE and SSIC



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$$\widetilde{d}_{i-1}^{u}(n) \xrightarrow{\overline{s}_{i-1}^{u}(n)} \underbrace{\overline{s}_{i-1}^{u}(t)}_{\text{decision}} \xrightarrow{\text{frr}} \overline{S}_{i-1}^{u}(k)$$

Fig. 4 Replica generator for *u*th user at the *i*th stage.

where  $p(b_{m,n}^u = 1)$  (or  $p(b_{m,n}^u = 0)$ ) is the probability of  $b_{m,n}^u = 1$  (or 0),  $\{d^u : b_{m,n}^u = 1 \text{ (or 0)}\}$  denotes a set of symbols whose *m*th bit is 1 (or 0), and

$$A_{i-1}^{u} = \frac{1}{N_c} \sum_{k=0}^{N_c - 1} \hat{H}_{i-1}^{u}(k)$$
(7)

with

$$\hat{H}_{i-1}^{u}(k) = w_{i-1}^{u}(k)H^{u}(k), \tag{8}$$

where  $w_{i-1}^{u}(k)$  is the MMSE weight, which is derived in Sect. 4.2. The denominator and numerator of Eq. (6) are given as

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\{d^{u}:b_{m,n}^{u}=1 \text{ (or 0)}\}} \\ \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\hat{\sigma}_{i-1}^{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\hat{\sigma}_{i-1}^{2}} \left| \tilde{d}_{i-1}^{u}(n) - \sqrt{\frac{2E_{c}}{T_{c}}} A_{i-1}^{u} d^{u} \right|^{2} \right) \right] \\ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\hat{\sigma}_{i-1}^{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\hat{\sigma}_{i-1}^{2}} \left| \tilde{d}_{i-1}^{u}(n) - \sqrt{\frac{2E_{c}}{T_{c}}} A_{i-1}^{u} d^{\min}_{b_{m,n}^{u}=1 \text{ (or 0)}} \right|^{2} \right), \end{aligned}$$
(9)

where  $d_{b_{m,n}^{w_{1}}=1 (or 0)}^{m_{1}}$  is the most probable symbol whose *m*th bit is 1 (or 0), for which the Euclidean distance from  $\tilde{d}_{i-1}^{u}(n)$ is minimal. Therefore, Eq. (6) can be approximated as

The soft decision symbol  $\bar{d}_{i-1}^u(n)$  can be obtained from [14]

$$\bar{d}_{i-1}^{u}(n) = \sum_{d \in D} d_{b_{m,n}^{u}} \prod_{b_{m,n}^{u} \in d} p(b_{m,n}^{u}),$$
(11)

where  $d_{b_{m,n}^{u}}$  is the candidate symbol (that has  $b_{m,n}^{u}$  as the *m*th bit) in the signal space *D*. Using  $p(b_{m,n}^u = 1) + p(b_{m,n}^u = 0) = 1$ ,  $p(b_{m,n}^u = 1)$  and  $p(b_{m,n}^u = 0)$  are given by

$$\begin{cases} p(b_{m,n}^{u} = 1) = \frac{\exp[\lambda_{m}^{u}(n)]}{1 + \exp[\lambda_{m}^{u}(n)]} \\ p(b_{m,n}^{u} = 0) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp[\lambda_{m}^{u}(n)]} \end{cases}$$
(12)

Assuming QPSK data modulation in this paper, the soft symbol replica  $\bar{d}_{i-1}^u(n)$  is given as

$$\begin{split} \bar{d}_{i-1}^{u}(n) &= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} + j\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right) p\left(b_{0,n}^{u} = 1\right) p\left(b_{1,n}^{u} = 1\right) \\ &+ \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} - j\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right) p\left(b_{0,n}^{u} = 1\right) p\left(b_{1,n}^{u} = 0\right) \end{split}$$

$$+\left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}+j\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)p\left(b_{0,n}^{u}=0\right)p\left(b_{1,n}^{u}=1\right) +\left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}-j\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)p\left(b_{0,n}^{u}=0\right)p\left(b_{1,n}^{u}=0\right).$$
(13)

Substitution of Eq. (12) into Eq. (13) gives

$$\bar{d}_{i-1}^{u}(n) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left[ \tanh\left(\frac{\lambda_0^{u}(n)}{2}\right) + j \tanh\left(\frac{\lambda_1^{u}(n)}{2}\right) \right].$$
(14)

