Application of Asynchronous Channels Method to the W-CDMA Systems

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Abstract: We evaluate new interference suppression method that utilizes the effect of asynchronous accesses in wireless telecommunication. The method is called as asynchronous channels (ACL), which can be applied to one of the present third generation standards, wideband code division multiple access (W-CDMA) systems. The simulation result shows that the system capacity gains up by 145% in band-unlimited rectangular pulse situations. On the other hand, in practical band-limited root raised cosine (RRC) pulse situation, ACL applied system performances are inferior to the conventional synchronous channel systems. Because the another band-limited Gaussian pulse simulation shows better interference than synchronous channels, whether the asynchronous channel can have an effect on interference suppression is highly depending on the choice and the design of pulse shaping filters.

Keywords: Asynchronous CDMA, asynchronous channels, multiple access interference, pulse shaping filter.

INTRODUCTION

Wideband code division multiple access (W-CDMA), also known as universal mobile telecommunications system (UMTS), is one of third generation wireless mobile communication standards, subscribed over 2 billion today and expected 3 billion by 2010 [1]. The significant feature of W-CDMA is the tolerance of asynchronous multiple access in the uplink, the connection from user equipment (UE) transmitters to the Base Station (BS) receiver.

One reason for the asynchronous uplink support in W-CDMA is that it was easier to realize continuous system deployment, from outdoors to indoors, with no requirement of any external timing source such as global positioning system [2]. The another reason, relatively not so widely known, is that the asynchronous access suppresses interference noise between multiple mobile stations, revealed by the pioneering analysis of direct sequence CDMA systems by Pursley in 1970's [3].

Pursley's analysis shows that asynchronous access CDMA systems can reduce multiple access interference (MAI) to 2/3 compared with synchronous ones. Though the estimation of interference suppression effects is affected by pulse shapes [4], we remark that the asynchronous is important to design highly efficient mobile communication systems. Our proposal, asynchronous channels (ACL), is a method that aims to utilize such interference suppression effect of the asynchronous access by staggering multiple channels of a user [5].

In this paper, we report simulation results of ACL applied to W-CDMA systems. In band unlimited situations, ACL demonstrates highly interference suppression effects as expected, decreasing bit error rates (BER) and increasing the system capacity. On the other hand, in band limited situations, the effect of ACL depends on pulse shapes.

The organization of the paper is as follows. In the following section, we introduce the W-CDMA systems and our proposal method, ACL. Next, we discuss simulation results of ACL applied W-CDMA systems on three types of pulse shaping, that is, band-unlimited rectangular pulses, band-limited root raised cosine pulses and Gaussian pulses. Finally, we draw some concluding remarks and complete the paper.

PRELIMINARIES

W-CDMA

W-CDMA is based on DS-CDMA systems where transmitted symbols are scrambled and spread by pseudo-noise codes. Fig. (1) shows a simplified block diagram of the W-CDMA uplink. W-CDMA utilizes two types of code spreading. The first is the channelization operation, which transforms every data symbol into a number of chips, thus increasing the bandwidth of the signal. The ratio of data symbol duration $T_s$ per chip duration $T_c$ is called as the spreading factor (SF). The second operation is the scrambling operation, which spread signal broadly to the bandwidth by pseudo-random complex codes denoted as $C_{ch}$ in Fig. (1).

The code used in channelization operation is called as Orthogonal Variable Spreading Factor (OVSF) code. The OVSF code $C_{ch, SF, k}$ is defined by recursively substitutions into the Walsh function such as $C_{ch, 1,0} = 1$. 

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The OVSF codes preserve their orthogonality even in different lengths as far as avoiding their parents and children of recursive generations. Hence, the OVSF codes realize multiple physical channels of various bitrates [7, 8]. We often refer the particular code number \( k \) of codes that has simple characteristics listed as follows.

- If \( k = 0 \) then all symbols are value 1.
- If \( k = SF/2 \) then symbol signs alternate every chips.
- If \( k = SF/4 \) then symbol signs alternate every 2 chips.

