Linear Non-Regenerative Multicarrier MIMO Relay Communications Based on MMSE Criterion

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Abstract—In this letter we propose linear non-regenerative multicarrier multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) relay technique that aims to minimize the mean-squared error (MSE) of the signal waveform estimation at the destination. We generalize the existing result on the structure of the optimal relay amplifying matrix by considering the direct source-destination link. To minimize the MSE, a power loading algorithm is developed which has a significantly reduced computational complexity compared with existing techniques.

Index Terms—MIMO, non-regenerative relay, multicarrier, MMSE, power loading.

I. INTRODUCTION

RECENTLY, non-regenerative approaches for cooperative multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) communications have received many research interests [1]-[12]. Optimal algorithms have been developed to maximize the mutual information (MI) between source and destination of singlecarrier MIMO relay systems [1]-[4] and multicarrier MIMO relay systems [5]. However, the maximal MI (MMI)-based algorithms in [1]-[5] are optimal only when the codewords are infinitely long. However, in practical communication systems, due to the delay constraint, codewords always have a finite length. Thus, the performance of the MMI-based algorithms will degrade in practical systems. An important criterion in communication systems is to minimize the raw bit-error-rate (BER) which is closely related to the mean-squared error (MSE) of the signal waveform estimation. Motivated by this fact, the optimal source beamforming vector and the optimal rank-1 relay amplifying matrix of half- and full-duplex relay system based on the minimal MSE (MMSE) criterion is derived in [6]. However, in such system only one symbol is transmitted at a time, which is strongly suboptimal in terms of the system data rate (multiplexing gain). Without the rank-1 constraint, MMSE-based approaches are developed in [7] and [8] to optimize the relay amplifying matrix of one-way MIMO relay system and two-way MIMO relay channel [9]. However, [7]-[9] assume that the source covariance matrix is an identity matrix, which is strongly suboptimal. Recently, a unified framework is established for jointly optimizing the source precoding matrix and the relay amplifying matrix of two-hop linear non-regenerative MIMO relay systems with a broad class of objective functions [10].

In this letter, we present our recent discoveries on the MSE-based non-regenerative multicarrier MIMO relay design that are not included in [10]. First, we rigorously derive the structure of the optimal relay amplifying matrix when the direct source-destination link is included. Note that in [1], [2], [5], [7]-[10], the optimal relay amplifying matrix is derived when the direct link is omitted. In [3], the structure of the relay amplifying matrix that maximizes the source-destination MI in the presence of the direct link was derived. However, such relay amplifying matrix is suboptimal, since it does not consider the structure of the transmission power constraint at the relay node. The relay amplifying matrix structure proposed in [4] is also suboptimal since it does not include the channel information of the direct link.

Second, when the direct link is sufficiently weak to be omitted as in [1]-[10], we develop a new power allocation algorithm to minimize the MSE. The proposed algorithm has a substantially reduced computational complexity compared with the iterative power allocation algorithm in [10], with almost no performance loss in BER and only a negligible MSE performance degradation. These two results are the main contributions of this letter. Numerical simulations show that our algorithm greatly outperforms [1]-[8] in terms of MSE and BER.

II. SYSTEM MODEL

We consider a three-node multicarrier MIMO communication system where the source node transmits information to the destination node with the aid of one relay node. The source, relay, and destination nodes are equipped with \(N_s\), \(N_r\), and \(N_d\) antennas, respectively. The communication process between the source and destination nodes is completed in two time slots. In the first time slot, the signal sequence is modulated by \(N_c\) subcarriers. We denote \(N_b^{(n)}\), \(n = 1, \cdots, N_c\), as the number of symbols on the \(n\)th subcarrier. Hereafter the superscript \((n)\) denotes the corresponding variables for the \(n\)th subcarrier. Then the \(N_b^{(n)}\)×1 signal vector \(s^{(n)}(t)\) is linearly precoded as

\[
x^{(n)}(t) = \mathbf{B}^{(n)} s^{(n)}(t), \quad n = 1, \cdots, N_c
\]