However, in this paper, to avoid the negative effect of the error propagation from the replica generation, we take a heuristic approach; the parameter  $\beta_{i-1}$  is introduced as

$$\bar{d}_{i-1}^{u}(n) \approx \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left[ \tanh\left(\beta_{i-1} \frac{\lambda_0^{u}(n)}{2}\right) + j \tanh\left(\beta_{i-1} \frac{\lambda_1^{u}(n)}{2}\right) \right].$$
(15)

The soft symbol replica  $\bar{d}_{i-1}^u(n)$  is re-spread as

$$\bar{s}_{i-1}^{u}(t) = \sqrt{\frac{2E_c}{T_c}} \bar{d}_{i-1}^{u} \left( \left\lfloor \frac{t}{SF} \right\rfloor \right) \cdot c^u(t)$$
(16)

and then decomposed into  $N_c$  frequency components  $\{\bar{S}_{i-1}^{u}(k); k = 0 \sim (N_c - 1)\}$  by applying  $N_c$ -point FFT.  $\bar{S}_{i-1}^{u}(k)$  is given by

$$\bar{S}_{i-1}^{u}(k) = \sum_{t=0}^{N_c-1} \bar{s}_{i-1}^{u} \exp\left(-j2\pi k \frac{t}{N_c}\right),\tag{17}$$

where  $\bar{s}_{-1}^{u}(t) = 0$ . Then, joint MMSE-FDE and SPIC is carried out, as in Fig. 2, as

$$\tilde{S}_{i}^{u}(k) = w_{i}^{u}(k)R(k) - M_{i}^{u}(k)\bar{S}_{i-1}^{u}(k) - \sum_{u'=0}^{U-1}_{\substack{u'=0\\ \neq u}} M_{i}^{u'}(k)\bar{S}_{i-1}^{u'}(k),$$
(18)

where  $M_i^{u'}(k)$  is the cancellation weight (it will be derived in Sect. 4.1), the second term is the ICI cancellation component and the third one is the MUI cancellation component.  $N_c$ -point inverse FFT (IFFT) is performed on  $\{\tilde{S}_i^u(k); k = 0 \sim (N_c - 1)\}$  to recover the *u*th user's transmitted signal  $\tilde{s}_i^u(t)$ , which corresponds to Eq. (1), and despreading is carried out to obtain the decision variable  $\tilde{d}_i^u(n)$  as

$$\tilde{d}_{i}^{u}(n) = \frac{1}{SF} \sum_{t=nSF}^{(n+1)SF-1} \tilde{s}_{i}^{u}(t) \cdot \{c^{u}(t)\}^{*}.$$
(19)

The above procedure is carried out for all U users.

## 3.2 FD-MS-SSIC

In FD-MS-SSIC, a series of joint MMSE-FDE and SSIC, despreading, symbol decision, replica generation is carried out for all users, according to the ranking of users' received signal powers. The *u*th user's received signal power  $P^{u}$  is given by

$$P^{u} = \sum_{k=0}^{N_{c}-1} |H^{u}(k)|^{2}.$$
 (20)

 $\{P^{u}; u = 0 \sim (U - 1)\}$  are compared and users are ranked according to  $\{P^{u}\}$  in the descending order. In this paper, we assume  $P^{0} \geq P^{1} \geq ... \geq P^{u} \geq ... \geq P^{U-1}$  without loss of generality. The replica generation is the same as for SPIC. The soft symbol replicas  $\{\bar{d}_{i}^{u'}(n); u' = 0 \sim (u - 1)\}$  and  $\{\bar{d}_{i-1}^{u'}(n); u' = u \sim (U - 1)\}$  are respectively generated from  $\{\bar{d}_{i}^{u'}(n); u' = 0 \sim (u - 1)\}$  and  $\{\bar{d}_{i-1}^{u'}(n); u' = u \sim (U - 1)\}$  using Eqs. (10) and (15). The symbol replica  $\bar{d}_{i}^{u'}(n)$  (or  $\bar{d}_{i-1}^{u'}(n)$ ) is re-spread and decomposed into  $N_{c}$  frequency components  $\{\bar{S}_{i}^{u'}(k); k = 0 \sim (N_{c} - 1)\}$  (or  $\{\bar{S}_{i-1}^{u'}(k); k = 0 \sim (N_{c} - 1)\}$ ) by applying  $N_{c}$ -point FFT as in Eq. (17).

