## Compute-and-Forward:

## An Explicit Link between Finite Field and Gaussian Interference Networks

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European Information Theory School
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## Multi-User Wireless Networks



- Must cope with interference, fading, and noise.

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- How should we deal with interference?

Multi-User Wireless Networks


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- Where can this help us?

Top-Down vs. Bottom-Up
Deterministic Model from Avestimehr-Diggavi-Tse '11:


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Compute-and-Forward from Nazer-Gastpar '11:


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## Road Map

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Random i.i.d. codes are not good for computation
$2^{n R_{1}}$ codewords

$2^{n R_{2}}$ codewords
$2^{n\left(R_{1}+R_{2}\right)}$ modulo sums of codewords

## Linear Codes

- Linear Codebook: A linear map between messages and codewords (instead of a lookup table).


## $p$-ary Linear Codes

- Message $\mathbf{w}$ is a length- $k$ vector over $\mathbb{F}_{p}$.
- Codeword $\mathbf{x}$ is a length- $n$ vector over $\mathbb{F}_{p}$.
- Encoding process is just a matrix multiplication, $\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{G w}$.

$$
\left[\begin{array}{c}
x_{1} \\
x_{2} \\
\vdots \\
x_{n}
\end{array}\right]=\left[\begin{array}{cccc}
g_{11} & g_{12} & \cdots & g_{1 k} \\
g_{21} & g_{22} & \cdots & g_{2 k} \\
\vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\
g_{n 1} & g_{n 2} & \cdots & g_{n k}
\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{c}
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$$

- Recall that, for prime $p$, operations over $\mathbb{F}_{p}$ are just $\bmod p$ operations over the reals.
- Rate $R=\frac{k}{n} \log p$ (in bits)
- Linear code looks like a regular subsampling of the elements of $\mathbb{F}_{p}^{n}$.
- Random linear code: Generate each element $g_{i j}$ of the generator matrix $\mathbf{G}$ elementwise i.i.d. according to a uniform distribution over $\mathbb{F}_{p}$.
- How are the codewords distributed?

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## Codeword Distribution

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## Shifted Codeword Properties

1. Marginally uniform over $\mathbb{F}_{q}^{n}$. For a given message $\mathbf{w}$, the codeword $\mathbf{x}$ looks like an i.i.d. uniform sequence.

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\mathbb{P}(\mathrm{x}=\mathrm{x})=\frac{1}{p^{n}} \quad \text { for all } \mathrm{x} \in \mathbb{F}_{p}^{n}
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2. Pairwise independent. For $\mathbf{w}_{1} \neq \mathbf{w}_{2}$, the associated codewords $\mathbf{x}_{1}=\mathbf{G w}_{1} \oplus \mathbf{v}$ and $\mathbf{x}_{2}=\mathbf{G w}_{2} \oplus \mathbf{v}$ are independent.

$$
\mathbb{P}\left(\mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{1}}=\mathrm{x}_{1}, \mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{2}}=\mathrm{x}_{2}\right)=\frac{1}{p^{2 n}}=\mathbb{P}\left(\mathbf{x}_{1}=\mathrm{x}_{1}\right) \mathbb{P}\left(\mathbf{x}_{2}=\mathrm{x}_{2}\right)
$$

## Achievable Rates

- Transmitter sends: $\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{G w} \oplus \mathbf{v}$.
- Point-to-point channel: $\mathbf{y}=\mathbf{x} \oplus \mathbf{z}$. Noise is i.i.d.
- Receiver decodes via joint typicality decoding.


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- Shift $\mathbf{v}$ is unnecessary for additive noise channels.


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$2^{n \max \left(R_{1}, R_{2}\right)}$ modulo sums of codewords
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## Computation over Finite Field Multiple-Access Channels



- I.I.D. Random Coding: $R_{1}+R_{2} \leq \log p-H(Z)$
- Random Linear Coding: $\max \left(R_{1}, R_{2}\right) \leq \log p-H(Z)$
- Linear codes double the sum rate.
- Are they also useful for sending messages (rather than functions thereof)?


## Two-Way Relay Channel



Has $\mathbf{w}_{1}$
Wants $\mathbf{w}_{2}$


Relay


Has $\mathbf{w}_{2}$
Wants $\mathbf{w}_{1}$

- Elegant example proposed by Wu-Chou-Kung '04.
- Closely related to butterfly network from Ahlswede-Cai-Li-Yeung '00.

Two-Way Relay Channel - Time-Division


Two-Way Relay Channel - Network Coding


Two-Way Relay Channel - Physical-Layer Network Coding


Two-Way Relay Channel - Physical-Layer Network Coding


- Physical-layer network coding: exploiting the wireless medium for network coding. Independently and concurrently proposed by Zhang-Liew-Lam '06, Popovski-Yomo '06, Nazer-Gastpar '06.
- Sometimes referred to as Analog Network Coding Katti-Gollakota-Katabi '07.
- Some recent surveys Liew-Zhang-Lu '11, Nazer-Gastpar '11.
(Finite Field) Two-Way Relay Channel


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## (Finite Field) Two-Way Relay Channel


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- Cut-Set Upper Bound:

$$
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- I.I.D. Random Coding: Relay decodes $\mathbf{w}_{1}, \mathbf{w}_{2}$, transmits $\mathbf{w}_{1} \oplus \mathbf{w}_{2}$.

$$
R_{1}+R_{2} \leq \log p-H(Z)
$$

- Random Linear Coding: Relay decodes and retransmits $\mathbf{w}_{1} \oplus \mathbf{w}_{2}$.

$$
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$$

(Finite Field) Two-Way Relay Channel


- Linear codes can double the sum rate for exchanging messages.


## Road Map

- Warm-up: Compute-and-forward over finite field channels.
- Compute-and-forward over Gaussian channels.
- Applications to communication across single-hop Gaussian networks.



