

# Iterative Overlap QRM-MLBD for Single-Carrier MIMO Transmission Without CP Insertion

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**Abstract**—QR decomposition and M-algorithm based near maximum likelihood block detection (QRM-MLBD) is a computationally efficient near ML detection scheme. It can significantly improve the transmission performance of the single-carrier (SC) multi-input multi-output (MIMO) transmissions in a frequency-selective fading channel compared to the conventional minimum mean square error (MMSE) based linear detection. In the conventional QRM-MLBD, the insertion of the cyclic prefix (CP) is necessary in order to avoid inter-block interference (IBI). However, the CP insertion reduces the transmission efficiency. In this paper, we propose an overlap QRM-MLBD which requires no CP insertion. We evaluate the throughput performance by computer simulation to compare it with the conventional QRM-MLBD with CP insertion.

**Keywords**—component; Single-carrier, MIMO, no cyclic prefix, QR decomposition, M-algorithm

## I. INTRODUCTION

Multi-input multi-output (MIMO) spatial multiplexing [1] achieves high data rate transmissions without increasing the signal bandwidth. Single-carrier (SC) transmission is suitable for the uplink applications because of its lower peak-to-average power ratio (PAPR) property [2, 3] compared to multi-carrier transmission, e.g., orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM) [4]. SC-MIMO has been adopted for uplink transmissions of 3rd generation partnership project long term evolution (3GPP LTE) systems [5].

The wireless channel is severely frequency-selective for the broadband signal transmissions [6]. SC-MIMO spatial multiplexing suffers from inter-symbol interference (ISI) arising from the severe frequency-selectivity of the channel. The use of the cyclic prefix (CP) and frequency-domain block detection such as a computationally efficient minimum mean square error (MMSE) based linear detection [7] can improve the transmission performance of SC-MIMO spatial multiplexing. However, a big performance gap from the maximum likelihood (ML) performance still exists due to the presence of residual ISI and inter-antenna interference (IAI). Recently, QR decomposition and M-algorithm based near maximum likelihood block detection (QRM-MLBD) [8, 9] was proposed for broadband SC-MIMO transmission. It was shown that QRM-MLBD significantly improves the transmission performance of SC-MIMO spatial multiplexing in a frequency-selective fading channel with significantly lower computational complexity compared to full ML detection.

The conventional block detection schemes, such as linear MMSE detection and QRM-MLBD require the insertion of CP

to avoid the inter-block interference (IBI). However, the CP insertion reduces the transmission efficiency. In case of linear detection, overlap frequency-domain linear detection was proposed [10-12]. However, a big performance gap from the ML performance exists due to the insufficient suppression of interferences, i.e., IAI, ISI, and IBI.

In this paper, we propose an overlap QRM-MLBD for SC-MIMO system without CP insertion. The joint use of overlap processing and QRM-MLBD is expected to achieve the near ML performance. Recently, we have presented the SC transmission using overlap QRM-MLBD in [13, 14], which requires no CP insertion and provides close-to-ML performance for single-input single-output (SISO) systems. To extend our previously proposed overlap QRM-MLBD to the MIMO systems, we introduce an appropriate modification of the received signal vector for SC-MIMO transmission.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section II presents the overlap QRM-MLBD. In Section III, we present the simulation results. The throughput performance achievable with overlap QRM-MLBD is compared with the conventional QRM-MLBD with CP insertion. The computational complexity of the proposed overlap QRM-MLBD is also discussed. Finally, in Section IV, we conclude the paper.

## II. OVERLAP QRM-MLBD

### A. Transmission System

Figure 1 illustrates the system model of SC-MIMO with the overlap QRM-MLBD. Figure 2 shows block signal processing of overlap QRM-MLBD. At the transmitter, the data-modulated symbol sequence is serial-to-parallel (S/P) converted to  $N_t$  parallel symbol sequences, each to be transmitted from a different transmit antenna.

