

Research Article

Fog Computing-Assisted Energy-Efficient Resource Allocation for High-Mobility MIMO-OFDMA Networks

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Received 3 May 2018; Accepted 27 June 2018; Published 11 July 2018

Academic Editor: Fuhong Lin

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This paper presents a suboptimal approach for resource allocation of massive MIMO-OFDMA systems for high-speed train (HST) applications. An optimization problem is formulated to alleviate the severe Doppler effect and maximize the energy efficiency (EE) of the system. We propose to decouple the problem between the allocations of antennas, subcarriers, and transmit powers and solve the problem by carrying out the allocations separately and iteratively in an alternating manner. Fast convergence can be achieved for the proposed approach within only several iterations. Simulation results show that the proposed algorithm is superior to existing techniques in terms of system EE and throughput in different system configurations of HST applications.

1. Introduction

Recent development and deployment of high-speed trains (HSTs) have dramatically improved the efficiency and user experience in interstate transportations. However, providing high data rates and good quality of service (QoS) to passengers in the presence of rapidly varying channel conditions and scarce bandwidth availability is a challenging task [1]. Critical challenges have arisen from real-time communications between HSTs and fixed base stations (BS). Existing narrow-band railway communication systems, such as GSM-R, are not suitable for HSTs due to typically low capacity. 5G technology is currently adopting a so-called network densification approach, which involves the deployment of a large number of base stations (BSs), to increase the network coverage and provide higher throughput to the users [2]. Orthogonal-Frequency Division-Multiple-Access (OFDMA) has been extensively adopted for wideband communications, but severe Doppler shift exists in the communication process because of high mobility, resulting in the difficulties in channel estimation [3] and subsequently destructive inter-carrier interference (ICI) [4]. On the other hand, increasing the number of antennas at both transmitters and receivers,

also known as Multiple-Input Multiple-Output (MIMO), can improve robustness against ICI. Particularly, MIMO with a large number of antennas has been increasingly studied for enhancing quality and reliability of wideband wireless communications. Unfortunately, the benefits do not come for free. Energy consumption would grow substantially, as the number of antennas increases. An energy-efficient resource allocation of MIMO-OFDMA is expected to balance spectral efficiency and energy efficiency (EE) [5].

There has been a lot of work on wireless resource allocation in static and low-speed mobile system. In [6], it was revealed that network energy can be saved by assigning nonoverlapping frequency bands to different cells. In [7], a power loading algorithm was proposed to maximize the EE of MIMO. In [8], the authors investigated the energy-efficient bandwidth allocation in downlink flat fading OFDMA channels and maximized the numbers of bits transmitted per joule, by using the Lagrangian and time-sharing techniques. In [9], the authors proposed a hybrid structure of resource allocation in OFDMA cellular systems, which maximized both the EE and the downlink system capacity. The proposed structure, combined with resource allocation, was shown to improve the EE and the system capacity of OFDMA. In [10],

the resource allocation for energy-efficient OFDMA systems was formulated as a mixed nonconvex and combinatorial optimization problem and solved by exploiting fractional programming. In [11], the energy-efficient configuration of spatial and frequency resources was studied to maximize the EE for downlink MIMO-OFDMA systems in the absence of channel state information (CSI) at the BS. However, none of the existing works have taken into account the destructive ICI. For HSTs at a speed of over 500km/h, the fast time-varying channel and the severe Doppler shift have yet to be addressed, and high-mobility communication shall be one of the most important and extreme use scenarios in future 5th generation (5G) mobile communication networks [12–16]. The OFDMA resource allocation strategy was designed for fast-changing mobile environments in [17], where a suboptimal allocation policy was developed at a significant cost of computational complexity.

Fog computing, also known as fogging, is an architecture that uses edge devices to carry out a substantial amount of local computation, storage, and communication [18–20]. We use a fog server at the BS to concentrate data, data processing, and applications. The fog server can increase overall computing capability, which helps in efficient resource allocation and utilization.

Fog computing emphasizes proximity to end-users and client objectives, dense geographical distribution and local resource pooling, latency reduction, and backbone bandwidth savings. Therefore, we use this technology to provide practical value for real-time implementation of HST communications.