## Compute-and-Forward: Problem Statement



- Messages are finite field vectors, $\mathbf{w}_{\ell} \in \mathbb{F}_{p}^{k}$.
- Real-valued inputs and outputs, $\mathbf{x}_{\ell}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^{n}$.
- Power constraint, $\frac{1}{n} \mathbb{E}\left\|\mathbf{x}_{\ell}\right\|^{2} \leq P$.
- Gaussian noise, $\mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$.
- Equal rates: $R=\frac{k}{n} \log _{2} p$

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- Receiver can use its channel state information (CSI) to match the linear combination coefficients $q_{m \ell} \in \mathbb{F}_{p}$ to the channel coefficients $h_{\ell} \in \mathbb{R}$. Transmitters do not require CSI.

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- Decoder wants $M$ linear combinations of the messages with vanishing probability of error $\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}\left(\bigcup_{m}\left\{\hat{\mathbf{u}}_{m} \neq \mathbf{u}_{m}\right\}\right)=0$.
- Receiver can use its channel state information (CSI) to match the linear combination coefficients $q_{m \ell} \in \mathbb{F}_{p}$ to the channel coefficients $h_{\ell} \in \mathbb{R}$. Transmitters do not require CSI.
- What rates are achievable as a function of $h_{\ell}$ and $q_{m \ell}$ ?


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& \mathbf{a}_{m}=\left[\begin{array}{llll}
a_{m 1} & a_{m 2} & \cdots & a_{m L}
\end{array}\right]^{\top} \in \mathbb{Z}^{L} \text { corresponds to } \\
& \mathbf{u}_{m}=\bigoplus_{\ell=1}^{L} q_{m \ell} \mathbf{w}_{\ell} \quad \text { where } q_{m \ell}=\left[a_{m \ell}\right] \bmod p
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(where we assume an implicit mapping between $\mathbb{F}_{p}$ and $\mathbb{Z}_{p}$ ).

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- Key Definition: The computation rate region described by $R_{\text {comp }}(\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{a})$ is achievable if, for any $\epsilon>0$ and $n, p$ large enough, a receiver can decode any linear combinations with integer coefficient vectors $\mathbf{a}_{1}, \ldots, \mathbf{a}_{M} \in \mathbb{Z}^{L}$ for which the message rate $R$ satisfies

$$
R<\min _{m} R_{\mathrm{comp}}\left(\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{a}_{m}\right)
$$

## Compute-and-Forward: Effective Noise

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{y} & =\sum_{\ell=1}^{L} h_{\ell} \mathbf{x}_{\ell}+\mathbf{z} \\
& =\sum_{\ell=1}^{L} a_{\ell} \mathbf{x}_{\ell}+\sum_{\ell=1}^{L}\left(h_{\ell}-a_{\ell}\right) \mathbf{x}_{\ell}+\mathbf{z}
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## Desired Codebook:

- Closed under integer linear combinations $\Longrightarrow$ lattice codebook.
- Independent effective noise $\Longrightarrow$ dithering.
- Isomorphic to $\mathbb{F}_{p}^{k} \Longrightarrow$ nested lattice codebook.
- A lattice $\Lambda$ is a discrete subgroup of $\mathbb{R}^{n}$.
- Can express as a linear transformation of the integer vectors,

$$
\Lambda=\mathbf{B} \mathbb{Z}^{n}
$$

for some (non-unique) $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$.

## Lattice Properties

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for any $a_{1}, a_{2} \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $\mathbf{x}_{1}, \mathbf{x}_{2} \in \mathbb{R}^{n}$.


## Construction A: Lattice Codes from Linear Codes

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- Can design good coarse lattice via a two-stage approach.
- Existence of good nested lattice codes via Construction A: Loeliger '97, Forney-Trott-Chung '00, Erez-Zamir '04, Erez-Litsyn-Zamir '05.


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- Generate nested lattices $\Lambda_{C} \subset \Lambda_{F}$ by using $G_{F}$ in Construction $A$.
- Ideally, the resulting code meets the power constraint and tolerates effective noise, while maintaining a high rate. We would also like an isomorphism to $\mathbb{F}_{p}^{k}$.


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Fix $P$ and $\sigma_{\text {eff. }}^{2}$. It can be shown that, for any $\epsilon>0$ and $n$ large enough, there are choices of $k_{\mathrm{F}}, k_{\mathrm{C}}$, and $p$ such that

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- Isomorphism exists: There is a function $\phi: \mathbb{F}_{p}^{k} \rightarrow \Lambda_{\mathrm{F}} / \Lambda_{\mathrm{C}}$ such that if $\mathbf{t}_{\ell}=\phi\left(\mathbf{w}_{\ell}\right)$, then

$$
\phi^{-1}\left(\left[\sum_{\ell=1}^{L} a_{\ell} \mathbf{t}_{\ell}\right] \bmod \Lambda_{\mathrm{C}}\right)=\bigoplus_{\ell=1}^{L} q_{\ell} \mathbf{w}_{\ell}
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Before returning to the compute-and-forward problem, let's revisit the results of Erez-Zamir '04 for point-to-point AWGN channels.

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- What happened to the " $1+$ "?


## MMSE Scaling

- It turns out that we can do better by scaling the channel output prior to decoding.

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- But what about the dependency between the codeword and the effective noise?


## Dithering

- Dithering can make the effective noise look independent from the desired lattice codeword.



## Dithering

- Dithering can make the effective noise look independent from the desired lattice codeword.
- Map message w to a lattice codeword $\mathrm{t} \in \Lambda_{\mathrm{F}}$.



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- x is now independent of the codeword t .

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- Map back to finite field: $\hat{\mathbf{w}}=\phi^{-1}(\hat{\mathrm{t}})$.
- Decoding is successful with high probability if we set $\sigma_{\text {eff }}^{2}>\frac{P}{1+P}$. This means that the rate $R=\frac{1}{2} \log (1+P)$ is achievable.