where \(\mathbf{B}^{(n)}\) is an \(N_s \times N_b^{(n)}\) \((N_s \geq N_b^{(n)})\) precoding matrix for the source signals on the \(n\)th subcarrier. The precoded signal vector \(x^{(n)}(t)\) is transmitted to the relay and the destination nodes via the \(n\)th subcarrier. The received signal at the relay and the destination nodes can be respectively written as

\[
y^{(n)}_d(t) = \mathbf{H}^{(n)} x^{(n)}(t) + \mathbf{v}^{(n)}_d(t), \quad n = 1, \cdots, N_c
\]

\[
y^{(n)}_d(t) = \mathbf{H}^{(n)} x^{(n)}(t) + \mathbf{v}^{(n)}_d(t), \quad n = 1, \cdots, N_c
\]

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where $H_s^{(n)}$ is an $N_r \times N_s$ MIMO channel matrix between the source and relay nodes, $H_d^{(n)}$ is an $N_d \times N_r$ MIMO channel matrix between the source and destination nodes, $y_r^{(n)}(t)$ and $v_r^{(n)}(t)$ are the received signal and the noise vectors at the relay node, respectively, $y_d^{(n)}(t)$ and $v_d^{(n)}(t)$ are the received signal and the noise vectors at the destination node at time $t$, respectively.

In the second slot, the relay node amplifies the received signal vector at the $n$th subcarrier with an $N_r \times N_r$ matrix $F^{(n)}$ and transmits the amplified signal vector

$$x_r^{(n)}(t+1) = F^{(n)}y_r^{(n)}(t), \quad n = 1, \ldots, N_c$$

(4)

to the destination node. Using (1), (2), (4), the received signal vector at the $n$th subcarrier of the destination node via the source-relay-destination link can be written as

$$y_d^{(n)}(t+1) = H_d^{(n)}F^{(n)}x_r^{(n)}(t) + v_d^{(n)}(t+1) = H_d^{(n)}F^{(n)}H_s^{(n)}x_r^{(n)}(t) + H_d^{(n)}F^{(n)}v_r^{(n)}(t) + v_d^{(n)}(t+1)$$

(5)

where $H_d^{(n)}$ is an $N_d \times N_r$ MIMO channel matrix between the relay and destination nodes, $y_r^{(n)}(t+1)$ and $v_d^{(n)}(t+1)$ are the received signal and the noise vectors at the destination node at time $t+1$, respectively.

Combining (3) and (5), the received signal vector at the destination node over two time slots is given by

$$y^{(n)}(t) = \left[ \begin{array}{c} y_d^{(n)}(t+1) \\ y_d^{(n)}(t) \end{array} \right] = \left[ \begin{array}{cc} H_d^{(n)}F^{(n)}H_s^{(n)} & \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \qu
Using (14) and (16) we have
\[ \text{MSE} = \mathbb{E} \left[ \| \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} \|^2 \right] \]

where \( \mathbf{A}_n \) and \( \mathbf{R}_n \) are square matrices with dimensions of \( M \times N \). \( \mathbf{A}_n \) are unitary matrices, \( \mathbf{R}_n \) are AR matrices, \( \mathbf{C}_n \) and \( \mathbf{D}_n \) are arbitrary matrices with dimensions of \( R_n \times R_n \), \( R_n \times (N_n - R_n) \), \( (N_n - R_n) \times R_n \), \( (N_n - R_n) \times (N_n - R_n) \), respectively. Using (14) and (16) we have
\[ (\mathbf{H}_n \mathbf{F}_n)^T \mathbf{H}_n^T \mathbf{F}_n (\mathbf{H}_n \mathbf{F}_n)^T \mathbf{H}_n^T \mathbf{F}_n = (\mathbf{H}_n \mathbf{F}_n)^T \mathbf{H}_n^T \mathbf{F}_n = 0. \]

From (10) and (17) we see that the objective function (11) does not depend on \( \mathbf{C}_n \) and \( \mathbf{D}_n \). Substituting (17) back into (10) we have (18) at the bottom of the next page, where we applied the matrix inversion lemma for partitioned matrix to obtain the second equation, and
\[ \mathbf{M}_n \triangleq (\mathbf{A}_n)^T \mathbf{H}_n \mathbf{A}_n \mathbf{R}_n^2 \mathbf{G}_n \]
\[ \times (\mathbf{G}_n^T) \mathbf{H}_n \mathbf{A}_n \mathbf{R}_n^2 \mathbf{G}_n + \mathbf{I}_{N_n-R_n^2} -1 \mathbf{G}_n^T \mathbf{H}_n \mathbf{A}_n \mathbf{R}_n^2 \mathbf{G}_n. \]