This paper aims to design an efficient resource allocation strategy to improve the communication performance of HSTs. After analyzing the multiuser MIMO-OFDMA downlink system, the influence of mobility on the system is quantified. A mathematical model is put forth to maximize the EE of the system. To tackle the problem, an iterative algorithm with fast convergence is proposed. Specifically, we propose to decouple the problem between the allocations of antennas, subcarriers, and transmit powers and solve the problem by carrying out the allocations separately and iteratively in an alternating manner. Fast convergence can be achieved for the proposed approach within only several iterations. Simulation results demonstrate the gain of the proposed approach in terms of EE and throughput, as compared with existing schemes.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. We present the system model in Section 2 and formulate and solve the problem of interest in Section 3. In Section 4, the simulation results are provided, followed by conclusions in Section 5.

2. System Model

The system of interest is a multiuser MIMO-OFDMA system, as illustrated in Figure 1, where there is a fixed BS equipped with M transmit antennas ($M \gg 1$) and K user terminals located in a HST. A fog server is employed at the BS to help the resource allocation computation. Each of the user equipment has a single receive antenna. The users share radio resources for down services. Each of the user equipment has a single

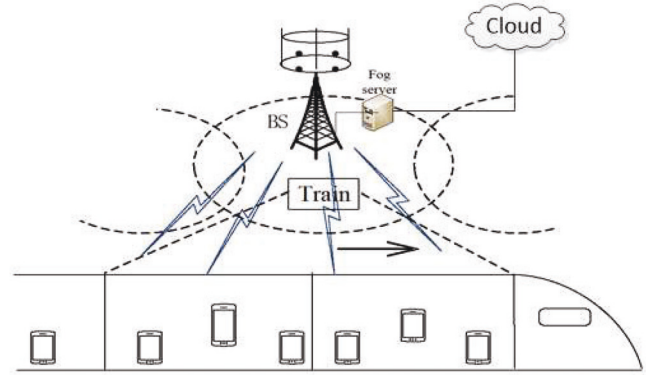


FIGURE 1: Networks architecture for multiuser MIMO system.

receive antenna. The users share radio resources for down services. Different users are assigned with different OFDM subcarriers and different antennas, given the large number of transmit antennas. Coherent beamforming is carried out at the BS to produce physical beams towards the users.

The speed of HST can lead to severe Doppler shifts. Let $h_{k,n}$ denote the complex channel gain between the BS and user k on subcarrier n . The total number of subcarriers is N . The knowledge on $h_{k,n}$ can be inaccurate at the BS, because of the fast-changing HST environment and hence estimation errors. We assume

$$h_{k,n} = \hat{h}_{k,n} + \Delta h_{k,n}, \quad (1)$$

where $\hat{h}_{k,n}$ is the estimate of $h_{k,n}$ at the BS and $\Delta h_{k,n}$ is an independent and identically distributed (i.i.d.) measurement error. $\Delta h_{k,n}$ yields a complex Gaussian distribution due to the use of the Minimum Mean Square Error (MMSE) estimators. $\Delta h_{k,n} \sim N(\mu, \sigma_e^2)$ and

$$\sigma_e^2 = \frac{1}{1 + (\Delta f / f_d)(p_{k,n} / n_0)} \quad (2)$$

where Δf is the subcarrier interval and f_d is the maximum Doppler shift which can be written as $f_d = V \cdot f_c / c$. c is the speed of light. f_c is the carrier frequency. $p_{k,n}$ is the transmit power allocated to user k on subcarrier n . n_0 is the noise power spectral density [10].

We assume that each subcarrier has an equal bandwidth of B . Therefore, the total bandwidth of the system is $B_{tot} = NB$. We also assume that each subcarrier is assigned an equal transmit power; i.e., $p_{k,n} = P_k / b_k = p_k$, where b_k and P_k are the number of subcarriers and the transmit power of the BS allocated to user k , respectively.

The Doppler shift can compromise the orthogonality between OFDM subcarriers, resulting in ICI [22]. At a speed of V , the power of ICI on a subcarrier can be written as [23]

$$ICI(V) = \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{(T_s f_d)^2}{2} \sum_{j=1, j \neq n}^N \frac{1}{(j-n)^2} \quad (3)$$

where T_s denotes the duration of an OFDM symbol.

In the case that $M \rightarrow \infty$, the receive signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) can be approximated to [17]

$$\rho_{k,n} \approx \frac{p_{k,n} l_k M_k (1 - \sigma_e^2)}{n_0 B + p_k ICI(V)} \quad (4)$$

where M_k is the number of antennas of the BS assigned to user k .