Refresher: Compute-and-Forward Problem Statement


- Messages are finite field vectors, $\mathbf{w}_{\ell} \in \mathbb{F}_{p}^{k}$.
- Real-valued inputs and outputs, $\mathbf{x}_{\ell}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^{n}$.
- Power constraint, $\frac{1}{n} \mathbb{E}\left\|\mathbf{x}_{\ell}\right\|^{2} \leq P$.
- Gaussian noise, $\mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$.
- Equal rates: $R=\frac{k}{n} \log _{2} p$
- Decoder wants $M$ linear combinations of the messages with vanishing probability of error $\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}\left(\bigcup_{m}\left\{\hat{\mathbf{u}}_{m} \neq \mathbf{u}_{m}\right\}\right)=0$.
- The linear combination with integer coefficient vector

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathbf{a}_{m}=\left[\begin{array}{llll}
a_{m 1} & a_{m 2} & \cdots & a_{m L}
\end{array}\right]^{\top} \in \mathbb{Z}^{L} \text { corresponds to } \\
& \qquad \mathbf{u}_{m}=\bigoplus_{\ell=1}^{L} q_{m \ell} \mathbf{w}_{\ell} \quad \text { where } q_{m \ell}=\left[a_{m \ell}\right] \bmod p .
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- Notice that these operations do not depend on the channel gains.


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Decoding operations at the receiver to recover the linear combination with integer coefficient vector $\mathbf{a}_{m}=\left[\begin{array}{llll}a_{m 1} & \cdots & a_{m L}\end{array}\right]^{\top}$ :

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& =\left[\mathbf{v}+\mathbf{z}_{\text {eff }}\right] \bmod \Lambda_{\mathrm{C}} \quad(\text { Distributive Law }) \\
\mathbf{v}= & {\left[\sum_{\ell=1}^{L} a_{m \ell} \mathbf{t}_{\ell}\right] \bmod \Lambda_{\mathrm{C}} \quad \mathbf{z}_{\text {eff }}=\sum_{\ell=1}^{L}\left(\alpha h_{\ell}-a_{m \ell}\right) \mathbf{x}_{\ell}+\alpha \mathbf{z} }
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## Compute-and-Forward: Illustration

All users employ the same nested lattice code:


## Compute-and-Forward: Illustration

Choose message vectors over finite field $\mathbf{w}_{\ell} \in \mathbb{F}_{p}^{k}$ :


## Compute-and-Forward: Illustration

Map $\mathbf{w}_{\ell}$ to lattice point $\mathbf{t}_{\ell}=\phi\left(\mathbf{w}_{\ell}\right)$ :


## Compute-and-Forward: Illustration

Transmit lattice points over the channel:


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## Compute-and-Forward: Illustration

Lattice codewords are scaled by channel coefficients:


## Compute-and-Forward: Illustration

Scaled codewords added together plus noise:


## Compute-and-Forward: Illustration

Scaled codewords added together plus noise:


## Compute-and-Forward: Illustration

Extra noise penalty for non-integer channel coefficients:


Effective noise: $1+P\left\|\mathbf{h}-\mathbf{a}_{m}\right\|^{2}$

## Compute-and-Forward: Illustration

Scale output by $\alpha$ to reduce non-integer noise penalty:


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Decode to the closest lattice point:


Effective noise: $\alpha^{2}+P\left\|\alpha \mathbf{h}-\mathbf{a}_{m}\right\|^{2}$

## Compute-and-Forward: Illustration

Recover integer linear combination $\bmod \Lambda_{C}$ :


Effective noise: $\alpha^{2}+P\left\|\alpha \mathbf{h}-\mathbf{a}_{m}\right\|^{2}$

## Compute-and-Forward: Illustration

Map back to linear combination of the messages:


Effective noise: $\alpha^{2}+P\left\|\alpha \mathbf{h}-\mathbf{a}_{m}\right\|^{2}$

## Compute-and-Forward: Effective Noise

- Overall, the linear combination with integer coefficient vector $\mathbf{a}_{m}$ can be successfully decoded if

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\sigma_{\text {eff }}^{2}>\alpha^{2}+P\left\|\alpha \mathbf{h}-\mathbf{a}_{m}\right\|^{2}
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- Optimal scaling $\alpha$ given by MMSE coefficient for estimating $\sum_{\ell} a_{m \ell} \mathbf{x}_{\ell}$ from $\sum_{\ell} h_{\ell} \mathbf{x}_{\ell}+\mathbf{z}$,

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\alpha_{\text {MMSE }}=\frac{P \mathbf{a}_{m}^{\top} \mathbf{h}}{1+P\|\mathbf{h}\|^{2}}
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- Plugging this in and applying the Matrix Inversion Lemma, we get

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- Overall, we find that if the rate satisfies

$$
R<\min _{m} \frac{1}{2} \log \left(\frac{P}{\mathbf{a}_{m}^{\top}\left(P^{-1} \mathbf{I}+\mathbf{h h}^{\top}\right)^{-1} \mathbf{a}_{m}}\right)
$$

we can successfully decode all $M$ linear combinations.

## Compute-and-Forward: Achievable Rates

## Theorem (Nazer-Gastpar '11)

The computation rate region described by

$$
R_{\text {comp }}(\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{a})=\max _{\alpha \in \mathbb{R}} \frac{1}{2} \log ^{+}\left(\frac{P}{\alpha^{2}+P\|\alpha \mathbf{h}-\mathbf{a}\|^{2}}\right)
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Compute-and-Forward

if $R<\min _{m} R_{\text {comp }}\left(\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{a}_{m}\right)$ for some $\mathbf{a}_{1}, \ldots, \mathbf{a}_{M} \in \mathbb{Z}^{L}$ satisfying $\left[\mathbf{a}_{m}\right] \bmod p=\mathbf{q}_{m}$.

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## Special Cases:

- Perfect Match: $R_{\text {comp }}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{a})=\frac{1}{2} \log ^{+}\left(\frac{1}{\|\mathbf{a}\|^{2}}+P\right)$


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## Special Cases:

- Perfect Match: $R_{\text {comp }}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{a})=\frac{1}{2} \log ^{+}\left(\frac{1}{\|\mathbf{a}\|^{2}}+P\right)$
- Decode a Message:

$$
R_{\text {comp }}(\mathbf{h},[\underbrace{\left.\left.\begin{array}{llllll} 
& \cdots & 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots
\end{array}\right]^{\top}\right)=\frac{1}{2} \log \left(1+\frac{h_{m}^{2} P}{1+P \sum_{\ell \neq m} h_{\ell}^{2}}\right)}_{m-1 \text { zeros }}
$$

$2^{n R_{1}}$ codewords

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Relay either decodes some linear combination of messages or an individual message.