Obviously, from (18), MSE is minimized if \( \mathbf{M}_n = 0_{R_n^4 \times R_n^4} \), \( n = 1, \ldots, N_c \), which holds if \( \mathbf{G} = 0_{R_n^4 \times (N_n - R_n^4)}. \)

Now we look at the constraint (13). The power consumed by the relay node can be written as (19) at the bottom of the next page. Obviously, \( \mathbf{G} = 0_{R_n^4 \times (N_n - R_n^4)}. \)

It can be seen from (18) that given (15), MSE depends on \( \mathbf{B}_n \) and \( \mathbf{A}_n \). For general \( \mathbf{H}_d \), one cannot obtain a closed-form solution for the structure of the optimal \( \mathbf{A}_n \) and \( \mathbf{B}_n \). In [11], an alternating algorithm is developed to optimize \( \mathbf{F}_n \) and \( \mathbf{B}_n \) without exploiting the optimal structure of \( \mathbf{F}_n \) in (15). The algorithm in [11] is suboptimal and has a very high computational complexity. A locally optimal solution of \( \mathbf{A}_n \) and \( \mathbf{B}_n \) can be obtained using general gradient-based numerical methods. However, gradient-based methods usually have difficulties in tuning various parameters such as the initialization point and step size, especially for matrix variables. How to jointly optimize \( \mathbf{B}_n \) and \( \mathbf{A}_n \) with a reasonable computational complexity is an important future research topic.

When the direct link is sufficiently weak (e.g. shadowed by obstacles such as mountain and building) that can be ignored (\( \mathbf{H}_d = 0_{N_d \times N_n} \)) as in [2], [5]-[10], the MSE (10) is equivalent to
\[ \text{MSE} = \sum_{n=1}^{N_c} \text{tr} \left[ (\mathbf{I}_{N_n})^2 + (\mathbf{H}_n \mathbf{B}_n)^T \mathbf{H}_n \mathbf{B}_n - (\mathbf{V}_n A_n)^T \mathbf{V}_n A_n \right] \]
\[ \times (\mathbf{A}_n \mathbf{H}_n \mathbf{A}_n)^2 \mathbf{A}_n + (\mathbf{I}_{R_n^2}) -1 \mathbf{A}_n^T (\mathbf{V}_n A_n)^T \mathbf{V}_n A_n \right] -1 \].

Obviously, in this case, for an efficient utilization of the available transmission power at the source and relay nodes, \( N_n \) should satisfy \( N_n \leq \min(R_n, R_n) \), \( n = 1, \ldots, N_c \), with \( R_n \triangleq \text{rank}(\mathbf{H}_n) \). Since the channel matrices are random, we have \( \min(R_n, R_n) = \min(N_n, N_r, N_d) \). In fact, it can be shown that \( R_n = N_n \) and the optimal \( \mathbf{A}_n \) is given by
\[ \mathbf{A}_n = \left[ \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{A}_n \\ \mathbf{0}_{N_n \times (R_n - N_n)} \end{array} \right] \]
where \( \mathbf{A}_n \) is an \( N_n \times N_n \) diagonal matrix. In particular, denoting \( \mathbf{H}_n = \mathbf{U}_n \mathbf{A}_n \mathbf{V}_n^T \), \( n = 1, \ldots, N_c \), as the SVD of \( \mathbf{H}_n \), where \( \mathbf{A}_n \) is a \( R_n \times R_n \) diagonal matrix, it has been shown in [10] using the majorization theory [13] that the solution to the problem (11)-(13) is
\[ \mathbf{B}_0 = \mathbf{V}_n \mathbf{A}_n \mathbf{U}_n^T, \quad n = 1, \ldots, N_c \]
\[ \mathbf{F}_0 = \mathbf{V}_n \mathbf{A}_n \mathbf{U}_n^T, \quad n = 1, \ldots, N_c. \]
Here \( V_{s,1}^{(n)}, V_{r,1}^{(n)}, \) and \( U_{s,1}^{(n)} \) stand for the singular vector matrices corresponding to \( N_b^{(n)} \) strongest singular values, \( \Lambda_{b}^{(n)}, \Lambda_{b}^{(n)} \) are \( N_b^{(n)} \times N_b^{(n)} \) diagonal matrices, and \( U_{0}^{(n)} \) is an \( N_b^{(n)} \times N_b^{(n)} \) unitary matrix.