At the receiver, the received signal of each received antenna is divided into a sequence of blocks of  $X$  symbols to be picked up (called  $X$ -symbol block). The received signal vector at the  $n_r$ -th receive antenna  $\mathbf{y}_{n_r} = [y_{n_r}(0), \dots, y_{n_r}(t), \dots, y_{n_r}(N_c + L - 2)]^T$  of  $N_c + L - 1$  symbols (called observation window) is stored to detect a block of  $N_c$  symbols including  $X$ -symbol block at the beginning for each transmit antenna, where  $L$  is the number of propagation paths. In the  $i$ -th iteration stage, the replica of IBI from the previous block is generated by using the  $i$ -th stage decision of previous block. The replica of IBI from the next block is generated by the  $(i-1)$ -th stage decision of next block. The IBIs are removed by subtracting its replicas from the received signal sequence over the observation window before applying QRM-MLBD. After modification of the received





It can be seen from Eqs. (6), (9), and (10) that the overall received signal vector can be represented similar to the SISO case [14] as shown in Fig. 3. Therefore, previously proposed overlap QRM-MLBD can be developed to the MIMO system.

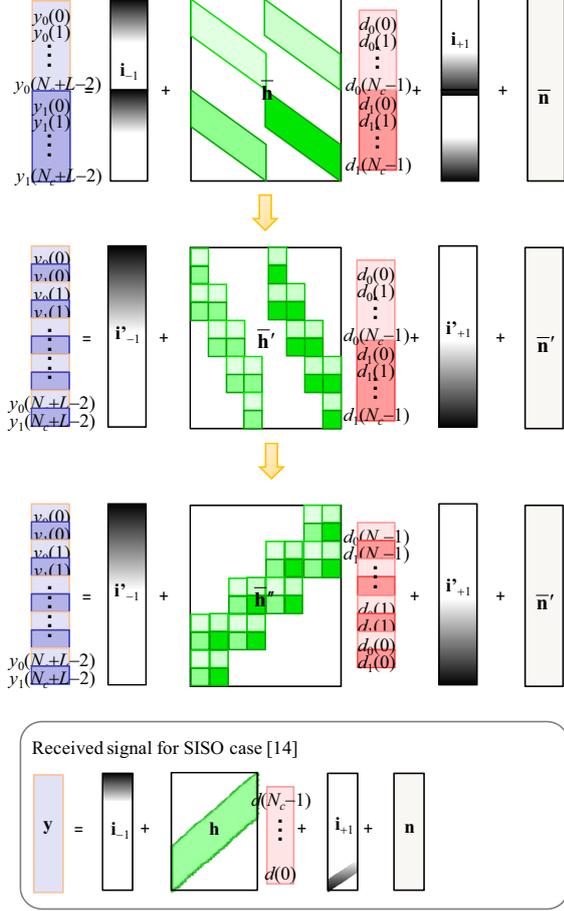


Figure 3. Modification of the overall received signal vector.

### 3) QRM-MLBD

QR decomposition is applied to  $\bar{\mathbf{H}}^n$  as  $\bar{\mathbf{H}}^n = \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{R}$  where  $\mathbf{Q}$  is an  $N_r(N_c+L-1) \times N_r N_c$  unitary matrix satisfying  $\mathbf{Q}^H \mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{I}$  ( $\mathbf{I}$  is the identity matrix) and  $\mathbf{R}$  is an  $N_r N_c \times N_r N_c$  upper triangular matrix.  $(\cdot)^H$  denotes the Hermitian transpose operation. By left multiplying  $\mathbf{Q}^H$  to  $\bar{\mathbf{y}}^{(i)}$ , we obtain the transformed signal vector given by