- Three transmitters that do not know the fading coefficients.
- Average rate plotted for i.i.d. Gaussian fading.



## Physical-Layer Network Coding





- Usually fight interference and convert to network of bit pipes.


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## Road Map

- Warm-up: Compute-and-forward over finite field channels.
- Compute-and-forward over Gaussian channels.
- Applications to communication across single-hop Gaussian networks.


## MIMO

 Channels

Joint work with Jiening Zhan, Uri Erez, and Michael Gastpar.


- Increasing the number of antennas in a wireless system can significantly increase its capacity.
Foschini '96, Foschini and Gans '98, Telatar '99.
- Enormous body of work has strived to develop receiver architectures that can approach these capacity gains with manageable complexity.


## MIMO Receiver Architectures

Vast majority of receiver architectures fall into these two categories (references at the end of the talk):

- Joint Maximum Likelihood Receivers:


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- Joint Maximum Likelihood Receivers:
- Optimal but prohibitively complex for capacity-approaching codes.
- Often ML detection is performed at the symbol level and coupled with an outer channel code. This includes the vast literature on space-time codes, sphere decoding, and lattice-aided reduction.


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We propose a new class of Integer-Forcing Linear Receivers.

## A Simple Example

- $\mathbf{Y}=\left[\begin{array}{ll}1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{l}\mathbf{x}_{1} \\ \mathbf{x}_{2}\end{array}\right]+\mathbf{Z}$


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MIMO Problem Statement


- Each antenna has an independent data stream $\mathbf{x}_{\ell} \in \mathbb{R}^{n}$ of rate $R$ (e.g., V-BLAST setting, cellular uplink). $\mathbf{X}=\left[\begin{array}{lll}\mathbf{x}_{1} & \cdots & \mathbf{x}_{M}\end{array}\right]^{\top}$.
- Channel model: $\mathbf{Y}=\mathbf{H X}+\mathbf{Z}$ where $\mathbf{Z}$ is elementwise i.i.d. $\mathcal{N}(0,1)$.
- CSIR: Only receiver knows channel realization $\mathbf{H} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times M}$.
- Probability of error: $\mathbb{P}\left(\left\{\hat{\mathbf{w}}_{1} \neq \mathbf{w}_{1}\right\} \cup \cdots \cup\left\{\hat{\mathbf{w}}_{M} \neq \mathbf{w}_{M}\right\}\right)<\epsilon$

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- Joint maximum likelihood decoding is optimal but has high implementation complexity.


## Zero-Forcing Linear Receivers



- Zero-Forcing: Project the received signal, $\tilde{\mathbf{Y}}=\mathbf{B Y}$, to eliminate interference between data streams.

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MIMO Compute-and-Forward

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The computation rate region described by

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R_{\text {comp }}(\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{a})=\max _{\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^{M}} \frac{1}{2} \log ^{+}\left(\frac{P}{\|\mathbf{b}\|^{2}+P\left\|\mathbf{H}^{\top} \mathbf{b}-\mathbf{a}\right\|^{2}}\right)
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- V-BLAST III: Decodes and cancel the data streams in a predetermined order. The rate of each data stream is selected to maximize the sum rate. (Outside problem statement.)


## Simulation: Outage Rates



Figure: 1 percent outage rates for the $2 \times 2$ complex-valued MIMO channel with Rayleigh fading.

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- Zhan-Nazer-Erez-Gastpar '14: Integer-forcing can attain the optimal DMT while conventional linear receivers cannot.


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$d_{\text {V-BLAST III }}(r)=$ piecewise linear curve connecting points $\left(r_{k}, n-k\right)$

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- Zhan-Nazer-Erez-Gastpar '14: Integer-forcing recovers the optimal DMT for $N \geq M$ receive antennas:

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- What about downlink scenarios?
- Hong-Caire '13: Proposed integer-forcing beamforming. Each user decodes the linear combination with the least effective noise. The transmitter "pre-inverts" linear combinations using the inverse of $[A] \bmod p$ over $\mathbb{Z}_{p}$ so that each user obtains its desired message.
- He-Nazer-Shamai '14: Established uplink-downlink duality.
- What about successive cancellation for integer-forcing?
- Ordentlich-Erez-Nazer '13: Framework for IF-SIC and exact optimality proof.


## Road Map

- Warm-up: Compute-and-forward over finite field channels.
- Compute-and-forward over Gaussian channels.
- Applications to communication across single-hop Gaussian networks.


Joint work with Or Ordentlich and Uri Erez.

## Gaussian Multiple-Access Channel



## Gaussian Multiple-Access Channel




## Theorem (Ahlswede '71, Liao '72, Wyner '74, Cover '75)

The capacity region is the set of all rate pairs $\left(R_{1}, R_{2}\right)$ satisfying:

$$
\begin{gathered}
R_{1}<\frac{1}{2} \log \left(1+h_{1}^{2} P\right) \quad R_{2}<\frac{1}{2} \log \left(1+h_{2}^{2} P\right) \\
R_{1}+R_{2}<\frac{1}{2} \log \left(1+\|\mathbf{h}\|^{2} P\right)
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\end{gathered}
$$

Achievable via joint decoding.

Successive Cancellation

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathbf{w}_{1} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_{1} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{x}_{1}}{ }_{\mathbf{w}_{2} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_{2}}^{\mathbf{x}_{2}} \\
& \left\|\mathbf{x}_{\ell}\right\|^{2} \leq n P, \quad \mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}) .
\end{aligned}
$$

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Successive Cancellation


- Cancel $\mathbf{x}_{1}$ and decode $\mathbf{x}_{2}, \quad R_{2}<\frac{1}{2} \log \left(1+h_{2}^{2} P\right)$.

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Successive Cancellation



- Treat $\mathbf{x}_{2}$ as noise and decode $\mathbf{x}_{1}, \quad R_{1}<\frac{1}{2} \log \left(1+\frac{h_{1}^{2} P}{1+h_{2}^{2} P}\right)$.
- Cancel $\mathbf{x}_{1}$ and decode $\mathbf{x}_{2}, \quad R_{2}<\frac{1}{2} \log \left(1+h_{2}^{2} P\right)$.
- Switch decoding order for the other corner point.
- Achieves capacity when combined with time-sharing or rate-splitting (Rimoldi-Urbanke '96).