In W-CDMA systems, there are two kinds of major physical channels, namely, a control channel and data channels. The dedicated physical control channel (DPCCH) is multiplied by the code \( C_{B_{ch},256,0} \) that every symbol repeats sequential value 1 such as \(+1 +1 +1 +1 +1 \ldots\}. The dedicated physical data channels (DPDCHs) are typically used only one channel, DPDCH#1, multiplied by the code number \( k=SF/4 \) that symbols alternate signs every 2 chips such as \(+1 +1 -1 -1 +1 +1 -1 \ldots\}. 

**Asynchronous Channels**

ACL is a method to stagger a control channel and data channels on purpose. As illustrated in Fig. (1), we apply ACL to W-CDMA system by inserting delay blocks to DPDCHs. The delaying duration is determined by the parameter, \( d \), where \( 0 \leq d < 1 \). For example, when employing W-CDMA standard chiprate \( R_c = 3.84\text{Mcps} \), the delaying duration is set to \( 0 \leq dT_c < 0.26\mu\text{sec} \). As illustrated in Fig. (2), the timings of multiplying channelization code and scrambling codes are off to the side, consequently output sequences are chopped narrower than the standard chip duration \( T_c \). Meanwhile, the DPCCH synchronizes with the scrambling code, so it remains as is.
When applying the code normalized by the standard synchronous WCDMA systems signal to interference ratio (SIR) that are 3Fig. (1) shows the simulation result of the ACL applied system capacity gains compared to the conventional W-CDMA systems.

**Frequency Domain Properties**

The intuitive reason for ACL suppressing multiple access interference is that the system bandwidth is increased by chopped pulses. To confirm this assertion closely, we discuss about frequency domain properties of the ACL applied system on rectangular pulse.

Assuming the code number \( k = SF/2 \), pulses from DPDCH#1 are divided into reverse signed pairs of length \( dT_c \) and \((1-d)T_c\) except gaps of data bit duration. The impulse response of the pulse pair can be described as a linear composition of rectangular functions

\[
h_{int}(t) = \text{rect} \left( \frac{t + T_+ / 2}{T_s} \right) - \text{rect} \left( \frac{t - T_+ / 2}{T_s} \right)
\]

where \( \text{rect}(x) = 1 \) for \(-1/2 \leq x \leq 1/2 \), \( T_+ = dT_c \) and \( T_- = (1-d)T_c \). Hence, the frequency response \( H(f) = F[h(t)] \) and its power spectrum \( |H(f)|^2 \) are calculated as

\[
H(f) = T_+ e^{-j\pi f T_c} \sin(\pi f T_c) - T_- e^{j\pi f T_c} \sin(\pi f T_c),
\]

\[
|H(f)|^2 = 2 \sin^2(\pi f T_c) + 2 \sin^2(\pi f T_-) + \frac{\sin^2(\pi f T_+)}{\pi^2 f^2}
\]

where \( \sin(x) = \sin(\pi x)/\pi x \). Especially, when taking delay parameter \( d = 0 \) or \( d = 0.5 \), we can simply describe (3) as
\[ H_{d=0}(f)^2 = \frac{1}{\pi f^2} \sin^2(\pi f T_c), \]  
(4)

\[ H_{d=0.5}(f)^2 = \frac{4}{\pi f^2} \sin^2(\pi f T_c / 2). \]  
(5)

Fig. (6) shows power spectrums for delay parameter \( d = 0, 0.5 \) and 0.3. Envelope lines for \( d = 0 \) and \( d = 0.5 \) are the coefficients of sine function in (4) and (5), i.e., \( \pi f^2 \) and \( 4\pi^2 f^2 \), respectively. The power spectrum of the ACL applied system (3) satisfies the inequality

\[ |H(f)|^2 \leq \frac{4}{\pi f^2}. \]  
(6)

Fig. (6). Power spectrums of the ACL applied rectangular pulse for \( d = 0, d = 0.5 \) and \( d = 0.3 \) with the DPDCH#1 OVSF code number \( k = SF/2 \).