It is worth noting that (15) includes (21) as a special case. Thus, Theorem 1 generalizes the structure of the optimal relay amplifying matrix from the relay system without the direct link [10] to relay systems with the direct link. This is one contribution of this letter. In the following, we focus on relay system where the direct link is sufficiently weak that can be ignored and develop a power loading algorithm which has a greatly reduced computational complexity than the iterative power loading algorithm in [10].

Let us define for \( i = 1, \ldots, N_b^{(n)}, \) \( n = 1, \ldots, N_c \)

\[
\begin{align*}
\alpha_i^{(n)} & \triangleq (\lambda_{s,i}^{(n)})^2, \\
\beta_i^{(n)} & \triangleq (\lambda_{b,i}^{(n)})^2, \\
\gamma_i^{(n)} & \triangleq (\lambda_{s,b,i}^{(n)})^2, \\
\end{align*}
\]

where \( \lambda_{s,i}^{(n)}, \lambda_{b,i}^{(n)}, \lambda_{s,b,i}^{(n)} \) are the main diagonal elements of \( \Lambda_{r}^{(n)}, \Lambda_{s}^{(n)}, \Lambda_{b}^{(n)} \), respectively. It is shown in [10] that \( \Lambda_{b}^{(n)} \) and \( \Lambda_{b}^{(n)} \) in (20) and (21) can be optimized through optimizing \( \{x_i^{(n)}\} \) and \( \{y_i^{(n)}\} \), which is given by the problem (22)-(25) at the bottom of the next page, where for a scalar \( a_i \), \( \alpha_{i}^{(n)}, \), \( \cdots, \alpha_{N_c}^{(n)} \).

Closed-form solution to problem (22)-(25) is intractable. In fact, since (22) is nonconvex with respect to \( \{x_i^{(n)}\} \) and \( \{y_i^{(n)}\} \), a global-optimal solution is hard to obtain with a practical computational complexity. In [12], a grid-searching-based algorithm is applied to find the global-optimal solution where the objective is to maximize the mutual information between source and destination. With some modifications, the algorithm in [12] can also be applied to solve the problem (22)-(25). However, the computational complexity of grid-searching is extremely high, since in order to obtain a reasonably good solution, searching over a high-dense grid must be employed. In [10], an iterative algorithm is developed to find a locally optimal solution of problem (22)-(25), which has a much lower computational complexity than that of [12].

However, the iterative algorithm in [10] may still be computationally intensive for practical systems. Note that if the objective function (22) can be decoupled for \( \{x_i^{(n)}\} \) and \( \{y_i^{(n)}\} \), then the optimization of \( \{x_i^{(n)}\} \) and \( \{y_i^{(n)}\} \) can be independently conducted, since the constraints (23)-(25) are already decoupled for \( \{x_i^{(n)}\} \) and \( \{y_i^{(n)}\} \). Towards this end, we first derive an upper-bound of (22) based on its special structure. In particular, we have

\[
\begin{align*}
&\sum_{n=1}^{N_c} \sum_{i=1}^{N_b^{(n)}} \alpha_i^{(n)} x_i^{(n)} + \beta_i^{(n)} y_i^{(n)} + 1 + \alpha \\
&\quad \sum_{n=1}^{N_c} \sum_{i=1}^{N_b^{(n)}} \left( \frac{c_1}{\alpha_i^{(n)}} x_i^{(n)} + \frac{c_2}{\beta_i^{(n)}} y_i^{(n)} + 1 \right) \\
&\quad \left( 1 + \alpha \right)
\end{align*}
\]