## Two Linear Combinations



- Decode one linear combination.
- Plot rate normalized by the MAC sum rate $\frac{1}{2} \log \left(1+\left(1+g^{2}\right) P\right)$.

Two Linear Combinations

$$
\mathbf{u}_{2}=a_{21} \mathbf{w}_{1} \oplus a_{22} \mathbf{w}_{2}
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## Sum of Computation Rates

- Looks as if the sum of computation rates is nearly equal to the MAC sum capacity. Why is this happening?
- Let $\mathbf{F}=\left(P^{-1 / 2} \mathbf{I}+\mathbf{h} \mathbf{h}^{\boldsymbol{\top}}\right)^{-1 / 2}$. Then, each computation rate can be written as

$$
R_{\text {comp }}\left(\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{a}_{k}\right)=\frac{1}{2} \log ^{+}\left(\frac{P}{\left\|\mathbf{F} \mathbf{a}_{k}\right\|^{2}}\right) .
$$

- Thus, decoding the best linear combinations is the same as finding the successive minima $\lambda_{k}(\mathbf{F})$ for the lattice $\Lambda(\mathbf{F})=\mathbf{F} \mathbb{Z}^{K}$ :

$$
\lambda_{k}(\mathbf{F}) \triangleq \inf \{r: \operatorname{dim}(\operatorname{span}(\Lambda(\mathbf{F}) \cap \mathcal{B}(\mathbf{0}, r))) \geq k\}
$$

Successive Minima

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Minkowski's Theorem on Successive Minima

## Theorem (Minkowski)

Let $\Lambda(\mathbf{F})$ be a lattice spanned by a full-rank $K \times K$ matrix $\mathbf{F}$. Its successive minima $\lambda_{k}(\mathbf{F})$ satisfy

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\prod_{k=1}^{K} \lambda_{k}^{2}(\mathbf{F}) \leq K^{K}|\operatorname{det}(\mathbf{F})|^{2}
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## Theorem (Ordentlich-Erez-Nazer '14)

For any channel vector $\mathbf{h} \in \mathbb{R}^{K}$, there exist linearly independent integer vectors $\mathbf{a}_{1}, \ldots, \mathbf{a}_{K} \in \mathbb{Z}^{K}$ satisfying

$$
\sum_{k=1}^{K} R_{\text {comp }}\left(\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{a}_{k}\right) \geq \frac{1}{2} \log \left(1+\|\mathbf{h}\|^{2} \mathrm{SNR}\right)-\frac{K}{2} \log K
$$

## Operational Interpretation: Multiple-Access



- Order linear combinations by descending computation rate.
- Associate each computation rate to a message.


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- Use $\mathbf{u}_{1}$ to help decode $\mathbf{u}_{2}$ by canceling out the contribution of $\mathbf{w}_{1}$, in order to lower the effective rate.


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## Theorem (Ordentlich-Erez-Nazer '14)

For any linearly independent integer vectors $\mathbf{a}_{1}, \ldots, \mathbf{a}_{K} \in \mathbb{Z}^{K}$, there exists a permutation $\pi$ such that the following rates are achievable:

$$
R_{\ell}=R_{\text {comp }, \pi(\ell)} .
$$

- After decoding the first linear combination, the receiver knows

$$
\mathbf{v}_{1}=\left[a_{11} \mathbf{t}_{1}+a_{12} \mathbf{t}_{2}\right] \bmod \Lambda_{\mathrm{C}}
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- The effective channel for the second linear combination is

$$
\tilde{\mathbf{y}}_{2}=\left[a_{21} \mathbf{t}_{1}+a_{22} \mathbf{t}_{2}+\mathbf{z}_{\text {effec }}\left(\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{a}_{2}\right)\right] \bmod \Lambda_{\mathrm{C}}
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- Using $\mathbf{v}_{1}$, we can cancel out $\mathbf{t}_{1}$ from $\tilde{\mathbf{y}}_{2}$ without changing the effective noise.

$$
\begin{aligned}
\tilde{\mathbf{y}}_{2}^{\text {SI }} & =\left[\mathbf{s}_{2}-b_{1} \mathbf{v}_{1}\right] \bmod \Lambda_{\mathbf{C}} \\
& =\left[\left(a_{22}-b_{1} a_{12}\right) \mathbf{t}_{2}+\mathbf{z}_{\text {effec }}\left(\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{a}_{2}\right)\right] \bmod \Lambda_{\mathbf{C}} .
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\end{aligned}
$$

- Now, the receiver can decode since $R_{2}<R_{\text {comp }}\left(\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{a}_{2}\right)$.


## Using One Linear Combination to Get Another

- Basic Idea: After decoding the first linear combination with coefficients a, we should create a new effective channel with coefficients $\mathbf{h}+\beta$ a to make it easier to decode the second linear combination.
- We need the real sum of codewords $\sum_{\ell} a_{\ell} \mathbf{x}_{\ell}$.
- Issue: Our decoding scheme recovers the modulo sum of lattice points $\left[\sum_{\ell} a_{\ell} \mathbf{t}_{\ell}\right] \bmod \Lambda_{C}$ on the way to the linear combination of messages, not the real sum.