Fig. (7). Comparison of SIR in RRC pulse for various chip rate \( R_c \) and spreading factor SF combinations with \( U_e = 16 \) users, the DPDCH#1 OVSF code number \( k = SF/2 \), roll-off factor \( \alpha = 0.22 \), filter rate \( R_f = 3.84 \text{MHz} \), sampling rate \( R_s = 30.72 \text{MHz} \) and datarate \( R_d = R_s / SF = 60 \text{Kbps} \).

Table 1. The Optimum Delays in Fig. (7)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>( R_c )</th>
<th>Delay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>0.15625 ( \approx 1/6 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>0.34375 ( \approx 1/3 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.44</td>
<td>0.5 ( \approx 1/2 )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.92</td>
<td>0.625 ( \approx 2/3 )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. (9). Comparison of SIR in Gaussian pulse for various chiprate \( R_c \) and spreading factor SF combinations with \( U_e = 16 \) users, filter rate \( R_f = 3.84 \text{ MHz} \), roll-off factor \( \alpha = 0.863 \).
where \( \alpha (0 \leq \alpha \leq 1) \) is called as the roll-off factor, the fraction of excess bandwidth [9]. By the RRC filter, the system excess bandwidth is limited to \((1 + \alpha)R_c\) where \(R_c\) is the filter standard frequency, and \(R_c\) is usually equal to the chiprate \(R_c\). In the W-CDMA specification [10], the roll-off factor \(\alpha\) is set to 0.22, which limits excess bandwidth in 3.84MHz \(\times (1+0.22) = 4.6848\)MHz. The RRC filter is also applied to input signals of the receiver; accordingly, the shaped property of signals is equivalent to the so-called raised cosine filter.

As discussed in the previous section, the ACL method broadens the system bandwidth so we have to regulate the chiprate \(R_c\). For the comparison, we choose the standard bitrate \(R_b = 60\)Kbps settings where \(R_b = R_c / SF, R_c = 3.84\)MHz and SF=64. The chiprate \(R_c\) and SF are both regulated so that the ratio \(R_c / SF\) stays and the OVSF code for DPDCH#1 always employs \(k = SF/2\). Additionally, the filter standard frequency \(R_c\) is fixed to 3.84MHz, the roll-off factor \(\alpha\) is fixed to 0.22 and the filter sampling rate \(R_s\) is also fixed to 30.72MHz (x8 over-sample).

Fig. (7) shows simulation results of the ACL applied WCDMA systems SIR, where SIRs are normalized by the each case of delay \(d = 0\) as Fig. (3), \(R_c = 0.48\) to 3.84MHz and the number of user equipments are 16. From Fig. (7), we see that the optimum delay \(d\) at which the maximum SIR gains changes along with chiprate. These analytical formulas are still unknown, however, the optimum delay and the chiprates might be written as fine rational ratios. Table 1 shows the chiprate \(R_c\) and the optimum delay \(d\).

BERs of the ACL applied system reaches the minimum at the half-rate \(R_c = 1.92\)MHz of \(R_c = 3.84\)MHz, which is in contrast to that BERs of synchronous \(d = 0\) systems monotonically decrease as the chiprate and the spreading factor getting wider.

**GAUSSIAN PULSE**

The Gaussian filter is another well-known pulse shaping filter, used in the Global System for Mobile communications (GSM) systems. In this section, apart from the W-CDMA standard regulations, we adopt the Gaussian pulse for ACL applied systems.

The impulse response of the Gaussian pulse is given by

\[
h_{gau}(t) = \sqrt{\frac{\alpha}{T_c}} \exp[-\pi \frac{(\alpha t)^2}{T_c}]
\]  

where \(\alpha\) is the roll-off factor. The frequency response of the Gaussian pulse is also the Gaussian function, so it has infinitely ranges in the frequency domain. Nevertheless, the frequency response of the Gaussian pulse decays still faster than that of the rectangular pulse.

For comparing with RRC pulse, we adopt the roll-off factor for Gaussian \(\alpha = 0.863\) so that an excess band energies becomes the same as a RRC pulse of \(\alpha = 0.22\). The excess band energy is defined as the integral of the frequency response within \(-R_c/2\) and \(R_c/2\) in the frequency domain. In this case, the ratio of the excess band energy per the whole band energy is calculated as 0.960 [11].