Joint MMSE-FDE and SSIC for the *u*th user at the *i*th stage is carried out, as in Fig. 3, as

$$\tilde{S}_{i}^{u}(k) = w_{i}^{u}(k)R(k) - M_{i}^{u}(k)\bar{S}_{i-1}^{u}(k) - \left\{\sum_{u'=0}^{u-1} M_{i}^{u'}(k)\bar{S}_{i}^{u'}(k) + \sum_{u'=u+1}^{U-1} M_{i}^{u'}(k)\bar{S}_{i-1}^{u'}(k)\right\}, \quad (21)$$

where the second and third terms are respectively the ICI and MUI components to be cancelled.

Similar to SPIC,  $N_c$ -point IFFT is performed on { $\tilde{S}_i^u(k)$ ;  $k = 0 \sim (N_c - 1)$ } to recover the *u*th user's transmitted signal  $\tilde{s}_i^u(t)$ , which corresponds to Eq. (1), and despreading is carried out to obtain the decision variable  $\tilde{d}_i^u(n)$  as in Eq. (19).

# 4. Derivation of MMSE Weight, Cancellation Weight and Interference Plus Noise Variance

## 4.1 Cancellation Weight

Substitution of Eq. (4) into Eq. (18) gives

$$\tilde{S}_{i}^{u}(k) = \hat{H}_{i}^{u}(k)S^{u}(k) + \sum_{\substack{u'=0\\ \neq u}}^{U-1} w_{i}^{u}(k)H^{u'}(k)S^{u'}(k) - M_{i}^{u'}(k)\bar{S}_{i-1}^{u'}(k) - \sum_{\substack{u'=0\\ \neq u}}^{U-1} M_{i}^{u'}(k)\bar{S}_{i-1}^{u'}(k) + w_{i}^{u}(k)\Pi(k) \quad (22)$$

for SPIC. Substitution of Eq. (4) into Eq. (21) gives

$$\begin{split} \tilde{S}_{i}^{u}(k) &= \hat{H}_{i}^{u}(k)S^{u}(k) + \sum_{\substack{u'=0\\ \neq u}}^{U-1} w_{i}^{u}(k)H^{u'}(k)S^{u'}(k) \\ &- M_{i}^{u}(k)\bar{S}_{i-1}^{u}(k) \\ &- \left\{ \sum_{u'=0}^{U-1} M_{i}^{u'}(k)\bar{S}_{i}^{u'}(k) + \sum_{u'=u+1}^{U-1} M_{i}^{u'}(k)\bar{S}_{i-1}^{u'}(k) \right\} \\ &+ w_{i}^{u}(k)\Pi(k) \end{split}$$
(23)

for SSIC. The *u*th user's time-domain signal  $\tilde{s}_i^u(t)$  after joint MMSE-FDE and SPIC or SSIC is obtained, by applying  $N_c$ -point IFFT to { $\tilde{S}_i^u(k)$ ;  $k = 0 \sim (N_c - 1)$ }, as

$$\tilde{s}_{i}^{u}(t) = A_{i}^{u} s^{u}(t) + \mu_{ICI,i}(t) + \mu_{MUI,i}(t) + \tilde{\eta}_{i}(t), \qquad (24)$$

where  $\mu_{ICI,i}(t)$  and  $\mu_{MUI,i}(t)$  are the residual ICI and MUI components, respectively. They are given by

$$\mu_{ICI,i}(t) = \frac{1}{N_c} \sum_{k=0}^{N_c-1} \left\{ \left( \hat{H}_i^u(k) - A_i^u \right) S^u(k) - M_i^u(k) \bar{S}_{i-1}^u(k) \right\} \\ \times \exp\left( j 2\pi k \frac{t}{N_c} \right)$$
(25)