## Successive Computation

- So far, we have only decoded a modulo sum of the lattice points:

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$$

- Subtract this from $y$ to expose the coarse lattice point nearest to the real sum:

$$
\mathbf{y}-\left[\sum_{\ell} a_{\ell} \mathbf{x}_{\ell}\right] \bmod \Lambda_{\mathrm{C}}=Q_{\Lambda_{\mathrm{C}}}\left(\sum_{\ell} a_{\ell} \mathbf{x}_{\ell}\right)+\sum_{\ell}\left(h_{\ell}-a_{\ell}\right) \mathbf{x}_{\ell}+\mathbf{z}
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$$

- Coarse lattice point easier to decode than fine lattice point:

$$
Q_{\Lambda_{C}}\left(Q_{\Lambda_{C}}\left(\sum_{\ell} a_{\ell} \mathbf{x}_{\ell}\right)+\sum_{\ell}\left(h_{\ell}-a_{\ell}\right) \mathbf{x}_{\ell}+\mathbf{z}\right)=Q_{\Lambda_{c}}\left(\sum_{\ell} a_{\ell} \mathbf{x}_{\ell}\right) \text { w.h.p. }
$$

## Successive Computation

- Modulo sum is just the quantization error of the real sum with respect to the coarse lattice.
- Combine the modulo sum with the quantized sum to get back the real sum:

$$
\left[\sum_{\ell} a_{\ell} \mathbf{x}_{\ell}\right] \bmod \Lambda_{\mathrm{C}}+Q_{\Lambda_{\mathrm{C}}}\left(\sum_{\ell} a_{\ell} \mathbf{x}_{\ell}\right)=\sum_{\ell} a_{\ell} \mathbf{x}_{\ell}
$$

## Lemma

In the compute-and-forward framework, if you can recover the modulo sum, you can also recover the real sum (with high probability).

## Successive Computation Illustration

We have the modulo sum.


Effective noise: $\alpha^{2}+\mathrm{SNR}\|\alpha \mathbf{h}-\mathbf{a}\|^{2}$

## Successive Computation Illustration

Subtract modulo sum from the received signal.


Effective noise: $\alpha^{2}+\mathrm{SNR}\|\alpha \mathbf{h}-\mathbf{a}\|^{2}$

## Successive Computation Illustration

Decode to the closest coarse lattice point.


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## Successive Computation Illustration

Now we can infer the real sum.


Effective noise: $\alpha^{2}+\mathrm{SNR}\|\alpha \mathbf{h}-\mathbf{a}\|^{2}$

## Successive Computation

- Receiver observes $\mathbf{y}=\sum_{\ell=1}^{L} h_{\ell} \mathbf{x}_{\ell}+\mathbf{z}$

Successive cancellation:

- Decode $\mathbf{x}_{i}$.
- Calculate $\mathbf{y}-h_{i} \mathbf{x}_{i}$.
- Receiver now has

$$
\sum_{\ell \neq i} h_{\ell} \mathbf{x}_{\ell}+\mathbf{z}
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Successive computation:

- Decode $\sum_{\ell=1}^{L} a_{\ell} \mathbf{x}_{\ell}$.
- Calculate $\mathbf{y}+\beta \sum_{\ell=1}^{L} a_{\ell} \mathbf{x}_{\ell}$.
- Receiver now has

$$
\sum_{\ell=1}^{L}\left(h_{\ell}+\beta a_{\ell}\right) \mathbf{x}_{\ell}+\mathbf{z}
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## Exact Sum-Rate Optimality

- Key Idea: Use recovered linear combinations to form a better effective channel for decoding subsequent linear combinations (as well as successive cancellation).


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- Define the successive effective noise variance

$$
\sigma_{\text {eff }}^{2}\left(\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{a}_{m} \mid \mathbf{a}_{1}, \ldots, \mathbf{a}_{m-1}\right)=\left\|\mathbf{C}_{m}^{\perp} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{a}_{m}\right\|^{2}
$$

where $\mathbf{F}=\left(P^{-1} \mathbf{I}+\mathbf{h} \mathbf{h}^{\boldsymbol{\top}}\right)^{-1 / 2}$ and $\mathbf{C}_{m}^{\perp}$ is the projection matrix for the nullspace of $\mathbf{F}\left[\mathbf{a}_{1} \cdots \mathbf{a}_{m-1}\right]$.

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## Theorem (Ordentlich-Erez-Nazer Allerton '13)

For any unimodular integer matrix $\mathbf{A}=\left[\begin{array}{lll}\mathbf{a}_{1} & \ldots & \mathbf{a}_{K}\end{array}\right]^{\top} \in \mathbb{Z}^{K \times K}$ with descending successive effective noise variances, we have that

$$
\sum_{m=1}^{K} \frac{1}{2} \log ^{+}\left(\frac{P}{\sigma_{e f f}^{2}\left(\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{a}_{m} \mid \mathbf{a}_{\mathbf{1}}, \ldots, \mathbf{a}_{m-1}\right)}\right)=\frac{1}{2} \log \left(1+\|\mathbf{h}\|^{2} P\right)
$$

Moreover, there exists at least one permutation $\pi$ that associates each user's rate to a computation rate.

Multiple-Access via Computation



- Successive cancellation (without time-sharing or rate-splitting) achieves corner points.

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## Road Map

- Warm-up: Compute-and-forward over finite field channels.
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- Applications to communication across single-hop Gaussian networks.

Joint work with:


Symmetric case: Or Ordentlich and Uri Erez.
Stream-by-stream case: Vasilis Ntranos, Viveck Cadambe, and Giuseppe Caire.

## Interference-Free Capacity

$\square$

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Time Division



Time Division


Time Division
1

$\bullet$
K


Time Division


## Interference Alignment



- Cadambe-Jafar '08: Alignment can achieve $K / 2$ degrees-of-freedom for the $K$-user interference channel.
- Birk-Kol '98: Alignment for index coding. Maddah-Ali - Motahari Khandani '08: Alignment for the MIMO X channel. See Jafar '11 monograph (or recent e-book) for a richer history.


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- Very high SNR:
- Motahari, Gharan, Maddah-Ali, Khandani '09: Real alignment. Achieves $\frac{K}{2}$ DoF over one channel realization using roughly $2^{K^{2}}$ codeword layers. Signal scale alignment.


## Signal Space Alignment

## Basic Coding Framework:

- Each transmitter has one or more data streams, each of which is drawn from an i.i.d. random codebook.
- Data streams are sent using beamforming vectors, which are selected to align interference at the receivers.
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## Advantages:

- Powerful optimization algorithms for power allocation and beamforming vectors.
- Some robustness to imperfect channel state information.


## Signal Space Alignment

## Basic Coding Framework:

- Each transmitter has one or more data streams, each of which is drawn from an i.i.d. random codebook.
- Data streams are sent using beamforming vectors, which are selected to align interference at the receivers.
- Each receiver nulls out the interfering data streams (e.g., zero-forcing) and decodes its desired data streams.