The asymptotic rate of the MIMO can be achieved based on the random matrix theory [17]. Specifically, the rate asymptotically converges to the average rate in mean square. The asymptotic rate can be replaced with the average data rate. The total data rate of user k converges to

$$r_k = b_k B \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{p_k l_k M_k (1 - \sigma_e^2)}{n_0 B + p_k ICI(V)} \right). \quad (5)$$

We also consider nonideal circuit power at the BS. We can adopt a linear model [24] at the BS to characterize the circuit power consumption, as given by

$$\phi = P_c \max_k \{M_k\} + \sum_{k=1}^K b_k p_k + P_0 \quad (6)$$

where P_c is the power consumption per active antenna, consisting of the power consumption of filtering, mixing, power amplification, and digital-to-analog conversion. P_0 is the constant part of the power consumption at the BS and is independent of the number of active antennas.

3. Optimization Problem Formulation

The goal of this paper is to maximize the EE of the BS, which can be formulated as

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{MBP} \quad & \left\{ Q(\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P}) = \frac{R(\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P})}{\phi(\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P})} \right\} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \text{C1: } \sum_{k=1}^K P_k \leq P_T, \\ & \text{C2: } r_k \geq R_{\min}, \\ & \text{C3: } \sum_k b_k \leq N, \\ & \text{C4: } M_k \leq M \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

where, given (5) and (6), the EE of the BS can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} Q &= \frac{R}{\phi} \\ &= \frac{\sum_{k=1}^K b_k B \log_2 \left(1 + p_k l_k M_k (1 - \sigma_e^2) / (n_0 B + p_k ICI_n(V)) \right)}{P_c \max_k \{M_k\} + \sum_{k=1}^K b_k p_k + P_0}, \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

the vector $\mathbf{B} = [b_1, b_2, \dots, b_K]^T$ collects the subcarrier allocation of all K users; $\mathbf{M} = [M_1, M_2, \dots, M_K]^T$ collects the

antenna allocations for the users; and $\mathbf{P} = [P_1, P_2, \dots, P_K]^T$ collects the power allocations of the users. The constraint C1 specifies the total transmit power constraint P_T . C2 specifies the minimum data rate per user. C3 and C4 restrict the total numbers of subcarriers and antennas, respectively.

Clearly, problem (7) is a combinatorial mixed integer programming problem. The objective of (7) also has a fractional form with variables in the denominator of the objective. All this makes (7) a NP-hard nonconvex problem with poor tractability. In order to solve the problem efficiently, we develop a suboptimal solution, where the subcarriers allocation, antennas, and transmit powers are optimized separately and sequentially in an alternating manner.

3.1. Subcarrier Allocation. Given M and P , we first propose to allocate subcarriers to maximize the EE while satisfying the minimum data rates of the users. According to the objective of (8), the subcarrier allocation can be expressed as

$$b_k = \arg \max_{\mathbf{B}} Q(\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P}). \quad (9)$$

We propose to allocate subcarriers based on the criterion of EE. First, we calculate the number of subcarriers allocated to each user according to the minimum data rate of the user. Then, we choose the user with the highest EE and allocate a subcarrier to the user, one user after another, and this repeats until all users are allocated or all subcarriers are assigned. The proposed allocation of subcarriers can be summarized in Algorithm 1.

3.2. Transmit Power and Antenna Allocation. Given the subcarrier allocation developed in Section 3.1, problem (7) can be reformulated to a fractional programming problem with respect to M and P , as given by [25]

$$F(q) = \max \{R(\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{P}) - q\phi(\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{P})\} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \text{C1, C2, C4.} \quad (10)$$

This is mixed integer programming. We proceed to relax the integer constraint C4, i.e., M_k to $\tilde{M}_k \in [M_{\min}, M]$. M_{\min} is the minimum number of antennas to meet the requirements of uninterrupted transmission for all users [10]. As a result, (10) can be further reformulated as