and

$$\mu_{MUI,i}(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{N_c} \sum_{k=0}^{N_c-1} \left\{ \sum_{\substack{u'=0\\ \pi_u}}^{U-1} \left( w_i^u(k) H^{u'}(k) S^{u'}(k) \right) \right\} \\ \times \exp\left(j2\pi k \frac{t}{N_c}\right) & \text{for SPIC} \end{cases} \\ \frac{1}{N_c} \sum_{k=0}^{N_c-1} \left\{ \sum_{\substack{u'=0\\ u'=0}}^{U-1} \left( w_i^u(k) H^{u'}(k) S^{u'}(k) \right) \\ + \sum_{\substack{u'=0\\ u'=u+1}}^{U-1} \left( w_i^u(k) H^{u'}(k) S^{u'}(k) \right) \\ + \sum_{\substack{u'=u+1\\ u'=u+1}}^{U-1} \left( w_i^u(k) H^{u'}(k) S^{u'}(k) \right) \\ \times \exp\left(j2\pi k \frac{t}{N_c}\right) & \text{for SSIC} \end{cases}$$

$$(26)$$

 $\tilde{\eta}_i(t)$  is the noise component, given by

$$\tilde{\eta}_{i}(t) = \frac{1}{N_{c}} \sum_{k=0}^{N_{c}-1} \left( w_{i}^{u}(k) \Pi(k) \right) \exp\left( j 2\pi k \frac{t}{N_{c}} \right).$$
(27)

If  $M_i^u(k)$  can be chosen such that  $\mu_{ICI,i}(t) = \mu_{MUI,i}(t) = 0$  for all *t*, then the ICI and MUI cancellation is perfect. Assuming that the replica generation in the (i-1)th or *i*th stage is perfect (i.e.,  $S^u(k) = \bar{S}_{i-1}^u(k)$  or  $S^u(k) = \bar{S}_i^u(k)$ ), the cancellation weight  $M_i^{u'}(k)$  can be obtained, from Eqs. (25) and (26), as

$$M_{i}^{u'}(k) = \begin{cases} \hat{H}_{i}^{u}(k) - A_{i}^{u} & \text{if } u' = u \\ w_{i}^{u}(k)H^{u'}(k) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases},$$
 (28)

which is used for both SPIC and SSIC in this paper.

# 4.2 MMSE Weight

The equalization error  $e_i^u(k)$  is defined as the difference between  $\tilde{S}_i^u(k)$  and the *u*th user's *k*th frequency signal component  $A_i^u S^u(k)$ , given by the first term of Eq. (24). Therefore,  $e_i^u(k)$  is given by

$$e_{i}^{u}(k) = \tilde{S}_{i}^{u}(k) - A_{i}^{u}S^{u}(k)$$

$$= \begin{cases} w_{i}^{u}(k) \left[ R(k) - \sum_{u'=0}^{U-1} H^{u'}(k)\bar{S}_{i-1}^{u'}(k) \right] \\ -A_{i}^{u} \left( S^{u}(k) - \bar{S}_{i-1}^{u}(k) \right) & \text{for SPIC} \\ w_{i}^{u}(k) \left[ R(k) - \sum_{u'=0}^{U-1} H^{u'}(k)\bar{S}_{i}^{u'}(k) - \sum_{u'=u}^{U-1} H^{u'}(k)\bar{S}_{i-1}^{u'}(k) \right] \\ -A_{i}^{u} \left( S^{u}(k) - \bar{S}_{i-1}^{u}(k) \right) & \text{for SSIC} \end{cases}$$

$$(29)$$

Since we assume a white-noise like user-specific long PN sequence  $c^{u}(t)$ , we have  $E\left[S^{u}(k)\{S^{u'}(k)\}^*\right] = E\left[S^{u}(k)\{\overline{S}_{i-1}^{u'}(k)\}^*\right] = 0$  if  $u \neq u'$ ,  $\{\Pi(k); k = 0 \sim (N_c - 1)\}$  are identical independent distributed (i.i.d.) zero-mean complex-valued Gaussian variables having variance  $2(N_0/T_c)N_c$ . Therefore, the MSE  $E[|e_i^u(k)|^2]$  for SPIC becomes