## Advantages:

- Powerful optimization algorithms for power allocation and beamforming vectors.
- Some robustness to imperfect channel state information.


## Disadvantages:

- May require enormous channel diversity.
- May require high SNR.


## Example: Cadambe-Jafar '08 over 3 Channel Realizations



## Example: Cadambe-Jafar '08 over 3 Channel Realizations



R× 3

## Example: Cadambe-Jafar '08 over 3 Channel Realizations


$R \times 3$

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Tx 1


## Total Degrees of Freedom



$$
\begin{aligned}
\text { DoF } & =\frac{4 \text { vectors }}{3 \text { channel uses }} \\
& =\frac{4}{3}
\end{aligned}
$$



## Signal Scale Alignment

## Basic Coding Framework:

- Each transmitter has one or more codewords, each of which is drawn from a lattice codebook.
- Transmitter sends a linear combination of the codewords, with coefficients carefully chosen to align interference at the receivers.
- Each receiver must discern its desired lattice codewords from the sums of interfering ones.


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## Advantages:

- Only requires one channel realization.


## Disadvantages:

- Seems extremely sensitive to channel gains. DoF changes based on rationality/irrationality.
- Seems to require extremely high SNR.


## Example: Two-User Lattice Alignment



- Two lattice codewords can be recovered from their linear combination if the ratio of the coefficients is irrational.


## Example: Two-User Lattice Alignment



- Two lattice codewords can be recovered from their linear combination if the ratio of the coefficients is irrational.
- If the ratio is rational, it is not always possible to uniquely identify the pair of codewords.

Symmetric K-User Gaussian Interference Channel


- Signal space alignment (e.g., beamforming) is infeasible.
- Signal scale alignment attains $K / 2$ degrees-of-freedom for almost all channel gains, Motahari et al. '09, Wu-Shamai-Verdu '11.
- At finite SNR, the approximate capacity known in some special cases: two-user Etkin-Tse-Wang '08, many-to-one and one-to-many Bresler-Parekh-Tse '10, cyclic Zhou-Yu '13.

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- Let's look at the symmetric case.


## Generalized Degrees-of-Freedom



- Capacity understood in the high SNR regime. Jafar-Vishwanath '10.

$$
\alpha=\frac{\log g^{2} \mathrm{SNR}}{\log \mathrm{SNR}} \quad d(\alpha)=\lim _{\mathrm{SNR} \rightarrow \infty} \frac{R(\mathrm{SNR})}{\frac{1}{2} \log \mathrm{SNR}}
$$

## Effective Multiple-Access Channel

- Each receiver sees an effective two-user multiple-access channel,

$$
\mathbf{y}_{k}=\mathbf{x}_{k}+g \sum_{\ell \neq k} \mathbf{x}_{\ell}+\mathbf{z}_{k} .
$$

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## Successive Cancellation Decoding:

- Decode and subtract interference $\sum_{\ell \neq k} \mathbf{x}_{\ell}$, then decode desired message.
- Only optimal when the interference is very strong, Sridharan et al. '08.


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## Joint Decoding:

- Direct analysis is hindered by dependencies between codeword pairs.
- Existing work only applies at very high SNR, Ordentlich-Erez '13.


## Alignment via Two Equations

- Ordentlich-Erez-Nazer '14: Decode two linear combinations:

$$
a_{1} \mathbf{x}_{k}+a_{2} \sum_{\ell \neq k} \mathbf{x}_{\ell} \quad b_{1} \mathbf{x}_{k}+b_{2} \sum_{\ell \neq k} \mathbf{x}_{\ell}
$$

using the compute-and-forward framework from Nazer-Gastpar '11. If the coefficients are linearly independent, we can solve for the desired message.

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- Set of "bad rationals" depends on the SNR. Only rationals with denominator $\sqrt{\text { SNR }}$ or smaller cause issues.

Symmetric K-User Gaussian Interference Channel


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- Ordentlich-Erez-Nazer '14:
- Noisy Regime: Decode one linear combination.
- Moderately Weak and Weak Regimes: Send public and private lattice codewords. Decode three linear combinations.
- Strong and Very Strong Regime: Decode two linear combinations.


## Symmetric K-User Gaussian Interference Channel

20dB


## Symmetric K-User Gaussian Interference Channel

35 dB


## Symmetric K-User Gaussian Interference Channel

50 dB


## Symmetric K-User Gaussian Interference Channel

65 dB


## Approximate Capacity Results: Strong Regime

- Using the fact that the sum of the computation rates is nearly equal to the multiple-access sum capacity, we can approximate the sum capacity of the symmetric $K$-user Gaussian interference channel in all regimes.

$$
R_{\text {sym }}>\frac{1}{2} \log \left(1+\left(1+2 g^{2}\right) \mathrm{SNR}\right)-\max _{\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{Z}^{2}} R_{\mathrm{comp}}\left([1 g]^{\top}, \mathbf{a}\right)-1
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- Via basic results from Diophantine approximation, we can approximate the sum capacity up to an outage set.
- Sample Result: In the strong interference regime,

$$
\frac{1}{4} \log ^{+}\left(g^{2} \mathrm{SNR}\right)-\frac{c}{2}-3 \leq C_{\text {sym }} \leq \frac{1}{4} \log ^{+}\left(g^{2} \mathrm{SNR}\right)+1
$$

for all channel gains except for an outage set whose measure is a fraction of $2^{-c}$ of the interval $1<|g|<\sqrt{\mathrm{SNR}}$, for any $c>0$.

## Integer-Forcing Interference Alignment

- Ideally, we should combine signal scale (e.g., lattice codes) and signal space alignment (e.g., beamforming vectors).


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- Aimed at scenarios with finite channel diversity (e.g., a few independent fading realizations) and finite SNR.
- Yields a new achievable rate region for any scenario which employs "stream-by-stream" alignment.


## Stream-by-Stream Alignment

## Problem Setting:

- Multiple data streams (i.e., codewords) $\mathbf{s}^{[\ell]} \in \mathbb{C}^{T}$, each assigned to its own beamforming vector $\mathbf{v}^{[\ell]} \in \mathbb{C}^{M}$.