(26) where \( \alpha > 0 \). From (26) we see that \( \alpha = 1, \) and \( c_1 = c_2 = 1 \). Using (26) as the objective function and together with the constraints (23)-(25), we find that \( \{x_i^{(n)}\} \) and \( \{y_i^{(n)}\} \) can be optimized independently. In particular, the problem of optimizing \( \{x_i^{(n)}\} \) is written as

\[
\begin{align*}
\min_{\{x_i^{(n)}\}} & \sum_{n=1}^{N_c} \sum_{i=1}^{N_b^{(n)}} \alpha_i^{(n)} x_i^{(n)} + 1 \\
\text{s.t.} & \sum_{n=1}^{N_c} x_i^{(n)} \leq p_s \\
& x_i^{(n)} \geq 0, \quad i = 1, \ldots, N_b^{(n)}, \quad n = 1, \ldots, N_c
\end{align*}
\]

(27) (28) (29)

While the problem of optimizing \( \{y_i^{(n)}\} \) is given by

\[
\begin{align*}
\min_{\{y_i^{(n)}\}} & \sum_{n=1}^{N_c} \sum_{i=1}^{N_b^{(n)}} \frac{1}{\beta_i^{(n)}} y_i^{(n)} + 1 \\
\text{s.t.} & \sum_{n=1}^{N_c} y_i^{(n)} \leq p_r
\end{align*}
\]

(30) (31)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{MSE} &= \sum_{n=1}^{N_c} \text{tr} \left( \left[ (H_d^{(n)})^H H_d^{(n)} + V_1^{(n)} \Lambda_1^{(n)} V_1^{(n)} \right]^{-1} \left( U_1^{(n)} H U_1^{(n)} \right) \right)^{-1} \\
&\times \left[ (A^{(n)})^H (A^{(n)})^2 A^{(n)} + I_{R_1^{(n)}} \right]^{-1} \left[ (G^{(n)})^H (G^{(n)})^2 G^{(n)} + I_{N_r - R_1^{(n)}} \right]^{-1} \\
&= \text{tr} \left( (A^{(n)})^H (A^{(n)})^2 A^{(n)} + I_{R_1^{(n)}} \right) \\
&\times \left[ (F^{(n)})^H (H_s^{(n)})^2 H^{(n)} + I_{N_r} \right] \left( F^{(n)} \right) \\
&= \text{tr} \left( (A^{(n)})^H (A^{(n)})^2 + I_{R_1^{(n)}} \right) \\
&\times \left[ (F^{(n)})^H (H_s^{(n)})^2 H^{(n)} + I_{N_r} \right] \left( F^{(n)} \right)
\end{align*}
\]

(18) (19)
Interestingly, both problems optimize the MSE of the signal waveform estimation of single-hop parallel scalar Gaussian channels. In particular, problem (27)-(29) minimizes the MSE of the source-relay channels, while problem (30)-(32) optimizes that of the relay-destination channels. The solutions to problem (27)-(29) and problem (30)-(32) follow the water-filling principle and are given respectively by

\[
x_i^{(n)} = \frac{1}{a_i^{(n)}} \left[ \sqrt{\frac{a_i^{(n)}}{\nu_1}} - 1 \right]^+, \quad y_i^{(n)} = \frac{1}{b_i^{(n)}} \left[ \sqrt{\frac{b_i^{(n)}}{\nu_2}} - 1 \right]^+ 
\]

where \( \nu_1 > 0 \) and \( \nu_2 > 0 \) are the solution to the following nonlinear equations, respectively

\[
\sum_{n=1}^{N_r} \sum_{i=1}^{N_r^{(n)}} \frac{1}{a_i^{(n)}} \left[ \sqrt{\frac{a_i^{(n)}}{\nu_1}} - 1 \right]^+ = p_s, \\
\sum_{n=1}^{N_r} \sum_{i=1}^{N_r^{(n)}} \frac{1}{b_i^{(n)}} \left[ \sqrt{\frac{b_i^{(n)}}{\nu_2}} - 1 \right]^+ = p_r.
\]

Here \([x]^+ \equiv \max(0, x)\).