$$E[|e_{i}^{u}(k)|^{2}] = \frac{2E_{c}}{T_{c}}N_{c}\left[\left|w_{i}^{u}(k)\right|^{2}\sum_{u'=0}^{U-1}\rho_{i-1}^{u'}\left|H^{u'}(k)\right|^{2} + \rho_{i-1}^{u}\left|A_{i}^{u}\right|^{2} -2\operatorname{Re}\left[w_{i}^{u}(k)H^{u}(k)\rho_{i-1}^{u}A_{i}^{u}\right] + \left(\frac{E_{c}}{N_{0}}\right)^{-1}\left|w_{i}^{u}(k)\right|^{2}\right], \quad (30)$$

where

$$\rho_{i-1}^{u'} = \left(\frac{2E_c}{T_c}\right)^{-1} \frac{1}{N_c} E\left[\left|S^{u'}(k) - \bar{S}_{i-1}^{u'}(k)\right|^2\right]$$
$$= \left(\frac{2E_c}{T_c}\right)^{-1} \frac{1}{N_c} \sum_{t=0}^{N_c-1} E\left[\left|s^{u'}(t) - \bar{s}_{i-1}^{u'}(t)\right|^2\right].$$
(31)

Since  $\bar{s}_{i-1}^{u'}(t)$  is the expectation of  $s^{u'}(t)$  (i.e.,  $\bar{s}_{i-1}^{u'}(t) = E[s^{u'}(t)]$  and  $E[|s^{u'}(t)|^2] = 2E_c/T_c$ , we have

$$\rho_{i-1}^{u'} = \left(\frac{2E_c}{T_c}\right)^{-1} \frac{1}{N_c} \sum_{t=0}^{N_c-1} \left\{ E\left[\left|s^{u'}(t)\right|^2\right] - \left|\bar{s}_{i-1}^{u'}(t)\right|^2 \right\}$$
$$= \frac{1}{N_c} \sum_{t=0}^{N_c-1} \left\{ 1 - \left(\frac{2E_c}{T_c}\right)^{-1} \left|\bar{s}_{i-1}^{u'}(t)\right|^2 \right\}.$$
(32)

The set of MMSE weights  $\{w_i^u(k); k = 0 \sim (N_c - 1)\}$  satisfies  $\partial E[|e_i(k)|^2]/\partial w_i^u(k) = 0$  for all k. Since

$$\frac{\partial E[|e_i(k)|^2]}{\partial w_i^u(k)} = \frac{2E_c}{T_c} N_c \left[ 2w_i^u(k) \left\{ \sum_{u'=0}^{U-1} \rho_{i-1}^{u'} \left| H^{u'}(k) \right|^2 + \left( \frac{E_c}{N_0} \right)^{-1} \right\} - 2\rho_{i-1}^u A_i^u H^{u*}(k) \right],$$
(33)

we have

$$w_i^u(k) = \frac{H^{u*}(k)}{\sum_{u'=0}^{U-1} \rho_{i-1}^{u'} \left| H^{u'}(k) \right|^2 + \left(\frac{E_c}{N_0}\right)^{-1}}.$$
(34)

At the initial stage (i=0) of SPIC, Eq. (34) becomes the MMSE weight derived in Ref. [13].

Similar to SPIC, we can show that  $w_i^u(k)$  for SSIC is given by

$$w_{i}^{u}(k) = \frac{H^{u*}(k)}{\sum_{u'=0}^{u-1} \rho_{i}^{u'} |H^{u'}(k)|^{2} + \sum_{u'=u}^{U-1} \rho_{i-1}^{u'} |H^{u'}(k)|^{2} + \left(\frac{E_{c}}{N_{0}}\right)^{-1}}.$$
(35)

#### 4.3 Interference Plus Noise Variance

The variance  $2\hat{\sigma}_i^2$  of interference (MUI+ICI) plus noise is necessary to compute the LLR for soft symbol replica generation (see Sect. 3). The residual MUI can be approximated as a zero-mean complex-valued Gaussian variable according to the central limit theorem [17] since it is a contribution from a number of different users' signals. The residual ICI can also be approximated as another zero-mean complexvalued Gaussian variable since it is a contribution from a large number of chips (i.e.,  $N_c - 1$  chips). Therefore, the sum of interference (MUI+ICI) and noise can be treated as a new zero-mean complex-valued Gaussian noise. The variance  $2\hat{\sigma}_i^2$  is given by

$$2\hat{\sigma}_{i}^{2} = 2\hat{\sigma}_{MUI,i}^{2} + 2\hat{\sigma}_{ICI,i}^{2} + 2\hat{\sigma}_{noise,i}^{2},$$
(36)

where  $2\hat{\sigma}_{MUI,i}^2$ ,  $2\hat{\sigma}_{ICI,i}^2$  and  $2\hat{\sigma}_{noise,i}^2$  are the variances of MUI, ICI and noise, respectively.