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$$
\mathbf{Y}=\sum_{\ell=1}^{L} \mathbf{H}_{\mathrm{D}}^{[\ell]} \mathbf{v}_{\mathrm{D}}^{[\ell]}\left(\mathbf{s}_{\mathrm{D}}^{[\ell]}\right)^{\top}+\sum_{j=1}^{J} \sum_{\ell=1}^{L} \mathbf{H}_{\mathrm{I}}^{[j, \ell]} \mathbf{v}_{\mathrm{I}}^{[j, \ell]}\left(\mathbf{s}_{\mathrm{I}}^{[j, \ell]}\right)^{\top}+\mathbf{Z} .
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\mathbf{H}_{\mathrm{I}}^{[j, \ell]} \mathbf{v}_{\mathrm{I}}^{[j, \ell]}=\mathbf{H}_{\mathrm{I}}^{[j, 1]} \mathbf{v}_{\mathrm{I}}^{[j, 1]} \quad \ell=2, \ldots, L .
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## Example: Cadambe-Jafar '08 over 3 Channel Realizations



Stream-by-Stream Alignment: Receiver Perspective

## Received Signal



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Zero-Forcing Decoding
Receive


How should each receiver decoder its desired data streams?

Zero-Forcing Interference Alignment:

- Generate the data streams using i.i.d. random coding.

Zero-Forcing Decoding
Receive Project


How should each receiver decoder its desired data streams?

Zero-Forcing Interference Alignment:

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- First, project the received signal into the nullspace of the interference.

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- First, project the received signal into the nullspace of the interference.
- Then, jointly decode desired data streams.
- Suffices from a degrees-of-freedom perspective.


## Joint Decoding (with i.i.d Random Codes)



How should each receiver decoder its desired data streams?

Joint Typicality Decoding:

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## Joint Decoding (with i.i.d Random Codes)

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- Generate the data streams using i.i.d. random coding.
- If we attempt to decode the aligned interference, we will end up decoding each interferer separately.
- This significantly reduces the achievable rate per data stream.


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- This significantly reduces the achievable rate per data stream.
- Analyzing lattice-coded data streams is beyond the reach of current techniques owing to dependencies.


## Integer-Forcing Interference Alignment

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- Beamforming directions chosen to induce signal space alignment.
- Data streams are encoded using nested lattice codes according to some power allocation. This induces signal scale alignment.
- Receiver decodes linear combinations and solves for its desired data streams.
- Requires extension of compute-and-forward to unequal powers.


## Asymmetric Compute-and-Forward: Transmitter View

- Each codeword is assigned an effective noise tolerance $\sigma_{\text {eff }, \ell}^{2}$ and power level $P_{\ell}$. Rate is $\frac{1}{2} \log \left(P_{\ell} / \sigma_{\text {eff }, \ell}^{2}\right)$.



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- Finite Field View: Decode linear combination over $\mathbb{Z}_{p}^{k}$ :

- In both cases, the linear combination with coefficient vector $\mathbf{a}_{m}^{\top}=\left[\begin{array}{llll}a_{m 1} & a_{m 2} & \cdots & a_{m L}\end{array}\right]$ can be decoded reliably if

$$
\sigma_{\text {eff }, \ell}^{2}>\mathbf{a}_{m}^{\top}\left(\mathbf{P}^{-1}+\mathbf{H} \mathbf{H}^{\top}\right)^{-1} \mathbf{a}_{m}
$$

for all $\ell$ such that $a_{m \ell} \neq 0$.

## Performance Comparison

- 3-user Gaussian interference channel.
- Can code over 3 independent fading realizations from an i.i.d. Rayleigh distribution.


## Strategies:

- CJ '08 Beamforming + Zero-Forcing Decoding.
- CJ '08 Beamforming + Integer-Forcing Decoding.

3-User Interference Channel


## Challenges

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- and many more (such as joint decoding, non-unique decoding)...


## Codes, Constellations, and Algebraic Structures

Recent coding perspectives on compute-and-forward:

- Feng-Silva-Kschischang '13: General algebraic framework in terms of lattice partitions and R-modules.
- Hern-Narayanan '13, Huang-Narayanan-Tunali '14: Multilevel codes.
- Ordentlich-Erez '12, Yang et al. '12: Binary convolutional codes.
- Hong and Caire '11, Ordentlich et al. '11: Binary and p-ary LDPC codes.
- Belfiore-Ling '12: Code design criteria.
- Tunali-Narayanan-Pfister '13: Spatially-coupled LDPC codes.


## Algebraic Structure in Network Information Theory

Some topics we did not have a chance to cover:

- Distributed Source Coding: Körner-Marton '79, Krithivasan-Pradhan '09,'11, Wagner '11, Tse-Maddah-Ali '10
- Relaying: Wilson-Narayanan-Pfister-Sprintson '10, Nam-Chung-Lee '10, '11, Goseling-Gastpar-Weber '11, Song-Devroye '13, Nokleby-Aazhang '12
- Cellular Networks: Sanderovich-Peleg-Shamai '11, Nazer-Sanderovich-Gastpar-Shamai '09, Hong-Caire '13
- Distributed Dirty-Paper Coding: Philosof-Zamir '09, Philosof-Zamir-Erez-Khisti '11, Wang '12
- Joint Source-Channel Coding: Kochman-Zamir '09, Nazer-Gastpar '07, '08, Soundararajan-Vishwanath '12
- Physical-Layer Secrecy: He-Yener '11, '14, Kashyap-Shashank-Thangaraj '12


## Concluding Remarks

- Even if you only want to recover messages, it can help to first decode linear combinations.
- Compute-and-forward creates a direct link between Gaussian interference networks and finite field ones.
- Enables more efficient encoding/decoding for networks where the capacity is already known.
- Yields new achievable rates for interference channels.
- Broader story: Algebraic Structure in Network Information Theory. ISIT '11 Tutorial. Survey on physical-layer network coding in Proceedings of the IEEE, March 2011.
- Upcoming textbook by Ram Zamir.


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