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & \{R(\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{P}) - q\tilde{\phi}(\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{P})\} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \text{C1: } \sum_{k=1}^K P_k \leq P_T, \\ & \text{C2: } r_k \geq R_{\min}, \\ & \text{C4: } \tilde{M}_k \in [M_{\min}, M] \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

where q is the optimal solution for problem (10).

```

1 Initialization Initialize transmit power allocation vector
 $\mathbf{P}^0 = [P_1^0, P_2^0, \dots, P_K^0]^T$  and antenna allocation
vector  $\mathbf{M}^0 = [M_1^0, M_2^0, \dots, M_K^0]^T$ . Then, we
calculate each user's initial data rate
 $\mathbf{R}^0 = [r_1^0, r_2^0, \dots, r_K^0]^T$ .
2 for user  $k = 0$  to  $K$  do
3 Calculate  $b_k = \lceil R_{\min}/r_k^0 \rceil$ 
4 end
5 while  $\sum_k b_k > N$  do
6  $\bar{k} \leftarrow \arg \max_{k \in \{1, 2, \dots, K\}} \{b_k\}$ ,  $b_{\bar{k}} \leftarrow 0$ 
7 end
8 while  $\sum_k b_k > N$  do
9  $Q_k = \frac{(b_k + 1)B \log_2(1 + p_k l_k M_k (1 - \sigma_e^2)/(n_0 B + p_k ICI_n(V)))}{P_c \max_k \{M_k\} + (b_k + 1)p_k + P_0} - \frac{b_k B \log_2(1 + p_k l_k M_k (1 - \sigma_e^2)/(n_0 B + p_k ICI_n(V)))}{P_c \max_k \{M_k\} + b_k p_k + P_0}$ 
10  $i \leftarrow \max_k \{Q_k\}$ ,  $b_i = b_i + 1$ 
11 end
Output: Subcarrier allocation policy  $\mathbf{B}^*$ .

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ALGORITHM 1

We can prove that (11) is a concave function by evaluating the Hessian matrix of $-F(q)$, as given by

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{a^2 b P_k^2}{\ln 2 (n_0 b + c P_k + a P_k M_k)^2} & -\frac{a b^2 n_0}{\ln 2 (n_0 b + c P_k + a P_k M_k)^2} \\ -\frac{a b^2 n_0}{\ln 2 (n_0 b + c P_k + a P_k M_k)^2} & \frac{a b^2 n_0 M_k (2 b c n_0 + a b n_0 M_k + 2 c^2 P_k + 2 a c P_k M_k)}{\ln 2 (n_0 b + c P_k + a P_k M_k)^2 (n_0 b + c P_k)^2} \end{bmatrix}, \quad (12)$$

where $a = l_k(1 - \sigma_e^2)$, $b = B b_k$, and $c = ICI(V)$. Both the determinant of the Hessian matrix and its k th order principal matrix are nonnegative. Thus the Hessian matrix is positive semidefinite. Hence, $-F(q)$ is strictly convex. As a result, the objective function of problem (11) is jointly concave over (\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{P}) while all the constraints are linear. In addition, (11) yields the Slater conditions [26] and therefore holds strong duality. The dual problem of (11) and the primary problem (11) have zero duality gap.

Given q , the Lagrangian function can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} L(\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{P}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}, \mu) &= \mu \left(P_T - \sum_{k=1}^K P_k \right) \\ &+ \sum_{k=1}^K (1 + \lambda_k) b_k B \log_2 \left(1 + \frac{p_k l_k M_k (1 - \sigma_e^2)}{n_0 B + p_k ICI_n(V)} \right) \\ &- \sum_{k=1}^K \lambda_k R_{\min} - q \left[P_c \max_k \{M_k\} + \sum_{k=1}^K b_k p_k + P_0 \right], \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$ collects the Lagrange multipliers associated with constraint C2 and $\lambda_k \geq 0$; $\mu \geq 0$ is the Lagrange multiplier