From Eq. (26),  $2\hat{\sigma}_{MULi}^2$  is given by

$$2\hat{\sigma}_{MUI,i}^{2} = E\left[\left|\frac{1}{SF}\sum_{t=nSF}^{(n+1)SF-1}\mu_{MUI,i}(t)\left\{c^{u}(t)\right\}^{*}\right|^{2}\right]$$
$$= \frac{1}{SFN_{c}}\left(\frac{2E_{c}}{T_{c}}\right)\sum_{u'=0}^{U-1}\rho_{i-1}^{u'}\sum_{k=0}^{N_{c}-1}\left|w_{i}^{u}(k)H^{u'}(k)\right|^{2},$$
(37)

since we are assuming a white-noise like PN sequence and therefore,  $E[c^{u}(t)\{c^{u}(\tau)\}^{*}] = \delta(t-\tau)$  ( $\delta(t)$  is the delta function). Here,  $\rho_{i-1}^{u'}$  is given by Eq. (32).  $2\hat{\sigma}_{ICI,i}^{2}$  is obtained, from Eq. (25), as

$$2\hat{\sigma}_{ICI,i}^{2} = E\left[\left|\frac{1}{SF}\sum_{t=nSF}^{(n+1)SF-1}\mu_{ICI,i}(t)\left\{c^{u}(t)\right\}^{*}\right|^{2}\right]$$
$$= \frac{1}{SF}\frac{2E_{c}}{T_{c}}\rho_{i-1}^{u}\left[\frac{1}{N_{c}}\sum_{k=0}^{N_{c}-1}\left|\hat{H}_{i}^{u}(k)\right|^{2}-\left|A_{i}^{u}\right|^{2}\right],\quad(38)$$

since  $E[c^{u}(t)\{c^{u}(\tau)\}^{*}] = \delta(t-\tau)$ . Finally,  $2\hat{\sigma}_{noise,i}^{2}$  is given by [8]

$$2\hat{\sigma}_{noise,i}^{2} = \frac{1}{SF} \frac{2N_0}{T_c} \left( \sum_{k=0}^{N_c-1} |w_i^{\mu}(k)|^2 \right).$$
(39)

As a consequence, we have

$$2\hat{\sigma}_{i}^{2} = 2\hat{\sigma}_{MUI,i}^{2} + 2\hat{\sigma}_{ICI,i}^{2} + 2\hat{\sigma}_{noise,i}^{2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{SF} \cdot \frac{2E_{c}}{T_{c}} \left[ \frac{1}{N_{c}} \sum_{u'=0}^{U-1} \left\{ \rho_{i-1}^{u'} \sum_{k=0}^{N_{c}-1} \left| w_{i}^{u}(k) H^{u'}(k) \right|^{2} \right\}$$

$$+ \rho_{i-1}^{u} \left\{ \frac{1}{N_{c}} \sum_{k=0}^{N_{c}-1} \left| \hat{H}_{i}^{u}(k) \right|^{2} - \left| A_{i}^{u} \right|^{2} \right\}$$

$$+ \left( \frac{E_{c}}{N_{0}} \right)^{-1} \left( \frac{1}{N_{c}} \sum_{k=0}^{N_{c}-1} \left| w_{i}^{u}(k) \right|^{2} \right) \right].$$
(40)