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\mathbf{y}}^{(i)} &= \mathbf{Q}^H \bar{\mathbf{y}}^{(i)} \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{2E_s}{T_s N_t}} \mathbf{R} \mathbf{d}' + \sqrt{\frac{2E_s}{T_s N_t}} \hat{\mathbf{H}}_{-1} (\bar{\mathbf{d}}_{-1} - \hat{\mathbf{d}}_{-1}^{(i)}) \\ &\quad + \sqrt{\frac{2E_s}{T_s N_t}} \hat{\mathbf{H}}_{+1} (\bar{\mathbf{d}}_{+1} - \hat{\mathbf{d}}_{+1}^{(i-1)}) + \hat{\mathbf{n}} \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

where  $\hat{\mathbf{H}}_{-1} = \mathbf{Q}^H \bar{\mathbf{H}}_{-1}$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{H}}_{+1} = \mathbf{Q}^H \bar{\mathbf{H}}_{+1}$ , and  $\hat{\mathbf{n}} = \mathbf{Q}^H \bar{\mathbf{n}}$ .

From Eq. (11), the ML solution can be obtained by searching for the best path having the minimum Euclidean distance in the tree diagram composed of  $N_r N_c$  stages. M-algorithm is used to reduce the detection complexity of the tree search. In each stage, the best  $M$  paths are selected as surviving

paths by comparing the path metrics based on the squared Euclidean distance for all surviving paths and are passed to the next stage. The data demodulation is carried out by tracing back the path having the smallest path metric at the last stage. In this paper, the stopping criterion [14] can be applied similar to the SISO case to stop the tree search at an earlier stage to reduce the detection complexity.

## III. COMPUTER SIMULATION

The throughput performance of  $2 \times 2$  SC-MIMO spatial multiplexing using overlap QRM-MLBD is evaluated by computer simulation. The simulation condition is shown in Table I. We consider 16QAM data modulation, packet size  $N_p=192$ , and CP length  $N_g=0$ . The channel is assumed to be a frequency-selective block Rayleigh fading channel having  $L=16$ -path uniform power delay profile. We assume that there is no fading variation in one packet and ideal channel estimation is assumed.

TABLE I. COMPUTER SIMULATION CONDITION

		Modulation	16QAM
Transmitter	Number of transmit antennas		$N_t=2$
	Packet size		$N_p=192$ symbols
	GI length		$N_g=16$
Channel	Fading type		Frequency-selective block Rayleigh
	Power delay profile		$L=16$ -path uniform
	Time delay		$\tau=l$ ( $l=0-L-1$ )
Receiver	Number of receive antennas		$N_r=2$
	Channel estimation		Ideal

### A. Throughput Performance

Figure 4 plots the throughput performance as a function of average received  $E_s/N_0$  with  $X$  as a parameter for  $N_c=64$ ,  $I=0, 1$ ,  $M=16$ . In this paper, the throughput is defined as  $N \log_2 Z \times (1-\text{PER}) / (1+N_g/N_c)$ , where  $Z$  is the modulation level and PER denotes the packet error rate. The throughput performance of the conventional QRM-MLBD with CP insertion is also plotted for comparison. The training sequence (TS) aided QRM-MLBD with TS length of 16 symbols [9] is used similar to the conventional QRM-MLBD with CP insertion.

It can be seen from Fig. 4 that overlap QRM-MLBD improves the throughput performance when smaller number  $X$  of the symbols to be picked up is used. This is because at early stages of M-algorithm, the IBI from the next block is less significant. However, the use of smaller  $X$  increases the detection complexity. It can also be seen that the throughput is sufficiently improved by using iterative processing even if large  $X$  is used. With no iteration ( $I=0$ ),  $X=4$  should be used to sufficiently improve the throughput performance. However, when  $I=1$ , much larger  $X$  (e.g.  $X=48$ ) can be used. Since iterative overlap QRM-MLBD does not require the CP insertion, the peak throughput is higher than that of the conventional QRM-MLBD with CP insertion.