associated with constraint C1. The dual problem of (11) is given by

$$\min_{\lambda, \mu \geq 0} \left\{ \max_{\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{P}} \{L(\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{P}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}, \mu)\} \right\}. \quad (14)$$

Given $(\boldsymbol{\lambda}, \mu)$, according to the KKT conditions, the optimal power allocation, denoted by \mathbf{P}^* , and antenna allocation, denoted by \mathbf{M}^* , can be obtained as

$$P_k^* = \frac{b \sqrt{(a^2 n_0 d + 4 a^2 c + 4 a c^2) / n_0 d - a - 2c}}{2 a c + 2 a c^2}; \quad (15)$$

$$M_k^* = \left[\frac{b_k B (1 + \lambda_k)}{q P_c \ln(2)} - \frac{1}{\alpha_M(V)} \right]^+, \quad (16)$$

where $a = l_k M_k (1 - \sigma_e^2)$, $b = n_0 B b_k$, $c = ICI(V)$, $d = (q + \mu) \ln 2 / (1 + \lambda_k)$, and $\alpha_M(V) = P_k l_k (1 - \sigma_e^2) / (n_0 B + p_k ICI(V))$.

The subgradient method can be employed to obtain $(\boldsymbol{\lambda}, \mu)$ in an interactive manner, as given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(t+1) &= [\mu(t) - \delta_1(t) L'(\mu(t))]^+; \\ \lambda_k(t+1) &= [\lambda_k(t) - \delta_2(t) L'(\lambda_k(t))]^+, \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

1 Initialization Set $\lambda = 0, \mu = 0$.
2 repeat
 3 Initialize $\mathbf{P}^* = \mathbf{P}^0, \mathbf{M}^* = \mathbf{M}^0$.
4 repeat
 5 Update $\mathbf{P}^*, \mathbf{M}^*$ according to (15) and (16) by
 using antennas and power distribution strategies
6 until $L(\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{P}, \lambda, \mu)$ converges.;
 7 Update λ and μ according to (17).
8 until (14) converges.;
Output: \mathbf{P}^* and \mathbf{M}^* .

ALGORITHM 2

1 Initialization Initialize $q = 0$ and the maximum
 tolerance $\varepsilon = 0.01$.
2 Solve (14) according to CA algorithm and obtain
 resource allocation policies \mathbf{P}', \mathbf{M}' .
3 if $R(\mathbf{M}', \mathbf{P}') - q\phi(\mathbf{M}', \mathbf{P}') < \varepsilon$ **then**
4 return $(\mathbf{M}^*, \mathbf{P}^*) = (\mathbf{M}', \mathbf{P}')$ the current
 combination is the optimal combination
5 else
6 Set $q = R(\mathbf{M}', \mathbf{P}')/\phi(\mathbf{M}', \mathbf{P}')$.
7 end
Output: Resource allocation policies $\mathbf{P}^*, \mathbf{M}^*$ and
 energy efficiency q^* .

ALGORITHM 3

where $[x]^+ = \max\{0, x\}$; $t \geq 0$ is the index for the iterations.
 $\delta_1(t) > 0$ and $\delta_2(t) > 0$ are the step sizes to adjust $\mu(t)$
 and $\lambda_k(t)$, respectively; and $L'(\mu(t))$ and $L'(\lambda_k(t))$ are the
 subgradients of the Lagrangian function at $\mu(t)$ and $\lambda_k(t)$,
 respectively.