In a similar manner to SPIC, we can derive  $2\hat{\sigma}_i^2$  as

$$2\hat{\sigma}_{i}^{2} = \frac{1}{SF} \cdot \frac{2E_{c}}{T_{c}} \left[ \frac{1}{N_{c}} \sum_{u'=0}^{u-1} \left\{ \rho_{i}^{u'} \sum_{k=0}^{N_{c}-1} \left| w_{i}^{u}(k) H^{u'}(k) \right|^{2} \right\} \\ + \frac{1}{N_{c}} \sum_{u'=u+1}^{U-1} \left\{ \rho_{i-1}^{u'} \sum_{k=0}^{N_{c}-1} \left| w_{i}^{u}(k) H^{u'}(k) \right|^{2} \right\} \\ + \rho_{i-1}^{u} \left\{ \frac{1}{N_{c}} \sum_{k=0}^{N_{c}-1} \left| \hat{H}_{i}^{u}(k) \right|^{2} - \left| A_{i}^{u} \right|^{2} \right\} \\ + \left( \frac{E_{c}}{N_{0}} \right)^{-1} \left( \frac{1}{N_{c}} \sum_{k=0}^{N_{c}-1} \left| w_{i}^{u}(k) \right|^{2} \right) \right]$$
for SSIC. (41)

#### 5. Computer Simulation Results

Table 1 shows the computer simulation conditions. We assume an FFT block length of  $N_c$ =256 chips, a GI length of  $N_q=32$  chips, and QPSK data-modulation. A chipspaced 16-path (L=16) frequency-selective block Rayleigh fading channel having a uniform power delay profile (i.e.,  $E[|h_l^u|^2] = 1/L$  for all l) are assumed. The path gains stay unchanged, but vary block by block. In [18], how the variation of the path gains during a block affects the BER performance is discussed. According to [18], the BER performance is almost insensitive to the fading rate if the normalized maximum Doppler frequency  $f_D(N_c + N_q)T_c$  is smaller than 0.01 (this corresponds to a terminal moving speed of 750 km/h for a chip rate  $1/T_c$  of 100 Mchip/s and a carrier frequency of 5 GHz for an FFT size of  $N_c$ =256 chips and a GI length of  $N_q$ =32 chips). Therefore, we assume block fading.

In the next generation mobile communication systems, much higher speed data transmissions than the present systems are required. To achieve high speed data transmissions

Table 1 Simulation conditions.

Transmitter	Modulation	QPSK
	FFT block length	$N_c=256$ chips
	GI length	$N_g=32$ chips
	Spreading sequence	Long PN sequence
	Spreading factor	<i>SF</i> =16
	Number of users	<i>U</i> =8~16
Channel	Fading	Frequency-selective block Rayleigh fading
	Number of paths	L=16 paths
	Power delay profile	Uniform
Receiver	Frequency-domain equalization	MMSE
	Channel estimation	Ideal



Fig. 5 Uplink BER performance using FD-MS-SPIC.

for the given chip rate (or bandwidth), the spreading factor *SF* must be small. In Ref. [19], *SF*=16 is used in uplink packet data transmission. In the following computer simulation, only *SF*=16 is considered. Users' transmit timings are asynchronous but they are assumed to be kept within the GI and to be perfect chip timing by transmit timing control. We assume ideal channel estimation.

For the soft symbol replica generation, the parameter  $\beta_i$  was introduced in Eq. (15). As  $\beta_i \rightarrow 0$ , the soft decision chip replica becomes zero and the BER performance approaches that without interference cancellation (IC). On

the other hand, as  $\beta_i \rightarrow 1$ , the accuracy of chip replica may deteriorate due to the error propagation. Therefore, there exists an optimum value in  $\beta_i$ , which was found by computer simulation in this paper. We use a random interleaver in order to reduce the negative effect of error propagation due to decision feedback. We have found by computer simulation that the interleaver size to sufficiently improve the BER performance is *SF*-by-*N<sub>c</sub>* chips. With chip interleaver, the decision error is scattered over an interval of *SF*-by-*N<sub>c</sub>* chips and more reliable ICI replica can be generated (without chip interleaver, re-spreading of an erroneous symbol



Fig. 6 Uplink BER performance using FD-MS-SSIC.

replica produces the error propagation over consecutive *SF* chips).

Figures 5 and 6 show the average BER performance as a function of the average received signal energy per bit-tothe AWGN power spectrum density ratio  $E_b/N_0$  (=0.5SF(1+  $N_g/N_c$ )( $E_c/N_0$ )). The optimum parameter  $\beta_i$  found by the computer simulation is shown in the figures. Also plotted in the figures for comparison are the theoretical lower bound BER performance [8], the single-user (U=1) performance without IC (therefore, the residual ICI remains intact) and the BER performance with multi-user detection (MUD) [12]. The lower bound BER performance is obtained by assuming maximum ratio combining (MRC)-FDE and neglecting the ICI for the single-user case (U=1). The reason for assuming MRC-FDE instead of MMSE-FDE is that MRC-FDE achieves the highest signal-to-noise power ratio (SNR).