### B. Computational Complexity

In this paper, the computational complexity is defined as the number of real multiplications per symbol. Figure 5 plots the complexity as a function of  $N_c$  (corresponding to the size of the observation window) when the best combination of  $I$  and  $X$  to achieve a throughput of 8.0 bps/Hz with lowest complexity is used. When smaller  $N_c$  is used, larger  $I$  and smaller  $X$  are

needed to suppress the IBI sufficiently. Therefore, the complexity of the path metric computation increases. On the other hand, the size of the channel matrix is small and therefore, the complexity of the QR decomposition reduces. It is understood from Fig. 5 that the computational complexity to achieve a peak throughput of 8.0 bps/Hz is lowest when  $N_c=28$  and is about 60% of the conventional QRM-MLBD ( $N_c=64$ ) with CP insertion.

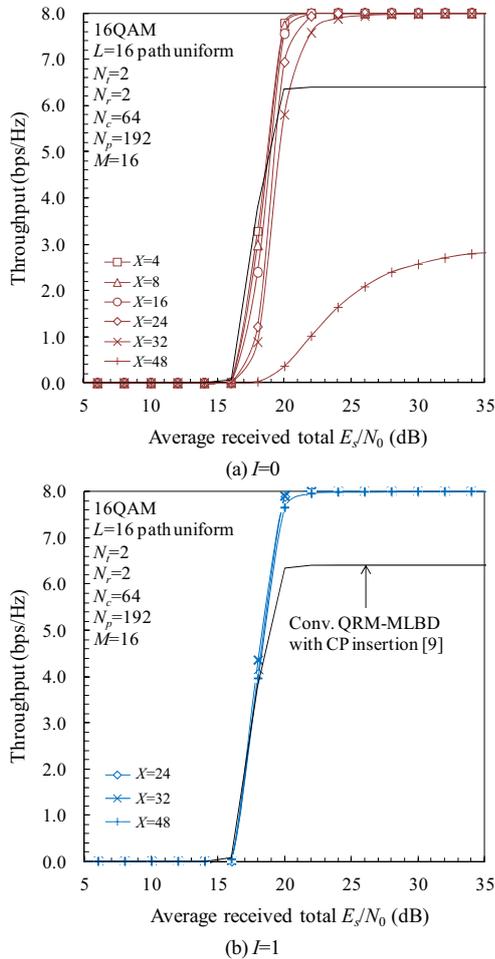


Figure 4. Throughput performance.

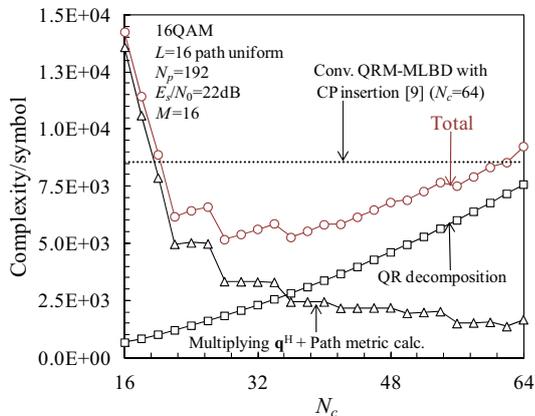


Figure 5. Impact of  $N_c$  on complexity.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we proposed an overlap QRM-MLBD which requires no CP insertion for the SC-MIMO spatial multiplexing. Remembering that the IBI exists near the bottom of the elements in the overall received signal vector for QRM-MLBD in SC-MIMO, only the reliable symbols are picked up after performing QRM-MLBD. To detect a continuously transmitted symbol stream, the present observation window for performing QRM-MLBD is overlapped with previous and next observation windows. To further improve the detection performance, iterative processing was introduced. We showed that the proposed overlap QRM-MLBD improves the throughput by 125% than the conventional QRM-MLBD with CP insertion ( $N_c=64, N_g=16$ ). The computational complexity can be reduced to 60% of the conventional QRM-MLBD with CP insertion ( $N_c=64$ ).

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