The resource allocation policy can be developed based
 on (15)–(17). Since (λ, μ) and (M, P) can be decoupled in
 (15), (16), and (17), we can use an improved coordinate ascent
 (CA) method, where, during each iteration, we first optimize
 (M, P) , given (λ, μ) and q , and then optimize (λ, μ) , given
 (M, P) , in an alternating fashion until convergence. Given q ,
 the proposed allocation of transmit antennas and subcarriers
 is summarized in Algorithm 2.

Finally, we can use the Dinkelbach method [25] to update
 q . The solution for problem (11) can be summarized in
 Algorithm 3.

4. Simulation Results

In this section, we simulate the proposed algorithm to verify
 its effectiveness, where block Rayleigh fading channels are
 considered. Other simulation parameters are listed in Table 1.
 We note that the proposed algorithm can be applied under
 any channel conditions, such as Rician fading channels.

For comparison purpose, the following two resource
 allocation schemes are also stimulated.

(1) Band allocation based on SNR (BABS) algorithm [27]:
 it is used for subcarrier allocation. The transmit powers and

TABLE I: Simulation parameters.

Parameter Notation	Value
Speed of electromagnetic wave c	3×10^8 m/s
Noise power spectral density n_0	2×10^{-7} W/Hz
Minimum data rate	3.0×10^7 bit/s
Center carrier frequency f_c	2.6GHz
Subcarriers number N	64
Total Bandwidth B_{tot}	5MHz
Power consumption per antenna P_c	30dBm [21]
Static power consumption P_0	40dBm [21]
Minimum antenna M_{min}	24 [8]
Maximum antenna M_{max}	100

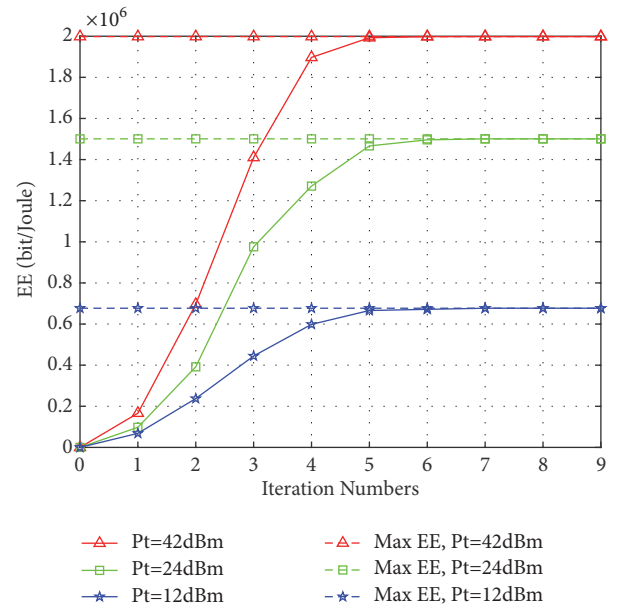


FIGURE 2: System EE versus iteration numbers for different transmit power with $K = 20, N = 64, V = 500$ km/h.

antennas are allocated in the same way as in the proposed
 algorithm.

(2) EMMPA algorithm [28]: this algorithm first allocates
 subcarriers evenly and then allocates the rest of subcarriers
 to the users with the best channel condition. The scheme
 developed in [26] is used for the transmit power and antenna
 allocation.

Figure 2 shows the convergence of the proposed algo-
 rithm with different transmit powers, where $K = 20, N = 64$,
 and $V = 500$ km/h. It is seen that the EE of the proposed
 algorithm increases and quickly stabilizes with the growth
 of iterations. The maximum of the EE can be attained after
 around only six iterations.

Figure 3 plots the system EE versus the maximum trans-
 mit power, where $K = 20$ and $V = 500$ km/h. We can
 see that the system EE increases with maximum transmit
 power. When the transmit power is large enough, the system
 EE stabilizes. This is because the BS does not need to
 activate extra antennas or consume extra power when the

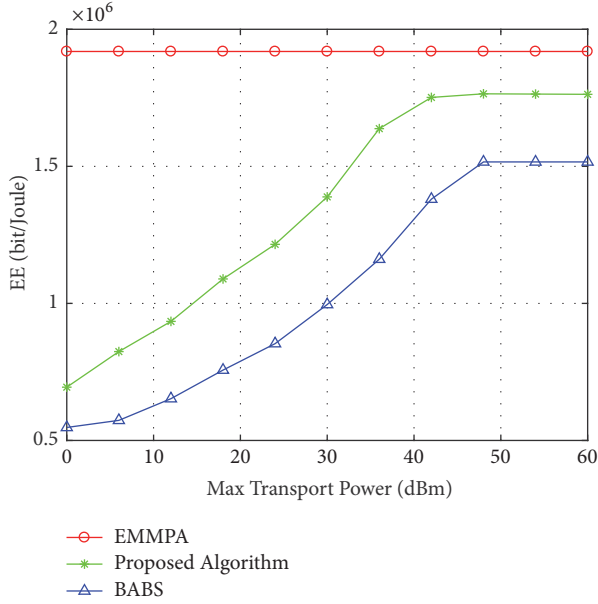


FIGURE 3: System EE versus maximum transmit power with $K = 20$, $V = 500\text{km/h}$.