Finally, the optimal relay amplifying matrix is given by \( F_0^{(n)} = V_{s,1}^{(n)} \Lambda_b^{(n)} (V_{s,1}^{(n)})^H \), with

\[
\lambda_{f,i}^{(n)} = \sqrt{\frac{b_i^{(n)}}{[\lambda_{s,i}^{(n)}]^2 x_i^{(n)} + 1]].
\]

The optimal source precoding matrix is

\[ B_0^{(n)} = V_{s,1}^{(n)} \Lambda_b^{(n)} U_0^{(n)}, \]

with \( \lambda_{b,i}^{(n)} = \sqrt{x_i^{(n)}} \). (33)

From (33) we see that the source node only requires the information of \( H_{s}^{(n)} \), but does not need to know \( H_{b}^{(n)} \). The relay node computes the diagonal elements of \( \Lambda_b^{(n)} \) and sends them to the source node. Note that this can be easily implemented since only up to \( N_b^{(n)} \) real numbers are needed to be sent from the relay node to the source node at each subcarrier.

Compared with the iterative power loading algorithm in [10], the proposed upper-bound-based non-iterative algorithm is suboptimal. However, the proposed algorithm has only a computational complexity of each iteration of the iterative algorithm in [10]. Therefore, the proposed algorithm has a substantially reduced computational complexity. Note that the upper-bound (26) is tight when the transmission power \( p_s \) and \( p_r \) are sufficiently high, since in such case, \( a_i^{(n)} x_i^{(n)} + b_i^{(n)} y_i^{(n)} \) is sufficiently close to 1, and we have \( a_i^{(n)} x_i^{(n)} + b_i^{(n)} y_i^{(n)} + 1 \approx a_i^{(n)} x_i^{(n)} + b_i^{(n)} y_i^{(n)} + 1 \). Similarly, in Section IV we will see that the proposed algorithm yields only a slight MSE increment and has almost the same BER performance compared with the iterative algorithm in [10]. Therefore, the proposed power loading algorithm is very useful for practical relay communication systems with a weak direct link, and is another contribution of this letter.

**IV. Simulations**

Similar to [2], [5]-[10], we simulate a two-hop MIMO relay system without the direct link. In the simulations, the channel between each transmit-receive antenna pair is modelled as the ETSI “Vehicular A” channel environment. An OFDM communication system with \( N_c = 64 \) subcarriers is assumed. The channel matrices have zero-mean entries with variances \( \sigma_s^2 \) and \( \sigma_r^2 \) for \( H_s^{(n)} \) and \( H_r^{(n)} \), respectively. The signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) is defined as \( SNR_s \triangleq \sigma_s^2 p_s / N_c \) and \( SNR_r \triangleq \sigma_r^2 p_r / N_c \) for the source-relay and relay-destination links, respectively. All simulation results are averaged over 2000 independent channel realizations. We compare the proposed upper-bound-based suboptimal (UBS) algorithm with the iterative optimal (ITO) algorithm in [10], the relay-only suboptimal (ROS) algorithm developed in [7], and the MMI algorithm developed in [2] which maximizes the mutual information between source and destination. Note that the ITO, UBS, and MMI algorithms require the knowledge of \( H_s^{(n)} \) at the source node, while the ROS algorithm does not. Moreover, the MMI algorithm [2] and the ITO algorithm [10] have a similar computational complexity, which is much higher than the proposed UBS algorithm. Both the ROS and the UBS algorithms are non-iterative and have the same complexity order.

In the first example, we choose \( N_s = N_r = N_d = 3 \). Fig. 1 displays the averaged MSE (AMSE) of different algorithms versus \( SNR_r \) for \( SNR_s = 20dB \) and \( N_b^{(n)} = 3, n = 1, \cdots, N_c \). It can be seen that the ITO algorithm consistently yields the lowest AMSE over the whole \( SNR_r \) range. The performance of the proposed UBS algorithm is very close to the ITO algorithm. Since for practical communication systems the BER is an important criterion, the performance of all algorithms in terms of BER versus \( SNR_s \) is shown in Fig. 2 for \( SNR_r = 20dB \) and \( N_b^{(n)} = 2, n = 1, \cdots, N_c \). The QPSK constellations are used. In the simulation, after \( \tilde{s}^{(n)}(t) \)
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