In this paper, we have assumed the same average received signal power for all users, but they have different *instantaneous* received signal powers. In SSIC, users are ranked according to their *instantaneous* received signal powers. It was found by computer simulation that when  $i \le 3$ , the BER performance with ranking is better than that without ranking; however, when i=4, almost the same BER performance is achieved with and without ranking. In Fig. 6, the BER performance of SSIC with ranking is plotted.

Without IC (i.e., FD-MS-PIC with i=0), the BER performance is severely degraded due to a severe MUI. However, it can be seen that the proposed FD-MS-SPIC/SSIC scheme can significantly improve the BER performance under multi-user environment.

When U = 8 (see Figs. 5(a) and 6(a)), even with i=3rd (2nd) stage for SPIC (SSIC), the average BER performance can be significantly improved and is better than with MUD. Furthermore, the BER performance with FD-MS-SPIC/SSIC is better than that of single-user case (without IC). This is because SPIC and SSIC can sufficiently suppress the MUI and ICI while the ICI remains intact in the single-user case. The  $E_b/N_0$  degradation for BER=10<sup>-3</sup> from the lower bound performance becomes as small as 0.6 dB.

For full load condition of U/SF=1 (i.e., U=16), SPIC cannot improve the BER performance because of the negative effect of the error propagation due to decision feedback. On the other hand, SSIC with *i*=4 SSIC can achieve a BER performance close to the lower bound. In SSIC, the interference cancellation is more reliable since it is done in the descending order of the received signal power.

As the number of users increases, the MUI becomes severer, and hence the number of stages necessary to achieve a good BER performance increases. For FD-MS-SSIC, a sufficient number of iterations for improving the BER performance is found, from Fig. 6, to be i=2, 3, and 4 for U=8, 12, and 16, respectively. On the other hand, for FD-MS-SPIC, it is found, from Fig. 5, to be i=4 and 6 for U=8 and 12, respectively; however, when U=16, SPIC cannot provide a good BER performance because of the negative effect of the error propagation due to decision feedback.

In this paper, we have assumed the same *average* received signal power for all users; this is equivalent to the use of slow transmit power control (TPC). We have also examined the BER performance assuming the same *instantaneous* received signal power for all users (equivalent to the use of fast TPC) and found that although all users are ranked the same, SIC provides better BER performance than PIC (for the sake of brevity, the BER performance with fast TPC are not shown here). A possible reason for this is as follows. In SIC, MUI replica of an interfering user is subtracted one by one from the received signal. However, in PIC, the MUI replicas of all interfering users are subtracted at once from the received signal, thereby large error propagation due to feedback is sometimes produced.

#### 6. Conclusion

In this paper, we proposed a frequency-domain multistage soft parallel interference cancellation (FD-MS-SPIC) scheme and a frequency-domain multi-stage soft successive interference cancellation (FD-MS-SSIC) scheme in DS-CDMA uplink signal transmission. We have derived the MMSE weight and IC weight taking into account the residual inter-chip interference (ICI) and multi-user interference (MUI). The MMSE weight, cancellation weight, and the soft interference replica generation weight are updated in each cancellation stage. The BER performances with the proposed FD-MS-SPIC/SSIC scheme in a frequency-selective Rayleigh fading were evaluated by computer simulation. When the channel is lightly loaded (e.g., U/SF=0.5), both SPIC and SSIC work well and a performance close to the lower bound can be achieved at the i=3rd stage for SPIC and the i=2nd stage for SSIC. The average BER performance with the proposed scheme is better than with multiuser detection (MUD) and that of the single-user case (without IC). This is because SPIC/SSIC can sufficiently suppress the MUI and ICI. However, when the channel is fully loaded (U/SF=1), SPIC cannot work, but SSIC with the *i*=4th stage provides a good BER performance.

In this paper, by assuming ideal channel estimation, we have shown that the proposed IC schemes can significantly improve the DS-CDMA uplink performance in a multi-user environment. However, the BER performance with IC is sensitive to the channel estimation error. The impact of the channel estimation error is left as an important future study.

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