system maximum EE is reached. The figure also shows that our proposed algorithm performs between the BABS and EMMPA algorithms. The system EE of EMMPA is higher than our proposed algorithm since EMMPA does not have the constraint of P_T and, thus, has a fixed EE value. Additionally, EMMPA is an unconstrained problem to maximize the system EE. The system EE of our proposed algorithm is higher than that of the BABS algorithm because our approach is based on the maximization of EE, while the BABS is based on the minimization of SNR.

Figure 4 presents the system throughput versus the moving speed V , where $P_T = 40\text{dBm}$ and $K = 20$. We can see that, as V increases, the system throughput significantly decreases. This is because ICI power and channel estimation error are increasingly severe and thus increasingly detrimental to communication quality. The system throughput is about 20.7% higher under our proposed algorithm than under BABS algorithm. EMMPA provides the lowest throughput because of its nature of an unconstrained optimization of maximizing EE without constraints. BABS is to minimize the transmit power while allocating subcarriers. The conclusion drawn is that our proposed algorithm can significantly improve throughput.

Figure 5 shows the system EE versus the number of users K , where $P_T = 40\text{dBm}$ and $V = 500\text{km/h}$. It can be seen that the system EE decreases with the number of users. This is because when the number of subcarriers is fixed, each user can be allocated with a less number of subcarriers, resulting in an increase of the transmit powers to satisfy the users data rate requirement. EMMPA has no demand for the data rate, but the subcarriers assigned to the users who have better channel conditions decrease, and thus system EE also decreases.

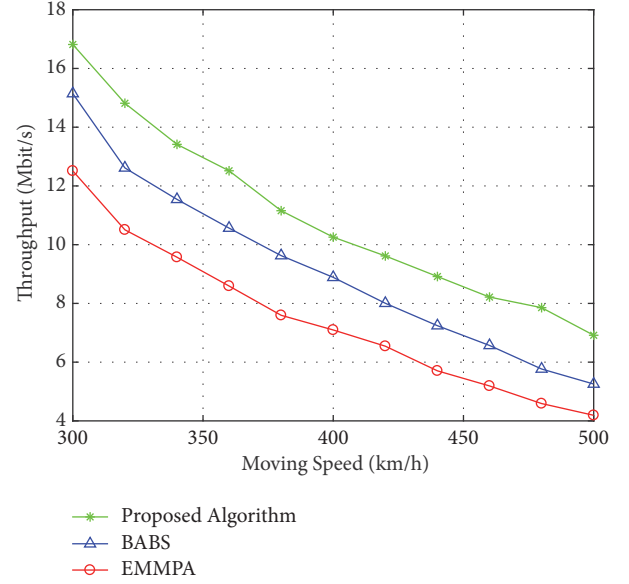


FIGURE 4: System throughput versus the moving speed with $P_T = 40\text{dBm}$, $K = 20$.

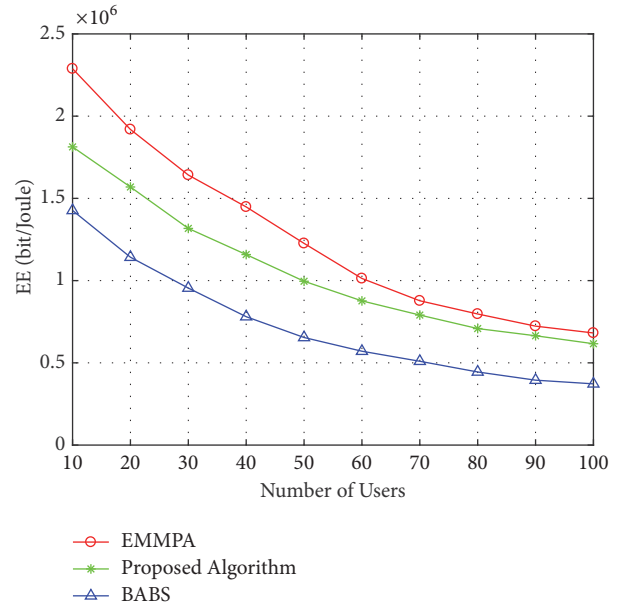


FIGURE 5: System EE versus number of users with $P_T = 40\text{dBm}$, $V = 500\text{km/h}$.

5. Conclusion

This paper models the resource allocation strategy for multiuser MIMO-OFDMA downlink system for HSTs, where subcarriers, transmit power, and antennas are jointly optimized. Specifically, we propose an iterative suboptimal algorithm to optimize the system EE with fast convergence. In terms of the system performance, simulation results show

that both EE and throughput are improved. Furthermore, the proposed approach is able to fast stabilize within only several iterations and therefore provides practical value for real-time implementation of HST communications.

Data Availability

The data used to support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon request. No additional data are available.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

Acknowledgments

This project is supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant no. 61771002).

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