Fig. (9) shows simulation results of the ACL applied Gaussian pulse systems SIR per SIR of delay \(d = 0\). The parameters, such as the number of users, the filter standard rate \(R_c\) or the chiprate \(R_c\) settings etc., are the same as Fig. (7) except the pulse shape and the roll-off factor \(\alpha\). It is easy to see that SIR curves in Fig. (9) are slightly differs from the RRC in Fig. (7). The optimum delays for each chiprates are also smaller than RRCs. Table 2 shows the chiprate \(R_c\) and the optimum delay \(d\) in the Gaussian pulse.

<table>
<thead>
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<td>0.25 = 1/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.44</td>
<td>0.40625 (\approx 2/5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.92</td>
<td>0.5625 = 9/16</td>
</tr>
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</table>

In the case of Gaussian pulse, SIR ratios always exceed 1, so the ACL have an effect on interference suppressions. Fig. (10) shows the BERs at the optimum delays and also delay \(d = 0\). BERs of the ACL applied system totally stay below delay \(d = 0\). BERs of the ACL applied system quickly reaches bottom at \(R_c = 0.96\)MHz and totally stays below the conventional delay \(d = 0\) systems. However, the minimum BER of the ACL applied Gaussian pulses
is still higher than the standard RRC pulse WCDMA systems

\[
\text{BER}_{\text{ACL}} = 0.0062
\]  

(9)

is the minimum of the half of filter rate but BER totally stay above the conventional synchronous systems. The RRC pulse is natively designed to free from inter symbol interference of the transmitter itself. The ACL application might break this property, which excess a benefit of multiple access interference suppression in the case of a RRC pulse. On the other hand, with Gaussian pulse filter, BER of the ACL applied system totally stay below the synchronous systems. Gaussian pulse is the pulse that has long monotonic decays and peculiar inter symbol interference. The ACL could reduce this interference.

However, the total BER performance of the ACL applied Gaussian pulse still inferior to RRC pulse.

The simulation result of band-unlimited rectangular pulse situation on which the Pursley’s analysis based shows that the ACL method can significantly increase the system capacity. Applying the ACL, the system capacity gains up by 145% with the combination of 0.3 (0.7) chip delays and the OVSF code number \( k = SF/2 \) for a data channel. This is because the asynchronous multiplications of scrambling codes and data chips duplicate pulses, which increases seeming chiprates and widen the occupied bandwidth.

In [12], we obtained an analytical result that asynchronous half delay maximizes SIR in a simple generic DS-CDMA model. However, as the W-CDMA model investigated in this paper is more sophisticated system, the reason why the odd delay like 0.3 performs the best interference suppression is still unclear.

We need precise auto- and mutual-correlation analysis on divided chips that has randomness induced by scrambling but also has strong short correlation induced by orthogonal spreading.

Together with band-limited pulse shaping, the ACL applied systems have disadvantages comparing to the conventional W-CDMA systems. With RRC pulse filter, BER of the ACL applied systems reaches the minimum at the half of filter rate but BER totally stay above the conventional synchronous systems. The RRC pulse is natively designed to free from inter symbol interference of the transmitter itself. The ACL application might break this property, which excess a benefit of multiple access interference suppression in the case of a RRC pulse. On the other hand, with Gaussian pulse filter, BER of the ACL applied system totally stay below the synchronous systems. Gaussian pulse is the pulse that has long monotonic decays and peculiar inter symbol interference. The ACL could reduce this interference.

However, the total BER performance of the ACL applied Gaussian pulse still inferior to RRC pulse.

CONCLUSION

We investigate the performance of the asynchronous channels method, which stagger a timing of multiplying data symbols and scrambling symbols on purpose. This intensive asynchronism comes from known analysis of interference suppression effects of the asynchronous access derived by Pursley. We evaluate numerically the performance of the ACL method applied to W-CDMA systems.

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